

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 13, 2022 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT on June 13, 2022

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair
Joseph Cavalancia
Monica Gattinger
Dean Jacobs
Diane Kelly
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Stella Swanson

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-17 & 20)
Tareq Al-Zabet	Site Director, South Bruce (item 5)
Chris Boyle	VP & Chief Engineer (items 1-17 & 20)
Caitlin Burley	Manager, Transportation Engagement (items 6 & 9)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-17 & 20)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (item 5)
Paul Gierszewski	Director, Safety & Technical Research (item 13)
Karine Glenn	Strategic Project Director (item 14)
Dakota Kochie	Director, Government & External Relations (item 7)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Assistant Board Secretary (items 1-17 & 20)
Jamie Matear	Director, Siting Coordination (item 5)
Melissa Mayhew	Senior Environmental Scientist (items 1-17 & 20)
Brittany Misurec	Legal Counsel (item 20)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-17 & 19-20)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-17 & 20)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-17 & 20)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-17 & 19-20)
Allan Webster	Director, Regulatory Affairs & Environmental Assessment (items 8 & 16)
Derek Wilson	Chief Operating Officer (items 1-17 & 20)

Guests:

Fred Kelly	Great Earth Law Session (item 20)
Celia Milne	Triennial Report Writer (items 16-17)

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda / Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EDT. The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair provided an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

2. Safety Moment

The Board Secretary provided the safety moment.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the March 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. The actions list from the previous meeting and the Advisory Council workplan was also provided.

Items 4, 5, 6 & 7 were held in camera.

8. Preparing for Regulatory Processes

An update was provided to the Council regarding the preparations being made by the NWMO for the federal Impact Assessment process and the licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The Council was briefed on the results of a benchmarking exercise undertaken to better understand the potential schedule risk for the assumed Impact Assessment timelines.

The Council discussed how the final siting community would be involved in the impact assessment process and the significant amount of work that would be involved. The Council highlighted the importance of the strength of partnership of the NWMO with the selected communities and how this could be very impactful in the IA process.

The Council asked about Management's preliminary thoughts on an exit strategy for the community that is not selected for the APM project. Management reported that an exit strategy will be included in the draft hosting agreement. Council has a particular interest in the plans for the exit strategy and this will be noted as a topic for the Council's meeting in September. (*)

There was a discussion regarding the lessons learned from the analysis of other major projects proceeding through the IA process. The importance of strong relationships with indigenous communities was highlighted by Management. A Council member highlighted the importance of Indigenous knowledge based assessments.

9. Transportation Framework Update

Management provided the Council with an update on engagement activities supported by the release of the revised transportation planning framework and preliminary transportation plan, describing ongoing research to develop engagement plans for post site-selection.

The Council discussed the opposition NWMO is seeing in the north and measured steps NWMO is taking to address any incorrect information being provided to the public including a webinar on NWMO's website and the publication of a postcard to counter the opposition postcard that includes erroneous facts. Management is monitoring media and social media to measure the impact of the postcard.

10. Standing reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to external landscape, Land Access and the Council of Elders & Youth. The importance of interweaving Indigenous knowledge and perspectives into the NWMO's work was discussed by the Council.

A Council member asked about the impact of the Great Lakes Quality Board recommendations. Management confirmed that it is working with Global Affairs Canada on this matter.

A Council member highlighted that the Confidence in Safety Reports are very good reports.

11. Report on Council of Elders & Youth and Municipal Forum Attendance

Council member, Dean Jacobs reported on his attendance at the recent Council of Elders and Youth meeting and Council member, Linda Thompson reported on her attendance at the recent Municipal Forum meeting.

12. Indigenous Knowledge / Western Science Workshop Reports

The Council was updated on the work being carried out with the Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science working group. The Council discussed the definition and use of the term "Western Science" and that it could be interpreted to not reflect the expertise of scientists in the East, for example Asia. Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science are clearly two different bodies of knowledge. There was a discussion regarding the relationship between the impact of the introduction of Western Science ideas into North America and the impact on Indigenous people and this could be interpreted to be another aspect of colonization. The Council would like to consider this issue further.

13. APM Technical Overview

The Council was provided with highlights of technical activities since the last meeting which included updates on Geoscience fieldwork, Engineering, Transportation, and Safety & Technical Research. Management provided the Council a video of the successful full-scale Engineered Barrier emplacement trial undertaken at the Oakville test facility in April. It was reported that the trial is a significant milestone to demonstrate the performance of the Engineered Barrier System and associated technology and meeting NWMO's gated milestone for this engineering deliverable. Management confirmed that further testing is underway, for example on the dry density.

Council members were pleased to review the Confidence in Safety reports and discussed ways to communicate complicated technical issues to the public. The Council raised questions further to their review of the Confidence in Safety reports regarding salinity and its implications to corrosion, the seismicity of the areas and how NWMO will address retrievability.

14. Update on Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste (ISRW)

Management updated the Council on the development of the ISRW project and the development of a national strategy for all of Canada's radioactive waste. Council was briefed on the related risks and next steps in developing the full ISRW strategy report and the timelines for completion.

15. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2022 meeting schedule as well as a draft 2023 schedule for review.

16. Community Capacity Building

Management provided an update on the studies and research being undertaken on Community Capacity Building to address the Council's request for further information on the impact that a major move from Toronto would have on a small community.

17. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council reviewed the annual tracking matrix and the Triennial Report Tracking Matrix.

18. In Camera Session – Council Discussion

The Council held an in camera session.

19. In Camera Session

The Council held an in camera session.

20. Great Earth Law Session

Elder Fred Kelly joined the Advisory Council meeting for an informative presentation and discussion on Great Earth Law.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 3:00 pm.

(*) indicates action items.

Dated the 19th day of September, 2022

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair