

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: September 25, 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 September 25, 2023

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair  
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair  
Joseph Cavalancia  
Monica Gattinger (virtual, from 10:10am)  
Dean Jacobs  
Diane Kelly (virtual)  
Dougal McCreath  
Stella Swanson  
Linda Thompson

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-14)
Pieter Asbeek-Brusse	Legal Counsel (items 1-14)
Chris Boyle	VP & Chief Engineer (items 1-14)
Caitlin Burley	Director, Strategic Programs and Transportation (item 7) (virtual)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-14) (virtual)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (item 5) (virtual)
Joe Heil	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Northern Ontario (item 5) (virtual)
Joanne Jacyk	Site Director-Ignace/Northwest (item 5) (virtual)
Dakota Kochie	Director, Government & External Relations (Item 6) (virtual)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Manager, Board Services (items 1-14)
Melissa Mayhew	Senior Environmental Scientist (items 1-14)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-14) (virtual)
Michael Pahor	Site Director, South Bruce (item 5) (virtual)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel & Board Secretary (items 1-14)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-14)
Allan Webster	VP Regulatory Approvals (items 1-14)

Guest

Tom Isaacs                      Chair, Site Selection Review Group (item 10) (virtual)

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. EDT. The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair highlighted to the Council that the format of the agenda has been adjusted to include items in a consent agenda which is intended to free up more time for strategic conversations. The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement recognizing the second annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

2. Safety Moment

Doug Taylor provided the safety moment regarding the increased number of wasps in the environment and care to be taken if stung.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda

The Chair brought the consent agenda items forward for consideration. The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the Consent Agenda.

The following items were approved under the consent agenda:

- June 19, 2023 Minutes and *In Camera* minutes

The information items on the Consent agenda consisted of:

- Advisory Council Actions from previous meetings
- Standing Reports and Updates
- Advisory Council Workplan

A Council Member asked for an update regarding the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) meeting with the Council of Elders and Youth. Management highlighted that one of the reasons for the meeting in WLON was for the Council of Elders and Youth to honour one of the WLON Elders who had sadly passed away. A further update was provided by Management at item 11.

4. Item 4 was held in camera

5. Update on Partnership and Willingness (*partially In Camera*)

Management provided an update on how Partnership and Willingness are advancing in the siting communities and the regions approaching the 2024 site selection decision date.

At a recent trade show in Ignace, Management highlighted it as a good event which created a good buzz in the community. Transportation in the North West was discussed by many in the community. Consultants have been engaged by Ignace regarding the willingness assessment and will be consulting with the community (16-year-olds and above).

A Council member asked about the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Court of Appeal title claim decision and whether it would be appealed to the Supreme Court. In *Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation v. Canada*, the Ontario Court of Appeal upheld the finding that the SON do not have Aboriginal title to submerged lands, and that the Crown did not owe or breach a fiduciary duty to SON for failing to protect their lands from encroachment by white settlers. The Court of Appeal did however remit the matter back to the trial judge to determine

whether Aboriginal title can be established in a more limited area by applying the test set out by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Tsilhqot'in Nation v British Columbia*.

Management commented on the status of opposing voices in Ignace and how this may develop over the next number of months.

A Council member asked about the impact on the Site Selection decision if other First Nations and Provincial Treaty Organizations (PTOs) are opposed to the project. Management confirmed that there are discussions ongoing with many communities and PTOs.

A Council member highlighted that Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT#3) records their assemblies on YouTube and it is evident that there is opposition to the project voiced at those assemblies.

Sections of the Partnership and Willingness 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 (IA) process and the licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

Management commented on the complexity of health assessments in the IA that it is important to assess the effects at the time in the future when the effects will be felt. This will be a timeline of 50 to 80 years in the future. Climate change will be factored into the considerations in accordance with the projected Government's plans to address climate change.

9. Item 9 was held in camera
10. Update on Site Selection Review Group

The Chair of the Site Selection Review Group (SSRG) expressed his sadness regarding the passing of former Council member, Derek Lister.

The Chair of the SSRG recounted his recent visit to Ignace, Wabigoon, Dryden and South Bruce.

The trip started in Ignace which was interesting and the international experts met with local community members. Presentations were made in all of the communities. The group met with the Chief and Council in WLON. The Chair highlighted the importance of reaching out to both on and off reserve members of WLON. The Dryden conversations with the administration were good. The international experts met with community members in Dryden and some opposed to the project were in attendance. The South Bruce visit was very well organized.

The Chair also reported on his tour of Finland's Posiva facility with the members of the SON. The Chair felt that it was a very worthwhile trip.

A Council member asked about the major milestones of the SSRG over the next year. The group will provide oversight and guidance during the process and the milestones will be reflective of work progressing at the NWMO. The next meeting of the group is with the NWMO at the beginning of November 2023.

11. Report on Council of Knowledge Holders

Management reported on the recent meeting of the Council of Knowledge Holders in Dryden and WLON (Dean Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting) and the subsequent meeting of the Council of Knowledge Holders. Management also reported on the recent meeting of the Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science Working Group. A number of members of the Council of Knowledge Holders joined the working group meeting. The Council has reverted to its former name of the Council of Elders and Youth.

A Council member asked about the interaction of the Council of Elders and Youth with WLON. Management reported on the feeling of solidarity between the Council of Elders and Youth and WLON and highlighted that good relationships are developing.

The story of water was discussed, in particular the involvement of the Council of Elders and Youth in the development of this story.

12. Annual Tracking Matrix

The Council was presented with and then discussed the 2023 Advice Tracking Matrix. The Council noted that it is pleased with the reporting in the matrices but emphasized the importance of developing the story of water by Management.

The Council discussed the concept of the Council drafting a summary opinion at the end of the Site Selection process which would reflect on the process and the conclusion of the Site Selection decision. The Council agreed to preparing a draft over the course of 2024.

13. Item 13 was held in camera

14. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

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

15. In Camera Session – Council Discussion

The Council held an in camera discussion.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:47 pm.

(\*) indicates action items.

*Dated the 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023*

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David Cameron  
Advisory Council Chair