

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 19, 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 in Toronto, ON
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT on June 19, 2023

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-15, 17)
Tareq Al-Zabet	Site Director-South Bruce (item 5)
Pieter Asbeek-Brusse	Legal Counsel (items 1-15)
Chris Boyle	VP & Chief Engineer (items 1-15)
Caitlin Burley	Director, Strategic Programs and Transportation (item 8)
Sara Dolatshahi	Director, Strategic Projects (item 11)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-15)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (item 5)
Joe Heil	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Northern Ontario (item 5)
Joanne Jacyk	Site Director-Ignace/Northwest (item 5)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Manager, Board Services (items 1-15)
Jamie Matear	Director, Siting Coordination (item 5)
Melissa Mayhew	Senior Environmental Scientist (items 1-15) (virtual)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-15)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel & Board Secretary (items 1-15)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-15, 17)
Allan Webster	VP Regulatory Approvals (items 1-15)
Derek Wilson	Chief Operating Officer (items 1-15) (virtual)

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

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

2. Safety Moment

Lise Morton provided the safety moment.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the March 27, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. The Council asked that the minutes are consistent stylistically. The actions list from the previous meeting and the Advisory Council workplan were also provided.

4. President's Report

The President provided an update on the three stages of the NWMO building a deep geological repository (DGR), namely Site Selection, the Regulatory Approvals process and Federal Minister approval.

The President noted that the NWMO is only 17 months away from the scheduled Site Selection decision date. Negotiations are progressing with each of the core communities except the SON, which is expected to begin in the next few months.

In terms of the Regulatory phase, the President highlighted the work NWMO is doing to define the project scope given the developments in the nuclear industry with SMRs, the integrated strategy on radioactive waste (ISRW) and possible new nuclear developments which are the subject of positive support from various levels of Government.

The President also noted that the NWMO is starting to plan for the construction phase of the project as the NWMO nears the end of the Site Selection Process. The Council discussed the work of the newly formed NWMO Safety Assessment Review Group, the used nuclear fuel developments in the US, the scoping of the impact assessment (IA) and the possibility of the US carrying out impact testing of the transportation containers. The Council also discussed the US consent-based siting process and information that is being shared with the US regarding the design of transportation containers. A Council member requested an update on the information that is being shared with the US. (*)

5. Update on Engagement

Management provided an update on how NWMO is advancing engagement in the potential siting communities and regions. The Council noted that the SON recently went to Finland with the NWMO and WLON is going to Finland in June 2023. The Council was pleased to hear that the door-to-door engagement campaign in South Bruce was successful in reaching many community members.

Sections of the Engagement report were discussed in camera.

6. Item 6 was held in camera

7. Preparing for Regulatory Decision-Making (RDM) 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 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

Management provided a summary of the recent productive meeting with the CNSC, the Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) and NRCan. Management is discussing with the regulators the unique nature of the APM project with a view to identifying potential efficiencies in regulatory process. For example, Management has begun discussions with the IAA on the concepts of issues-related tailoring of guidelines and the harmonization of the regulatory processes. The Council noted the importance of this significant RDM stage of the APM project.

8. Standing reports

Management provided updates regarding geoscience fieldwork, engineering, transportation, and safety & technical research.

The Council requested an update at the next meeting on the work of the newly formed Safety Assessment Review Group. (*) The focus of this group is the licensing process rather than site selection.

The Council also discussed the reprocessing of used nuclear fuel and that it is important that such a dialogue does not impact the current work of the NWMO.

9. Report on Municipal Forum Attendance

Linda Thompson reported on her attendance at the Municipal Forum April meeting. The forum enjoyed their tour of the Oakville facility.

10. APM Technical Overview

The Council was provided with an APM technical overview. The geoscience monitoring continues at each borehole site. The Geoscience Review Group publishes an annual report and the 2022 report supported the NWMO's position that the NWMO has enough geoscientific information for site selection. The GRG will publish one more report.

Management informed the Council that the engineering team is focused on the used fuel packaging plant, the engineered barrier system and innovations in the used fuel container. The Council discussed human health aspects of the IA and the involvement of Health Canada in the process. Management was requested to provide further thoughts on how this aspect of the IA will be managed. (*)

11. Update on the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste (ISRW)

Management updated the Council on the development of a national strategy for all of Canada's radioactive waste. The NWMO is making recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources at the end of June 2023. The Council discussed the potential impact of the recommendations.

12. Update on Implementing Reconciliation Policy

An update was provided to the Council regarding the implementation of the Reconciliation Policy. Management is now considering Reconciliation as a distinct program within NWMO.

13. Indigenous Knowledge / Western Science Workshop Reports

The Council was updated on NWMO's ongoing work to create meaningful alignment between Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science and the continued implementation of the Indigenous Knowledge Policy.

The workshops on this subject are making good progress and advancing the agenda of this group. A Council member that attended the workshop reported that many practical comments are shared at the workshop.

Management reported that it is working with the Turtle Island Institute on a canoe building project. The NWMO has been seeking opportunities to involve as many people as possible in this project. This process is important to develop relationships between our staff and the communities and develop an understanding of Indigenous science and technology.

The Council discussed the health of water and the experience of a Council Member involved in projects in Western Canada. Management described the many water research initiatives underway including the creation of an internal water working group to manage these initiatives.

The Council requested a higher resolution of the "journey" mural completed by the Indigenous visual scribe in the Council's materials. (*)

The Council noted that the next meeting of the Council of Knowledge Holders will be held in WLON in August.

14. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2023 meeting schedule and the draft 2024 calendar.

15. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council was presented with and then discussed the draft plan for addressing the recommendations in the 2020-2022 Triennial Report and the 2023 Advice Tracking Matrix.

16. In Camera Session – Council Discussion

The Council held an in-camera discussion.

17. In Camera Session – Council Discussion with Management

The Council held an in-camera session with the President and Management

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 3:30pm.

(*) indicates action items.

Dated the 25th day of September, 2023

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair