

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**DRAFT Record of Discussion: May 13, 2008 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. EST. on May 13, 2008.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie                      Council Chairman  
David Cameron  
Marlyn Cook  
Fred Gilbert  
Rudyard Griffiths  
Eva Ligeti  
Derek Lister  
Dougal McCreath  
Donald Obonsawin  
Daniel Rozon

NWMO Staff in Attendance:

Ken Nash                                      President & CEO (Except Item 14)  
Kathryn Shaver                              Vice President, Corporate Affairs (Except Item 14)  
Frank King                                    Vice President, Science & Technology (Item 8 and 12)  
Gillian Adshead                              Assistant Board Secretary (Except Item 14)  
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel                      Manager, Geoscience (Item 12)  
Elizabeth Dowdeswell                      Special Advisor to the Board (Item 11)  
Jo-Ann Facella                                Manager, Social Research and Dialogue (Items 4 and 7)  
Paul Gierszewski                              Manager, Repository Safety (Item 12)  
Anda Kalvins                                 Director, Environment (Item 7)  
Pat Patton                                      Manager, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations (Item 10)  
Jamie Robinson                              Director of Communications (Items 9)  
Sean Russell                                 Manager, Repository Development (Item 12)  
Cynthia Summers                            Manager of Community Engagement and Research (Item  
4 via conference call)

## ***ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS***

### **1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous meeting, convened on March 6, 2008 with minor editorial changes.

## ***UPDATES FROM NWMO***

### **3. Business Planning Considerations**

The Chairman invited Mr. Nash to discuss NWMO's preliminary thoughts on business planning for the next five-year business plan.

Mr. Nash outlined the key considerations for the 2009-2013 business plan which include:

- building capacity and relationships externally;
- internally building technical, financial, and governance capacity; and
- working towards siting a facility.

NWMO's engagement plan, which will be conducted in four phases was, also reviewed with the Council:

- Phase 1) input into development of the implementation plan (complete);
- Phase 2) public review of the draft Implementation Plan (near completion);
- Phase 3) the fall 2008 public dialogue on design of siting process; and
- Phase 4) developing the draft siting proposal for public review in 2009.

Mr. Nash reviewed the comments received to date on the draft Implementation Plan. He then reviewed the reference assumptions NWMO will use between 2009 and 2013 for purposes of planning. A key component to a successful organization will be projecting the correct number of staff that NWMO will require. NWMO will need to maintain relationships with provincial and federal governments and Aboriginal people and conduct the necessary social and technical research. Looking ahead to the coming years, NWMO will need sufficient resources to meaningfully engage willing host communities.

Mr. Nash discussed the comparative organizations in Sweden and in the United Kingdom noting that while there are some similarities, NWMO also must engage citizens in a much broader geographic area and engage Aboriginal communities which don't exist in either of these countries, and work with both provincial and federal systems of government.

The Council was invited to discuss the considerations for the business plan. Council asked questions regarding staffing and the challenges NWMO faces in resourcing required numbers of qualified staff. A Council member cautioned against moving too quickly, and getting ahead of confidence-building within communities. Mr. Nash assured Council that NWMO will be working on striking the right balance between capacity building and the need and opportunity to proceed at a measured pace.

#### **4. Municipal Engagement**

The Chairman invited Ms. Shaver and Ms. Summers to discuss NWMO's approach to municipal engagement, including a proposed framework for a Municipal Organization Committee as a forum for expanding NWMO's collaborative work at the local/municipal level. Such a Committee could greatly assist with both the design and implementation of the process for site selection. Ms. Shaver reported that discussions have been held with municipal associations to develop a Committee which would allow communities access to a third party to obtain information without approaching NWMO directly and also advise NWMO on what information communities require. She noted that NWMO has received great interest from the municipal associations to work with NWMO.

Ms. Shaver invited Cynthia Summers to review the draft proposal for a Municipal Organization Committee. Ms. Summers reported on the introductory meetings held with the executives of a number of municipal associations since the fall of 2007. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has expressed interest in potentially taking a lead role with the Committee and will be holding further internal discussions later in 2008 with NWMO.

The Advisory Council was invited to comment on NWMO's approach to municipal engagement and the proposal for the Municipal Organization Committee. The Council agreed that there was great value in this type of Committee as an umbrella organization that would interface with communities, and suggested the following:

- the Committee should have a good measure of independence in order to provide a safe way for a community to become informed;
- NWMO should participate in the Committee to ensure deliberations support NWMO timelines for siting;
- NWMO should consider developing a similar type of Aboriginal organization in parallel;
- NWMO must also consider how it will engage others, such as unorganized townships, district councils, Aboriginal areas;
- regarding the Committee's composition Council suggested:
  - a broad membership approach, becoming more localized as the project progresses
  - two representatives from each organization for continuity over time
- have clear terms of reference to clarify expectations for the Committee

A Council member suggested NWMO must build parameters around capacity building with municipalities to determine how, where, and when will the processes with municipalities begin and end.

## **5. Staff Report**

The Chairman invited the President to review with the Council NWMO's recent activities.

The President updated the Council on the following activities since the March 6, 2008 Advisory Council meeting:

- key activities within the Aboriginal and municipal programs;
- NWMO's activities related to public review on the draft Implementation Plan;
- briefings with governments to review NWMO's funding formula which was submitted for review in its 2007 Annual Report;
- establishment of NWMO's Independent Technical Review Group;
- hiring to build the organization's capability and NWMO's focus on hiring youth;
- NWMO's attendance at an upcoming special meeting of the CNSC looking at the long-term waste picture in Canada; and
- progress in Finland, Sweden, France, U.K., Switzerland and Japan on high-level nuclear waste programs.

The Council was invited to discuss Mr. Nash's report. A Council member enquired about progress in the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) and requested Council be updated as developments occur.

## **6. Organization update**

Mr. Nash reviewed activities underway to develop a sustaining implementation organization. Mr. Nash reported to the Council that a decision has been taken to transfer seconded staff from OPG to become NWMO employees as of January 1, 2009 in order to demonstrate NWMO's independence and to allow NWMO to attract staff.

Mr. Nash reported that NWMO will formally assume the function of supporting the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) work for the low and intermediate repository being constructed in Kincardine. He noted that this direction is supported by the regulator and by the federal government and will allow NWMO to leverage the expertise from this project.

The Council was invited to comment on Mr. Nash's update. The Council discussed the importance of NWMO's continued focus on Adaptive Phased Management while engaging in building the DGR for low and intermediate level waste. Council also discussed the possible political and social risks of NWMO assuming this role and the mechanics of the staffing model for both projects.

## **7. Engagement Program Update**

The Chairman invited Ms. Shaver to update the Council on recent NWMO engagement activities and social research.

Ms. Shaver reported to the Council that:

- NWMO's Implementation Plan has been distributed for public review and comment to 2,000 people;
- the Plan was also discussed by the Citizens' Panel and reviewed in briefings with government departments, municipal officials and Aboriginal groups;

- the Council's advice has been incorporated into the youth strategy and NWMO will begin with a roundtable with youth which will meet over the course of a year to gain preliminary input into the development of the youth strategy;
- research on community well-being was underway; and
- as requested by the Council, historical statistics on NWMO's website traffic were provided.

Ms. Jo-Ann Facella was invited to provide a verbal update to Council on the Citizens' Panels which have recently taken place in eight locations in the four nuclear provinces. Ms. Facella reported that the agenda for the recent sessions included two key components. The first was for Panelists to provide input on the draft Implementation Plan, and the second, to have Panelists meet with an NWMO technical staff person, as requested by the Panel, to answer any questions they may have.

Ms. Facella discussed the public input received on the Implementation Plan and addressed Council questions. Overall members of the Citizens' Panel agreed with the direction of NWMO's strategic objectives. Positive comments were received across all groups that the Implementation Plan is on the right track in terms of being open and transparent and consistent with their expectations. Feedback was received that the concrete plans and activities outlined in the Plan helped many better understand, and have greater confidence in, the NWMO as an organization and APM. Ms. Facella also reported on some of the Panel's suggested improvements and concerns raised.

A Council member reported on his attendance at the Toronto session of the Citizens' Panels. He reported that the participants were very interested in technical information on the project and had strongly endorsed the involvement of youth and that the terminology "corporate citizenship program" was not widely understood. Another Council member also attended the Toronto session and remarked that he was impressed with the Panel's level of comfort with the topic of used nuclear fuel after only three meetings.

The Council discussed how to ensure the knowledge in Aboriginal communities is equal to that of other participants as NWMO moves into the discussion on the collaborative design of the siting process.

The Council also discussed the objectives for the youth engagement strategy and its desired outcomes. NWMO noted the strong support for involving youth, to enhance understanding of nuclear issues for future generations and in recognition of the ethical dimension of incorporating opinions of youth on decisions that will have impacts into the future.

## **8. Update on Technical Program**

Mr. Frank King joined the Council meeting to provide an update on the technical program and proposed appointments to the Independent Technical Review Group.

Mr. King reviewed the progress in the technical program noting the following highlights:

- an agreement was signed to gain access to the Mont Terri research program;
- NWMO currently has 47 active technical contracts;
- the NWMO Annual Technical Report is available on the NWMO website; and
- NWMO staff are preparing for a briefing to the CNSC Commission members in Ottawa regarding radioactive waste management in Canada.

Mr. King discussed with the Council the formation of the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG). He reviewed the backgrounds of the nominees who have agreed to stand for membership in the ITRG. Once membership is finalized and approved by the Board, members will be asked to recommend additional experts as required to join the group.

The Chairman invited questions or comments on the report and the nominees. The Council discussed the composition of the group and a Council member noted that he was pleased to see the breadth of international experience within the proposed group. A member also commended NWMO on joining the international cooperation project with Mont Terri.

## **9. Corporate Citizenship Program**

The Chair invited Jamie Robinson to discuss the proposed framework for NWMO's Corporate Citizenship Program.

