

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: December 7, 2021 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 via Videoconference,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST on December 7, 2021

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-21)
Tareq Al-Zabet	Site Director, South Bruce (item 6)
Caitlin Burley	Manager, Transportation Engagement (item 12)
Jo-Ann Facella	Strategic Advisor, Community Engagement & Well-Being (items 6-10)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Communications (items 1-21)
Joe Gaboury	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Southern Ontario (item 6)
Bill Gascon	Site Director, Ignace (item 6)
Karine Glenn	Strategic Project Director (item 17)
Joe Heil	Director, Indigenous Engagement-Northern Ontario (item 6)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (item 16)
Dakota Kochie	Director, Government & External Relations (item 8)
Georgina Kossivas	Chief Financial & Risk Officer (item 7)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Assistant Board Secretary (items 1-21)
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement (items 6-10)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-21, and 23)
Lise Morton	VP Site Selection (items 1-21)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 3-21)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations & Strategic Programs (items 1-21, and 23)
Allan Webster	Director, Regulatory Affairs and Environmental Assessment (item 9)
Derek Wilson	VP Construction & Projects (items 1-21)

Guests:

Andreas Gautschi	Geoscientific Review Group (item 3)
Tom Isaacs	Chair, Site Selection Review Group (item 13)
Peter Kaiser	Geoscientific Review Group (item 3)
Celia Milne	Triennial Report Writer (items 19-22)
Michael Stephens	Geoscientific Review Group (item 3)

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

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EST. The agenda was agreed upon as written. The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement.

2. Safety Moment

Jamie Matear provided the safety moment on winter driving.

3. Geoscientific Review Group Report

The Geoscience Review Group (GRG) provided the Council with a bi-annual overview of their interactions, observations and recommendations related to their review of the NWMO's site assessment activities.

Council members discussed the need to be cautious in the wording of the GRG's report to ensure some of the highly technical information is put into context. Council members also had a discussion about how NWMO is managing the difference in the amount of technical information available for the two sites and whether the GRG is comparing sites. It was clarified to the Council that the GRG's role is not to compare sites but to determine if each site is independently suitable for the DGR. Council also asked questions about lessons learned from the low and intermediate level waste DGR hearings, and how connections are being made between the geological data and the safety assessment. Resourcing for the site assessments was also discussed and NWMO reviewed the additional technical staff that had been added in 2021.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and *in camera* minutes from the September 20, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. The actions list from the previous meeting was also provided.

The Chair noted to Council that, when asking NWMO for additional information it should consider how urgent the request to ensure NWMO is given an appropriate time frame and can respond when relevant information is available.

5. President's Report

The President provided a year end summary of NWMO's work, reviewing NWMO's accomplishments, developments in the external environment and preparations for the regulatory decision-making process. Ms. Swami also reviewed some of the staffing changes

and internal work NWMO has undertaken to prepare for site selection and the ensuing regulatory process.

A Council member asked about the recent announcement by Ontario Power Generation to choose GE Hitachi's technology for Small Modular Reactor (SMR) development. A Council member also asked about NWMO's staffing plans and future organizational transition to the selected site.

The Council Chair recognized Jo-Ann Facella on her retirement noting her lengthy service and significant contributions to the organization's work.

6. Item 6 was held in camera.
7. Item 7 was held in camera.
8. Visibility Strategy & Government Relations Update

Ms. Frizzell provided the Council with an update on NWMO's visibility strategy outlining the government and external relations landscape, the media and social media landscape and NWMO's multi-platform campaigns to build advocacy.

Dakota Kochie updated the Council on recent government meetings and also discussed an upcoming panel session at the Canadian Nuclear Association meeting being held in February.

Council was pleased to hear about the progress in setting up government cross-departmental meetings. Council members also discussed opposition from some U.S. individuals and provided advice on U.S. entities that could be helpful to engage with. (*)

9. Preparing for Regulatory Processes

The Council was updated on the preparations being made by the NWMO for the federal Impact Assessment process and the licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The NWMO intends to launch these processes in 2024 with the selected siting area.

A Council member suggested using the term "Regulatory decision-making process" in lieu of "Regulatory Approvals" which could be misinterpreted by the public.

