

NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2018 Advice

(Final)

Recommendations	Action taken
RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – ETHICAL & SOCIAL FRAMEWORK	
<p><i>At the March 20, 2018 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members encouraged NWMO to ensure the values and principles being developed for partnerships are consistent with those in NWMO's Social and Ethical framework. • A Council member suggested the revised Social & Ethical Framework could contain key questions and key ethical and social issues that would frame a discussion at the next phase as NWMO moves into operations. Council members also asked staff to reflect on the relationship of the new framework to the original framework. • Council members also suggested that expert review of the updated framework planned by NWMO should take place prior to socializing it with the Community Liaison Committees (CLCs). Council also encouraged NWMO to consider how its social and ethical principles are included during discussions with communities on Partnership values and principles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO works collaboratively with communities to develop the values and principles and, refine them over time based on community inputs. Through this work we believe the values and principles developed to date are consistent with the framework. • The framework document has been refined in light of direction from the Advisory Council. This includes review of the framework for its applicability to current phase of work and addition of a discussion of the roots of the framework as background to the document. In the previous meeting, NWMO also provided a comparison between the refined and original frameworks for review by the Advisory Council. • Expert review of the framework is ongoing and additional refinements have been made.

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RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNICATION ON WATER & WASTE IN REPOSITORY	
<p><i>At the June 25, 2018 Council Meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member suggested that there are many advocates for water and suggested NWMO might connect with the Canadian Water Network in Waterloo. A Council member noted that NWMO has a unique position to advocate for groundwater and its interaction with surface water. • A Council member suggested that NWMO will need to develop a common language around the results of borehole testing so they are understandable by those who are not technical. A Council member suggested the key message heard from the Journey of Water presentation is that depth provides safety. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO will report at a future meeting on the outreach and engagement with like-minded organizations. In the meantime, NWMO has increased its networking and profile through attendance in water-related conferences and events. • NWMO has developed presentations on the Journey of Water to help address concerns related to water. • Management appreciates this comment and acknowledges the importance of communicating borehole findings in a way which is understandable to community members. Work is underway involving technical and engagement staff to develop approaches and presentations to achieve this important requirement.
RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	
<p><i>At the June 25, 2018 Council Meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that knowledge management goes beyond record-keeping and should include knowledge management of social and Indigenous components as well. Management agreed with this definition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO is committed to ensuring that knowledge is well-managed. Management agrees this must extend to social and indigenous components. NWMO is continuing to enhance its knowledge management system and will provide periodic updates on its evolving work.

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RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – INFORMATION ON RADIATION	
<p><i>At the June 25, 2018 Council Meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members noted that NWMO staff should be well prepared to answer questions related to past international nuclear power incidents, such as Chernobyl. • Council members also suggested that legacy issues in a number of Indigenous communities related to mining and nuclear will need to be acknowledged. • A Council member suggested putting radiation doses in plain language comparisons should be considered (i.e. sitting beside a transportation container on the highway for x amount of time is equal to x number of flights). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management agrees and will ensure staff are equipped with basic messages on these incidents, understanding staff are not experts on this subject. • Management understands that it may be difficult to separate discussion of legacy issues from discussion of this project with some communities. Care is needed to not assume a responsibility which cannot be discharged. • NWMO will share its work to date on this at a future meeting for further discussion with the Advisory Council.
RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS - ENVIRONMENT	
<p><i>At the December 4, 2018 Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council had a thorough discussion on the Environment statement presented. A Council member asked if NWMO should have a more active environment agenda and take a leadership role on the environment. • Council suggested that the Environment statement, at the beginning, might want to be more reflective of the partnership aspect of NWMO’s work. Council also suggested that NWMO should consider including criteria for its contractors, as much of NWMO’s work is conducted by third parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWMO understands that the environment is a key component of sustainability and well-being and we are continuing to explore how it best fits as we reach out to communities regarding their expectations. NWMO does not want to impose its own agenda on communities. The work required will be shaped by the communities’ needs.

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RESPONDING TO THE AC TRIENNIAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON SAFETY	
<p>At the December 4, 2018 Council meeting: Council made a number of suggestions related to community engagement on safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using well understood analogies can be helpful; • the time frame of “millions of years” is not relevant as people live above ore bodies which could have the same radioactivity as the DGR after a certain number of years; • using the word “consequences” has a negative connotation; • NWMO will need to reflect historically on its thought process when it submits the results of the siting process and it will be important to document this – information management will be important; and • NWMO will have to consider how it will have a publicly accessible version of the documents prepared for the environmental assessment which could number in the thousands of pages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management appreciates the comments of the Advisory Council and is working to both further reflect on them and also understand the range of activities through which these can be actioned.
SITING & PARTNERSHIPS	
<p>At the June 25, 2018 Council Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member encouraged NWMO to ensure it clearly understands communities’ goals in order to have a successful partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management reported the partnership discussions will progress in a collaborative manner to ensure NWMO has a clear understanding of communities’ goals.
<p>At the September 18, 2018 Council Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member suggested NWMO’s eventual move to a small community could be quite disruptive and NWMO should examine previous examples and best practices of these types of moves from governments and other industries such as mining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management appreciates this comment and will consider this advice when planning its mobilization strategy in collaboration with the communities.
REPROCESSING	
<p>At the September 18, 2018 Council Meeting: Council members received a presentation by Dr. Peter Ottensmeyer on reprocessing used nuclear fuel and recommend that NWMO continue to monitor the issue of reprocessing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management will continue to monitor reprocessing and report back to Council.

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REGULATORY PROCESS	
<p><i>At the September 18, 2018 Council Meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In reviewing pipeline experience, council members observed that the proponent’s actions were not called into question – it was the regulator and the crown’s actions which were in question. Council members felt that an important lesson for NWMO to consider is that NWMO can do everything right and there can still be a negative decision. • Council members also noted that the courts did not look at larger policy decisions on marine protection (ie. At other marine protection programs that the government has in place). NWMO will need to undertake an assessment of the policy and regulatory framework and understand on what basis the decision will be made. • Another observation from Council was that NWMO needs to function on the assumption that the project will be legally challenged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management appreciates Advisory Council comments and suggestions. NWMO continues to monitor the evolving regulatory landscape to understand regulatory expectations and will report back to Council.
Recommendations	Action taken
VISIBILITY STRATEGY	
<p><i>At the December 4, 2018 Council Meeting:</i> Council members provided a number of suggestions in relation to the visibility strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO should emphasize “social safety” and how to involve communities in defining safety; • Council encouraged NWMO to obtain input from communities in defining what needs to be analyzed and actively seek citizen input on required safety cases. • NWMO’s communications should signify citizens helped NWMO design APM, not just willing communities, but a broad cross section of Canadians – it was a bottom up plan, a participatory safety analysis; • NWMO should not only looking at who it will need support from when a site decision is made, but also who will lend critical support if NWMO faces significant challenges; • When NWMO embarks on its safety analysis it should ensure it involves communities in identifying safety concerns; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management is making further refinements to its plans which act on and incorporate the advice of the Advisory Council on each of these points.

- NWMO should inform and involve thought leaders who are interested in broader issues, or others such as academics, and those beyond the nuclear sector;
- NWMO should be emphasizing the theme of excellence in its communications – being an international gold standard is a very important message, and should include communication on NWMO’s technical work.

IN CAMERA DISCUSSIONS

Due to the sensitive nature and timing of some of the advice requested by NWMO, it was determined appropriate for the discussions to be in camera in order for Council members to have the freedom to deeply explore the topics and provide advice to the NWMO. Below outlines the nature of those discussions held by Council during 2018. NWMO has listened to the advice and discussed with Council its responses to the advice.

SITING & PARTNERSHIPS

At the September 18, 2018 meeting:

Council noted that engagement of interest groups may increase over time and NWMO needs to be prepared to engage these groups in constructive manner.

At the June 25, 2018 Council meeting:

Council members had an extensive discussion related to NWMO’s work in the siting process and development of partnerships with the siting communities and provided advice on the following:

- NWMO’s direction and support to communities;
- Encouraging NWMO to be aware of existing government funding programs which might be available for community development projects.

At the September and December, 2018 Council Meetings:

Council members provided advice to NWMO related to its work with communities on exploring consent and willingness and how this will be achieved and measured.

NWMO’S WORK POST SITE SELECTION

At the September 2018 Council Meeting:

Council members provided advice to NWMO on how to help building resilience in communities post site selection (as communities will be dealing with changes in leadership and other changes over very long time frames).

THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF NWMO'S WORK

At the June and September 2018 Council Meetings:

Council members provided advice to NWMO on third party review mechanisms for the final site selection step.