

NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2020 Advice

(This report includes some suggestions that were provided in the Council's Triennial Report, but were not formal recommendations.)

Advice	Action Taken
<i>Integrity of the site selection process</i>	
<p><i>At the June 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <p>As an overarching recommendation, the Advisory Council highlighted the need for NWMO to maintain the integrity of the site selection process, including that the site selection process be sound, transparent and defensible</p>	<p>Management continues to keep these as priorities in the planning and management of all its work.</p> <p>In support of these efforts, and to ensure consistent implementation across key work areas, work has focused on establishing robust processes for assessment of siting areas in social and technical domains as well as the stock-taking process itself which will compare the two areas and identify the preferred site.</p> <p>Expert third parties are involved at each critical decision point and the stock-taking framework will be published.</p>
Siting & Partnerships	
<p><i>Use of Recognition Payment Funds (Triennial Report S 2.2.1, p 15)</i></p> <p>The Council further suggested that NWMO provide a high-level summary report on communities' use of the funds and annually post it on the NWMO website. The NWMO agreed with this advice and will post the summaries.</p>	<p>Completed for 2020 and reporting will continue in future years.</p>
Safety	
<p><i>Community Engagement on Safety (Triennial Report S 2.2.1, p 15)</i></p> <p>The Council continues to emphasize the importance of working with the public and potential host communities to ensure that their safety concerns are addressed.</p> <p><i>This recommendation is being covered in detail under the Council's Triennial Report Recommendations #3 on Safety</i></p>	<p>A discussion about safety, including both understanding public concerns and sharing how their concerns are being addressed, will continue to be an active component of all outreach and engagement activities. Published related material on the NWMO website will be updated to reflect the ongoing discussion.</p>

<p>Technical Program (Triennial Report S 2.2.4, p 21) In emphasizing safety in all aspects of technical work, we noted that public scrutiny tends to focus on worst-case scenarios and stressed that it is necessary for the NWMO to take this into account.</p>	NWMO continues to review findings from engagement activities regarding the scenarios people would like to see addressed both in modelling repository performance and used fuel transportation and incorporate these in work going forward as appropriate.
<p>At the December 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting: A Council member suggested that NWMO reflect on forming a collaborative definition of the concept of “safety” to demonstrate a common ground with communities.</p>	NWMO will continue work to address safety concerns as communities themselves define these concerns and will work to ensure NWMO’s concept of safety is as inclusive as possible.
<p>Communication</p>	
<p>Borehole Drilling Communication (Triennial Report S 2.2.1, p 19) The Council asked that technical findings from borehole drilling such as hydraulic conductivity be explained to the public using plain language.</p>	Presentations on borehole drilling, and protection of water, will be designed to include introductory mention of key concepts that prepare the way for the public to better understand and have confidence in the safety case later in the siting process. Hydraulic conductivity is a key concept that will be included.
<p>Environment</p>	
<p>Environment (Triennial Report S 2.2.6, p 22) The Council suggested there should be a strong link between the NWMO’s environmental sustainability statement and the work underway in partnerships. We further suggested the statement should include indigenous environmental values.</p>	Staff is responding to this advice in well-being and project visioning discussions with communities. The Environment/ Natural Assets is one of five areas in which project impacts on community and area well-being is being explored through partnership discussions.
<p>Knowledge Management</p>	
<p>Knowledge Management (Triennial Report S. 2.2.8, p 23) The Council...stressed that knowledge management goes beyond record-keeping and should include knowledge management of social and Indigenous components as well. The NWMO agreed and reported to Council it is acting on this and has integrated knowledge management elements in its 2020-2024 business plan.</p>	The NWMO continues to identify opportunities to expand capabilities in the area of knowledge management. This applies to both internal activities, as well as external through participation in the OECD NEA Working Party on Information, Data and Knowledge Management.

Regulatory	
<p>Regulatory (Triennial Report S. 3.1, p 24) Because of this evolving regulatory environment, the Council believes it is increasingly important for the NWMO to prepare as early and as thoroughly as possible for the regulatory process.</p>	<p>NWMO is in ongoing discussions with regulator to understand expectations in a number of key streams of NWMO work including Impact Assessment and Transportation Safety.</p>
Transportation	
<p>At the May 8, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting: Council members provided advice on the Draft Transportation Planning Framework.</p> <p>At the June 8, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting: Council members provided some additional comments on the Draft Transportation Planning Framework.</p>	<p>Staff incorporated Advisory Council advice provided in its two meetings into the document which was published in mid-August.</p>

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 2019. NWMO has listened to the advice and discussed with Council its responses to the Council's advice.

SITING & PARTNERSHIPS
<p>At the May 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council suggested importance of having a plan with First Nations near sites which outlines clear steps to arrive at a decision in 2023. <p>At the June 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council highlighted importance for the Mayor and Council to communicate that a process is being developed to determine how the community will demonstrate willingness.

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At the May 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:

- In response to a letter received by a community member, Council encouraged NWMO to reach out to this community member as well as others in the community which may share similar concerns.

At the September 21, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:

- Council suggested it might be helpful to begin work on partnership agreements sooner rather than later to help communities progress.
- Council suggested it would be helpful to develop scenarios about possible future dynamics, their impact on the site selection process, and need to adapt the site selection process.

At the December 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:

While discussing the topic of willingness, the following arose

- Council suggested that NWMO consider the groundwork that is needed to be laid in advance if a community decided it would hold a vote
 - A discussion about how NWMO will deal with outrage and bring to the forefront societal values such as equity, diversity, inclusion, fairness, respect, trust and justice.
 - A discussion of the importance of having the communities understand the nature of NWMO's approach and tools for assessing willingness.
 - The time frame for communities to express willingness; and
 - How NWMO determines the boundary for willingness in relation to neighbouring communities and region.

At the December 8, 2020 Advisory Council meeting:

While discussing Partnerships and Community Studies:

- The Council discussed the relationship between the core and neighbouring communities, heard about how requests for consent were being considered, and how NWMO is working to interweave Indigenous Knowledge into the impact assessment work.