10. Social Safety

At Council's request, management provided an overview of NWMO's work to date to discuss how social safety has shaped NWMO's work with respect to long-term used fuel management, and the next steps and additional work planned related to social safety.

Council members found the information provided very useful. Council members discussed social safety as it relates to stigma and cohesion in the siting communities. Council also discussed social safety as it relates to other things such as water or even affordable housing and emergency services and suggested there will also be additional benefits to the community with NWMO's focus in this area.

11. Update on Water

In response to a request by Council members, management provided an update on NWMO's work related to water. The work outlined included: NWMO's internal water working group; sponsorship of water protection and monitoring at the community level; and an assessment tool that looks at NWMO's work through a water lens that is inclusive of both Indigenous Knowledge and western science. Management also reported on two Indigenous Knowledge and Science Workshops held that were focused on water.

A Council member suggested that not only should the discussion be around protection of water but be expanded into improvement of water quality. Another Council member suggested NWMO should be cautious that NWMO's messaging about the robust multi-barrier systems must not give the impression that water is in direct contact with the used fuel emplaced at the repository depth.

12. Transportation Framework Update

Management and staff provided the Council with an update on transportation engagement in 2021. The Council was also provided with the revised transportation planning framework and the preliminary transportation plans which will be published at the end of the year. Mr. Watts reported that in 2022, NWMO will continue to work with the groups identified to engage and seek feedback on the revised transportation framework and preliminary transportation plan. NWMO will also build targeted transportation plans as it continues to expand its engagement.

The Advisory Council was pleased to see the progression of the transportation work in 2021 and thought the documents were well written. The Council discussed how sacred traditional Indigenous sites were being considered in the transportation plans. Ms. Burley noted that NWMO will be considering how to incorporate this information in upcoming transportation work. A Council member suggested NWMO look at how it uses the terms Indigenous vs. Metis & First Nations to ensure consistency in the documents. (*)

13. Site Selection Review Group Report

Mr. Tom Isaacs joined the meeting to update the Council on the work of the Site Selection Review Group's (SSRG), its mission, members and the draft 2022 work schedule.

The Council asked questions about the challenges NWMO and the SSRG will face leading up to site selection and the role of government in decision making during the regulatory process.

14. Standing reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to external landscape, Council of Elders & Youth, Youth Engagement and Land Access.

The Council discussed progress being made in NWMO's youth engagement program.

15. Report on Council of Elders & Youth and Municipal Forum Attendance

Dean Jacobs reported on his attendance at the recent Council of Elders and Youth meeting and Linda Thompson reported on her attendance at the recent Municipal Forum meeting.

Council members discussed the Municipal Forum meeting and municipal decision-making processes.

16. APM Technical Overview

The Council was provided with highlights of technical activities since the last meeting which included updates on site assessment, engineering and technical transportation activities.

17. Update on Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste (ISRW)

Staff updated the Council on the development of a national strategy for all of Canada's radioactive waste (ISRW). Ms. Glenn reviewed the engagement work completed and the high-level results of those sessions.

Council members discussed the sequencing of NRCan's policy and NWMO's engagement activities.

18. Update on Implementing Reconciliation Policy

Mr. Watts provided the Council with an update on the implementation of the Reconciliation Policy outlining the reconciliation training that had been conducted, workshops that had been held and reconciliation assessments that had been undertaken on NWMO's governing documents in 2021.

A Council member cautioned using the term "historic" when referring to treaties as they have relevance today and discussed treaties which cover some of the Great Lakes.

19. Preparing for Meeting with Board of Directors

The Council had a discussion to prepare for the upcoming meeting with the Board of Directors reviewing the topics to be discussed.

20. Next Meetings of the Advisory Council

The Council was presented with the 2022 meeting schedule. The Board Secretary noted that there will be additional meetings arranged which were requested by the Council to complete the writing on the Triennial Report in 2022.

21. Tracking Matrices – Annual & Triennial

The Council reviewed its annual advice tracking matrix.

22. In Camera Session

The Council held an in camera session. The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:50 pm actual.

(*) indicates action items.

Dated the 21st day of March, 2022

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair