

**NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2022 Advice
(March 2023)**

Advice	Action Taken
Communications	
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 and June 13, 2022 Advisory Council meetings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council talked about the importance of clear and precise communications regarding potential development of SMRs technologies including potential transportation from additional provinces. 	<p>The NWMO is monitoring developments in this area and will continue to look for opportunities to highlight and more broadly communicate its thinking on these topics with the purpose of contributing to societal discussion more generally, and further building confidence in the NWMO and its public interest focus.</p>
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council suggested that NWMO consider what additional studies and experiments could be required for the long-term management of high-level waste from SMRs, and how NWMO will consider the options. 	<p>The NWMO will work with SMR vendors to safely manage the resulting used fuel or high-level waste (HLW) by ensuring it meets NWMO's waste acceptance criteria for the DGR. Any fuel characterization or supporting experiments would be coordinated as part of this work. In terms of underground experiments at the DGR, the NWMO currently captures the proposed Underground Demonstration Facility (UDF) plans in the conceptual design report and research design & development plan, which are both updated periodically. As SMR used fuel and/or HLW development advances, the UDF plan will be reviewed and updated to include additional testing as required.</p>
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council discussed the NWMO's plans to use the mobile transportation exhibit in the siting communities. There was some discussion around the importance of water and a Council member suggested that a physical exhibit related to water could be very helpful to improve the public's understanding of the subject. 	<p>The NWMO updates exhibits – including the mobile Learn More Centre – on an ongoing basis. Community priorities help inform exhibits.</p>

Government Relations	
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member suggested it will be extremely important to understand the Federal government's position on nuclear energy and also where nuclear fits into its NetZero strategy. 	<p>As part of its government relations strategy, the NWMO continues to seek clarity from the Federal government regarding its Net Zero strategy as it continues to evolve.</p>
<p><i>At the September 19, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council asked that the NWMO leadership seek to arrange meetings with relevant federal agencies. 	<p>The NWMO has been working to provide opportunities for Council members to meet with relevant federal agencies. In December 2022, a senior NRCan official met with the Council, and we are exploring further opportunities.</p>
Regulatory	
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council encourages the NWMO to continue to review guidance from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada as it becomes available, and to seek opportunities to engage with Agency staff to better understand expectations and timelines associated with the evolving process under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. 	<p>The NWMO is actively engaging with federal agencies and continues to follow the impact assessment processes unfolding for existing major projects.</p>
<p><i>At the March 21, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council advised the NWMO to carefully consider what other projects or activities should be evaluated as part of the cumulative effects assessment. 	<p>The NWMO agrees that the cumulative effects assessment will require careful scoping.</p>
<p><i>At the September 19, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council recommended the NWMO should review the impact assessment guidance for practitioners published by the Impact Assessment Agency, in particular the chapter on Indigenous collaboration. 	<p>The NWMO has reviewed the Impact Assessment Agency's guidance for impact assessment practitioners as well as the recently released Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework for Project Reviews and Regulatory Decisions. The NWMO's work is consistent with the guidance.</p>
<p><i>At the September 19, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council recommended the NWMO should review Indigenous environmental assessments in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. 	<p>The NWMO is reviewing completed environmental assessments and following initiated impact assessments to build understanding on Indigenous-led assessment practices. In addition to learning from those assessments, the NWMO is working closely with Grand Council Treaty #3 to better understand how Manito Aki Inakonigaawin will be applied in the WLON-Ignace siting region should that location be selected for proceeding to the impact assessment process.</p>

Site Selection	
<p><i>At the June 13, 2022 and December 5, 2022 Advisory Council meetings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council suggested the NWMO ensures ample opportunity for engagement with Indigenous communities and municipalities regarding the design for and use of the Centre for Expertise. 	<p>Following site selection, much work will be needed to expand on the initial concepts discussed for the Centre of Expertise. It is important that community values are reflected in the final design.</p>
<p><i>At the September 19, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council discussed the importance of addressing community concerns regarding Social Safety. 	<p>The NWMO's Implementation Plan specifically addresses safety from a social perspective.</p>
Technical	
<p><i>At the June 13, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council members reviewed the Confidence in Safety reports and discussed ways to communicate technical findings with the public. 	<p>The Confidence in Safety reports are based on years of research and fieldwork. They summarize the NWMO's understanding of each siting area, including geological characteristics that indicate the sites can meet the project's requirements to contain and isolate used nuclear fuel to protect people and the environment. After a site is selected, additional studies will be undertaken to further inform the repository design and long-term safety case. To support public communications related to confidence in safety, a full suite of supporting communication materials and activities on this and related topics were implemented through 2022.</p>

IN CAMERA DISCUSSIONS

Due to the sensitive nature and timing of some of the advice requested by the NWMO, it was determined appropriate for the discussions to be in camera 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 2022. The NWMO has listened to the advice and discussed with Council its responses to the Council's advice.

Communications / Government Relations

At the March 21, June 13, and September 19, 2022 Advisory Council meetings:

- The Council discussed the importance of providing opportunities for those who are critical of NWMO's work to continue to engage in constructive dialogue.
- The Council highlighted the importance of being agile and responsive to emerging government priorities.

IN CAMERA DISCUSSIONS

Due to the sensitive nature and timing of some of the advice requested by the NWMO, it was determined appropriate for the discussions to be in camera 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 2022. The NWMO has listened to the advice and discussed with Council its responses to the Council's advice.

Siting and Partnerships

At the June 13, 2022 Advisory Council meeting:

- The Council continued to note the importance of clear, transparent, and respectful discussions with potential partner communities to establish hosting agreements and next steps following site selection.

Technical

- The Council discussed on-going considerations related to SMR waste management.