Mr. Robinson noted that the purpose of the program is to support NWMO's efforts to build relationships in the four nuclear provinces and to reinforce NWMO's mission, vision and values. The program will be designed to incorporate best practices in corporate citizenship programs. The suggested theme of the program is: working toward capacity building with a focus on the areas of collaboration and dialogue. NWMO has a limited budget for the program which will grow over the next 3-5 year period. Mr. Robinson welcomed advice from the Council.

The Council discussed alternative terms for referring to the corporate citizenship program based on feedback received at the Citizens' panels. A Council member suggested asking the Citizens' Panels for feedback on what makes a good corporate citizen.

In responding to Council questions, Mr. Robinson discussed with Council a number of options for the program and examples of programs in place in industry.

The Council offered a range of possible themes and focus for the program for NWMO's consideration. Council advised that NWMO consider limiting its focus to some specific areas linked to NWMO's key objectives. It was recognized the program focus may change over time as NWMO's work becomes more community specific.

## **10. Aboriginal Engagement**

Pat Patton joined the Council meeting to discuss the overarching direction of the Aboriginal program.

Ms. Patton noted that one of the key business planning considerations for NWMO is how, and when will it reach out to the community level, and what level of NWMO staffing resources will be needed to achieve the appropriate level of engagement.

Ms. Patton highlighted the work underway with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN). An initial project with the AFN includes their development of communication material they feel will be beneficial to any First Nation seeking information and advice on nuclear waste management from a First Nation perspective. Ms. Patton also outlined NWMO's work underway with several other national and regional Aboriginal organizations.

Internally, the development of culturally-appropriate communications material is underway with advice being provided from advisors with expertise in communication with Aboriginal people. NWMO is conducting Aboriginal cultural training sessions for all staff.

The NWMO Elders' Forum is scheduled for June 4, 5, and 6 in northern Saskatchewan and it was reported that NWMO Advisory Council member Dr. Cook will be conducting a session on traditional healing and western medicine.

The Council was invited to discuss Ms. Patton's report. The Council discussed the following:

- NWMO's relationship with the AFN and how it would be operationalized;
- what protocol frameworks might be put in place with other Aboriginal organizations;
- how NWMO will ensure that Aboriginal groups' knowledge level is equal to that of other participants throughout NWMO's engagement process;
- opportunities for NWMO to conduct regional dialogues when discussing the development of the siting process; and
- the development of NWMO's communication materials.

Council had a lengthy discussion regarding how NWMO might effectively engage Aboriginal people at the community level. Council cautioned NWMO about moving too quickly, ahead of Aboriginal communities' understanding of the project. Council suggested working with the Aboriginal organizations or communities to develop two or three pilot projects at the local level to work with communities to learn how best to engage at the community level.

## **11. Preparations for Siting Design Dialogues**

The Chairman invited Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell to review NWMO's preparation for the fall dialogues on the design of a siting process.

Ms. Dowdeswell noted that the Council's advice had been incorporated into NWMO's materials and plans and that the supplementary materials to support the discussion document are near completion.

Ms. Dowdeswell reviewed in detail NWMO's readiness to proceed with the fall dialogues which will seek input into the design of the siting proposal. She noted the work will be reviewed by an internal team and that a detailed readiness assessment had been conducted. Board approval to move forward would be sought in June. She reported that no major issues were encountered in the first phase of engagement that would lead to a delay in proceeding. Ms. Dowdeswell noted the importance of NWMO moving forward while continuing to build awareness and sustaining relationships. Based on engagement and internal analysis completed to date Ms. Dowdeswell reported that NWMO is ready to proceed with the fall 2008 dialogue.

The Chairman invited Council comment and discussion. The Council discussed the fall dialogues and the engagement methods which will be utilized. Council members noted the potential for pilot projects in communities in future phases of engagement.

The Council was invited to comment on NWMO's draft backgrounder which offers a brief overview, a "project description". The Council provided some specific editorial feedback

on the project description. Council also discussed the overall project time frames and the importance of NWMO clearly communicating that the project is moving forward.

The Chair thanked Council for their input.

## **12. Technical Program Briefing**

At the Council's request, NWMO technical staff were invited to provide a detailed briefing on the technical aspects of NWMO's work. The Chairman welcomed NWMO's senior technical staff to provide the briefing to Council.

The technical team provided a detailed briefing on the following areas:

1. What is used fuel and how is it managed today?;
2. History of Used fuel research and development in Canada;
3. The safety case;
4. NWMO's technical R&D program; and
5. International collaboration.

The Council was invited to discuss the presentation. Extensive discussion ensued as Council asked numerous questions on the topics of current fuel storage, research reactors, transportation, container development, toxicity of fuel and seismic considerations.

## **13. Next meeting**

### **Meeting #3**

**September 8, 2008**

9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: NWMO Office

*Possible agenda items:*

- NWMO's proposed directions for 2009 business plan
- Next steps in siting design process
- Presentation by Eero Patrakka, Posiva (Implementer in Finland)

Nuclear Waste Management Facility tour (to be confirmed)

## **14. In-camera Meeting**

The Advisory Council convened without the presence of NWMO staff or management.

### **Termination of Meeting**

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:15 pm.

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Dated the            day of            , 2008

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Vice President, Corporate Affairs