The Honourable Greg Rickford
Minister, Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

May 2015

Dear Minister Rickford:

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of the Advisory Council to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to provide an update on some of our activities in 2014. Much of our focus early in the year was on reviewing the NWMO's second triennial report, and as required by statute, preparing our comments which were submitted to you in March and made public at the same time.

Throughout the year, we kept abreast of progress with the implementation of the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) plan for used nuclear fuel and were pleased to see continued advancement of what we believe is an important national initiative.

We followed closely the advances in the site selection process. Members reviewed draft findings of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Preliminary Assessments and the NWMO's recommendations on the potential for communities to continue in the process. The Advisory Council discussed the NWMO's plans for both engagement and fieldwork related to communities involved in the second phase of preliminary assessment. We also reviewed the resultant year-end reports.

Particular attention was paid to technical findings that impact safety, and to social research exploring the continued interest in learning among initiating communities and their Métis, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal neighbours. Council members were interested in, and supportive of, the NWMO's programs for recognizing the important contributions of municipalities, and First Nation and Métis communities and organizations. We provided advice on the structure and implementation of these programs. Importantly, the Advisory Council urged the NWMO to continue to be guided by its principles and values as it moves forward.

Council engaged in discussion of the NWMO's advancements with the technical research program, especially with regard to the engineered barrier design and proof testing programs for used fuel containers.

Transportation was another subject of interest to us. We suggested that the NWMO assign a higher profile to the movement of used nuclear fuel in its planning and risk assessments. Other notable topics of deliberation included financial surety, communications, the external landscape and its impact on APM.

As always, a fuller account of the Advisory Council's activities is published in the NWMO's 2014 Annual Report beginning on page 139. I trust you will find it helpful and informative.

Sincerely, on behalf of the members of the Advisory Council,



David Cameron
Advisory Council Vice-Chair, NWMO

cc: The Honourable David Crombie, Chair

Marlyn Cook	Wesley Cragg	Dougal McCreath	Michel R. Rhéaume
Frederick Gilbert	Eva Ligeti	Derek Lister	Donald Obonsawin