

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: March 27, 2023 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 via Videoconference,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT on March 27, 2023

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-16)
Tareq Al-Zabet	Site Director-South Bruce (item 5)
Pieter Asbeek-Brusse	Legal Counsel (items 1-16)
Chris Boyle	VP & Chief Engineer (items 1-16)
Sara Dolatshahi	Director, Strategic Projects (item 12)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-16)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (item 5)
Paul Gierszewski	Director, Safety & Technical Research (item 11)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (item 11)
Joanne Jacyk	Site Director-Ignace/Northwest (item 5)
Dakota Kochie	Director, Government & External Relations (item 7)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Manager, Board Services (items 1-16)
Jamie Matear	Director, Siting Coordination (item 5)
Melissa Mayhew	Senior Environmental Scientist (items 1-16)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-16)
Jeff Quick	Interim Chief Financial & Risk Officer (items 1-16)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel & Board Secretary (items 1-16)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-16)
Allan Webster	VP Regulatory Approvals (items 1-16)
Derek Wilson	Chief Operating Officer (items 1-16)

Guests:

Pat Beauchamp Hill & Knowlton (item 7)

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. EDT. The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement.

2. Safety Moment

Allan Webster provided the safety moment regarding Spring gardening safety tips.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the December 5, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members subject to an amendment to ensure that the Federal government is referred to as the Government of Canada rather than Canada. The actions list from the previous meeting and the Advisory Council workplan were also provided.

A Council member raised a follow-up question to the comment in the Minutes regarding the openness and transparency of the NWMO and the actions that Management is taking to address this comment. The President and CEO stated that the NWMO has engaged more with the Regulators, the NWMO website has been updated and going forward NWMO will provide more information on the website on a regular basis especially during the regulatory phase of the project.

4. President's Report

The President provided an update on NWMO's work and highlighted that it has been a very busy start to 2023. The President stated that the Triennial Report will be issued on March 30, 2023.

It was reported that the next 18 months will be an extremely busy period for the APM project. This is also a time of revitalization of the nuclear sector and there is an anticipated increase in demand for nuclear capacity in the future. In order to assist the NWMO's focus during this busy period, messaging has been developed around the concept that the NWMO is 'Building a DGR' and there are three key stages: (i) Select a Site; (ii) Obtain Regulatory Approval; and (iii) Obtain Cabinet Approval.

Good engagement has recently taken place with the Regulators (CNSC and the IAA) that attended Regulatory Day at the NWMO Oakville facility. It is anticipated that the NRCan Radioactive Waste Report will be issued in mid-April 2023. The Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) conference was a productive and informative event for the NWMO.

The terms of the Council members were briefly discussed in light of the adjustment of the Site Selection decision date.

A Council member highlighted the growing discussion regarding reprocessing of used fuel. Management highlighted that NWMO is engaged in these discussions and the NWMO has drafted a detailed 25-page document and key messages regarding this issue.*

A Council member asked about the measures that are being taken by the nuclear sector to engage with Indigenous communities. The President highlighted that the CNA has created an Ambassador program which is a form of partnering with Indigenous leadership to help them understand the nuclear industry. NWMO is proud to be a funder of this CNA initiative. In addition, the SMR nuclear sector leadership table includes Indigenous voices. Many of the nuclear sector companies are focused on Reconciliation.

A Council member asked if NWMO is increasing its capacity to address the increased workload. The President confirmed that resources are increasing and there are approximately 600 people involved in the project at this stage. The Council member also commented that the article that NWMO placed in the National Post was a good piece.

Sections of the President's report were discussed in camera.

5. Update on Engagement

Management provided an update on how NWMO is advancing engagement in the potential siting communities. We heard that the WLON gathering in February was a very successful and worthwhile event. Similarly, a regional tour with the South Bruce mayor was an effective way to seek to build regional support for the project. In Ignace, negotiations stalled at the beginning of the year because of the change in administration. In the SON communities, NWMO is working hard to progress negotiations with the SON leadership.

Sections of the Engagement report were discussed in camera.

6. Item 6 was held in camera

7. Item 7 was held in camera

8. Preparing for Regulatory Decision-Making Processes

An update was provided to Council respecting the preparations being made by the NWMO for the Federal Impact Assessment process and the licensing by the CNSC. The Council was advised that the Regulatory Day at the Oakville facility was a successful event. Management noted that the discussions with GCT#3 regarding the Indigenous led assessment process are ongoing. Management highlighted that the CNSC has recently published the new REGDOC 1.2.3. *Licence Application Guide: Licence to Prepare Site for a Deep Geological Repository*. Management is assessing the details of this new guidance and will provide the Council with an update at the June meeting.

The Council discussed the complexity of the regulatory process, tailoring of risks in the IA process, the importance of monitoring the progress of innovative processes in relation to projects in British Columbia and how the IA process will intertwine with Indigenous led assessment processes.

9. Standing reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to transportation and the external landscape. The Council discussed the concept of the alignment of engagement work with Indigenous knowledge.

10. Report on Council of Knowledge Holders & Municipal Forum Attendance

Linda Thompson highlighted that the next Municipal Forum is on April 20, 2023 which will include a tour of the NWMO Oakville facility.

Dean Jacobs reported on his attendance at the recent Council of Knowledge Holders meeting. It was reported that the change of the name of the Council is considered to be a significant change. The Council of Knowledge Holders discussed governance issues surrounding the terms of the members of the Council and the how the Council of Knowledge Holders is regarded by the NWMO in terms of significant advice and value that they bring to the APM project.

11. 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.

The mitigation of nuisances during the construction and operations phases was discussed. The glacial loading testing and the Used Fuel Packaging Plant design were also discussed. The Council was pleased to hear that nearly fifty geoscience fieldwork reports will be publicly released in the next few weeks.

12. Update on Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste (ISRW) Initiative

Staff updated the Council on the development of a national strategy for all of Canada's radioactive waste (ISRW). Council was advised that it is anticipated that the NRCan Radioactive Waste policy will be published in mid-April, 2023. NWMO will then consider the NRCan policy and consider what NWMO ISRW recommendations will be made.

13. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2023 meeting schedule.

A Council member asked for a link to the direct emerging technologies report when it is available.*

14. Community Capacity Building

Management reported on the continuing efforts (i) to build awareness of the potential socio-economic benefits and effects and (ii) to build community capacity for their involvement during the next phase of implementation of the APM Project after Site Selection.

Management highlighted that the long term view is that environmental testing would be carried out by the community who would be the stewards of the land outside of the fenced facility and they would test for impacts that are of concern to the community

15. Water Statement

Management described NWMO's continued work in prioritizing the relationship to water and commitments to water protection through the development and implementation of a Water Statement which is in the early stages of development.

Further to the discussion regarding the Water Statement, a Council member suggested that Management ensure that engineers are involved in detailing the groundwater part of the story of water.

A Council member highlighted the importance of highlighting the spatial boundaries of a watershed and also the uses of the water in the watershed. A Council member noted that it is important to ensure that the Water Statement is designed for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and communities.

Management confirmed that NWMO funds a river guardian program for GCT#3 and NWMO is reaching out to various groups involved in the Great Lakes and Indigenous water keepers.

16. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council reviewed the annual tracking matrix for 2022 and approved the posting of the matrix on the NWMO website.

17. In Camera Session – Council Discussion

The Council held an *in camera* discussion.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:17 pm.

(*) indicates action items.

Dated the 19th day of June, 2023

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair