

NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2012 Advice

Recommendations	Action taken
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SITE SELECTION PROCESS	
<i>At the February 6, 2012 meeting:</i> Council was asked for guidance and direction on the timing and approach to closing the expressions of interest phase of the site selection process, and the communications required to support that important step in the NWMO's community-driven siting process. Council offered the following advice: • Council supported the idea of suspending the expressions of interest at the end of September 2012, while retaining NWMO's right to re-open pending results of future feasibility studies; • Council concurred with the approach and direction proposed by management. • Council emphasized the importance of clear communication. Council members provided suggestions for wording to provide greater clarity in the communications of the closing of the expressions of interest. • Council also proposed NWMO expand the communications piece to provide a backgrounder that speaks to the rationale and considerations for closing the expressions of interest at this time.	• Further to Council discussion, notification of the suspension of the expressions of interest for end of September phase was issued in March 2012. • The Council's wording suggestions were incorporated in the communications. • Following Council's guidance on format and content, a backgrounder was prepared and distributed with the announcement.
<i>At the June 5, 2012 meeting:</i> Council discussed the new third-party group being established by NWMO to support assessments underway in the APM siting process. • The Advisory Council supported the NWMO's establishment of a new APM Geoscientific Review Group. • Council reviewed the membership and terms of reference of the new Group established by NWMO to provide guidance and advice on the geologic suitability assessments in the site selection process. • A Council member requested attendance at the first meeting of the new Review Group.	• NWMO continues to report in to Council on the deliberations of the Geoscientific Review Group. • A Council member attended the full meeting convened in 2012.

<i>At the September 10 meeting:</i> Council discussed the preliminary assessments underway with communities in the siting process: • Council asked to hold a full meeting related to the preliminary assessments and the general approach planned for integrating assessment findings. • Council asked for information on the subject matter experts and contractors who are working on the technical and community well-being assessments and the scope of their mandates. • Council expressed interest in continuing discussion of the assessments at future meetings.	• Management responded by arranging for the November 2012 meeting to be dedicated to discussing the preliminary assessments and providing information regarding the subject matter experts and contractors. • Ongoing discussions on preliminary assessments continued at the January 2013 special meeting and are planned for Council meetings throughout 2013.
<i>At the November 2012 Council meeting:</i> At Council's request, the meeting was devoted largely to understanding NWMO's assessment methodology and decision-making processes, and a review of interim study findings to date. In considering the preliminary assessments in progress, Council offered advice to the NWMO: • Council discussed the importance of transparent, traceable and clear reporting out on the assessments and urged NWMO to provide for plain language reports back to communities. Council reviewed with staff how the assessments would be reviewed with communities at different points in the process. • Council stated that views of Aboriginal people should be sought during Phase 1 and be taken into account.	• NWMO addressed Council's comments during the November meeting, and will continue to be mindful of these areas of priority as work proceeds in 2013. • Staff confirmed that the siting process has been transparent, with the process and siting factors developed through two years of engagement and then finalized and published in 2010, and subsequently reviewed with communities. NWMO undertook to ensure clarity in future reports on assessment findings so that communities would understand the basis of assessments and the study conclusions • Staff confirmed this was the case and reviewed how outreach and engagement was underway, led by Aboriginal relations staff at NWMO. NWMO described plans to expand engagement with communities and Aboriginal people in 2013.

• Members emphasized the importance of continued capacity building in siting regions with communities and potentially affected Aboriginal people. • Council emphasized the importance of interested communities eventually partnering with NWMO to share the NWMO's values. In this regard, Council suggested that potential host communities should be demonstrating their commitments to reach out to surrounding areas and Aboriginal communities. The ability to engage with their neighbours on the project should be an important consideration in demonstrating their own strengths for hosting this project. Council suggested that the onus is on the community to assume a key role in outreach to Aboriginal people and not defer to NWMO to assume all responsibility for the outreach. • Communities working with NWMO will want to consider NWMO's values that govern the way it works in their communities and lead the process. Council emphasized the importance of NWMO's contractors demonstrating that they too share NWMO's values. The ethics and values of field contractors will be important as they conduct field work as part of the NWMO project. • Council urged NWMO to develop an Aboriginal procurement policy and initiatives to assist Aboriginal firms with demonstrated experience in integrating Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into technical reports to provide environmental, engineering, geological or other technical services. • Council stressed that Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge should be considered holistically across technical and social areas of study.	• NWMO confirmed that capacity building funding is available to Aboriginal communities and treaty organizations during the preliminary assessment phase. Staff outlined engagement of Aboriginal communities that had begun and will continue throughout the multi-year assessment processes. • NWMO will emphasize its values and expectations for future partner communities as the siting process continues. • NWMO confirmed that prior to contracting with suppliers for the assessments there is review of their ethical principles and past practices and clarification of NWMO's expectations. • NWMO confirmed it would be doing so. • On Council's advice, NWMO will initiate a process to engage contractors who will bring additional experience in Aboriginal engagement and the interweaving of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into projects. • NWMO reported that it reaches out to Elders and traditional knowledge holders and will continue to welcome contributions across all disciplines of the assessments. Staff emphasized that much outreach was underway to seek to build relationships with Aboriginal communities and invite their contributions and perspectives to the studies. As field work commences in Phase 2 with interested communities, local traditional knowledge will be important in contributing to the assessments. Council was pleased to know that there would be these opportunities to bring local Aboriginal knowledge to bear as site evaluations continue.
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• Council requested opportunities to continue the discussion of preliminary assessments and integration of desk-top studies at its upcoming meetings. The NWMO committed to build this into agendas of meetings for 2013. • Council requested that NWMO arrange for a special meeting to focus on the interweaving of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into the work of the NWMO. • For future work as NWMO considers ways to implement the project through partnerships, a Council member proposed that NWMO remain open to considering the potential for co-management of the project as part of discussions with siting communities and Aboriginal people.	• NWMO continued the discussion of assessments at Council's January 2013 meeting and will continue to do so through 2013. • Further to Council request, staff undertook to schedule this for the new year, prior to Council's February meeting. • At Council's direction, NWMO arranged for a Special Meeting that was convened January 28th for the purpose of focusing on Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. • NWMO will consider a range of partnership models as part of its collaborative work with communities and Aboriginal people as the engagement continues.
TRANSPORTATION	
<i>At the February 6, 2012 meeting:</i> • Council discussed the importance of engagement on future transportation plans for used nuclear fuel and proposed further discussion through the year.	• NWMO profiled transportation at the June 2012 meeting and in subsequent presentations on assessments in November 2012.
<i>At the June 5, 2012 meeting:</i> Further to Council's request, a dedicated item on Transportation in the APM program was provided by NWMO staff leading the transportation work program. In the discussion that followed: • A Council member encouraged NWMO to make available to public audiences the video demonstrating container robustness through various tests including a train collision which demonstrate the container's strength and safety. • Council members provided specific feedback on the draft transportation booklet.	• Transportation videos are shown in multiple venues as part of public engagement programs. • Further to the Advisory Council suggestions on the transportation booklet, the booklet was refined and was reviewed with NWMO's Federal/Provincial Working Group on Transportation at its June meeting.

BUSINESS PLANNING	
<i>Through the year,</i> Council began its meetings with a review of the potential business risks to the APM program. • In February, Council requested that NWMO consider any further risks that may be identified by the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) in its review of the technical program. • Council underscored the importance of ensuring resource and staff capabilities to conduct assessments in different regions of the country, and the important role of the CNSC in conducting pre-project reviews.	• Risk areas were updated through the year further to Council's advice on emerging risks. • As part of the ongoing review and update to the risk matrix, staff ensured that risks identified by the ITRG were taken into account. • Staff and contractor resourcing were addressed through the workplan process established for Phase 1 assessments commenced in 2012. Staff reviewed with Council a preliminary resource plan for Phase 2 work as staff plan for 2014 and beyond. In June, NWMO reported on recent staff hires to augment staff capability for siting work. • Pre-project reviews by the CNSC are built into NWMO's workplans.
<i>At the September 10, 2012 meeting:</i> • The Advisory Council reviewed the NWMO 2013-2017 Business Plan and sought clarification on a number of areas. As part of this discussion, Council discussed the preliminary assessments, the importance of building in time to acquire field work permits, and the importance of continued capacity building in siting regions and with First Nations.	• NWMO clarified wording in the Business Plan further to Council's discussion and guidance prior to finalizing for the Board of Directors. • NWMO 's workplans for siting take into account permitting processes and continued capacity building programs for siting communities and Aboriginal people.

EVOLVING EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE / COMMUNICATIONS	
<i>At the February 6, 2012 meeting:</i> • Council expressed interest in attending the Fall 2012 International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR) as a means of tracking the external landscape for NWMO's work. • A Council member suggested NWMO might review lessons learned from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico as that community remains very positive of hosting the repository for transuranic waste and exploring possible disposal of spent fuel in the future.	• NWMO extended the invitation to the ICGR to all Council members. • Several members attended the conference in October 2012. • At Council's November meeting, Most Council members reported that they found the conference to be interesting and extremely worthwhile. Council was pleased at how accessible NWMO had made the conference, including the live webcast. • NWMO staff wrote a paper on the lessons learned from WIPP and shared it with the Council.
<i>In the June 5, 2012 meeting:</i> • Council emphasized the importance of sharing the positive experiences of the communities involved in the U.S. Waste Isolation Pilot Plan (WIPP) with communities in the NWMO's siting process. NWMO was urged to seek opportunities for further learning from the WIPP program. Council reviewed a management report on the lessons learned from Fukushima. Council had a lengthy discussion on the topic suggesting: • NWMO provide further clarity on the differences between an operating nuclear plant and the complicating conditions at Fukushima as distinguished from the operations of a DGR, noting the DGR's role is to ensure ongoing long-term safe	• NWMO arranged for a representative from New Mexico to speak about the WIPP experience at the Fall 2012 ICGR conference in Toronto. • NWMO undertook, as the siting process progresses, to give further consideration to opportunities for Canada's siting communities to hear first hand from communities involved in similar projects internationally. • Council's advice was adopted as NWMO further refined its review of lessons from Fukushima, and prepared comment for posting on the website.

management of used fuel. Council felt that the technical findings could be better contextualized with reference to NWMO's management approach. • More broadly, Council urged management to consider opportunities in this and other documents to capture the NWMO management approach and values.	• NWMO undertook to continue to seek opportunities to communicate NWMO's management approach and values.
<i>In the September 10, 2012 meeting:</i> Council discussed the plans for the International Geological Repository Conference (ICGR) and encouraged NWMO to extend invitations to regional Aboriginal organizations. Council emphasized that the conference presented an important opportunity for communities and organizations to continue learning about plans for used nuclear fuel internationally.	• Management extended invitations to regional Aboriginal groups to attend the ICGR. A number of them attended. • NWMO confirmed that representatives from all siting communities were invited and planned to attend the conference, as were members of municipal and Aboriginal organizations.
APM TECHNICAL PROGRAM	
<i>In the February 6 meeting:</i> Council members asked if the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) would have a role in reviewing the feasibility studies. Management undertook to consider this and to report back to Council.	• Management undertook to discuss this at the September meeting.
<i>In the September 10, 2012 meeting:</i> As requested, management discussed with Council whether the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) would have a role in reviewing the APM feasibility studies.	• Management presented to Council the role of the Geoscience Review Group. Council agreed with NWMO's conclusion that broadening the ITRG's mandate to include a review of APM siting is not necessary at this time, understanding that a new Geoscience Review Group has been established to provide guidance and advice on the findings of the geologic suitability assessments in the siting process.
COUNCIL OF ELDERS / ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT	
<i>In the February 6, 2012 meeting:</i> Council emphasized the importance of continuing to work with Elders and Aboriginal leaders and to recognize the role for traditional teachings in NWMO's work. Council provided some specific advice on the Terms of Reference for the establishment of the new Council of Elders (successor to Elders Forum), particularly: • the suggestion that NWMO make reference to NWMO's Aboriginal Policy;	• NWMO continued to work with Elders and understand the interweaving of traditional knowledge with NWMO's work. • Management incorporated much of the Council's advice into the Terms of Reference for the new Council of Elders:

• greater clarity proposed for the mission, emphasizing the advisory nature of the new Council; • youth involvement; • suggestions to provide some further clarity regarding the selection panel; and • options for structuring terms of co-chairs.	• Reference to Aboriginal Policy added in • Mission was clarified, on advisory role to NWMO • Involvement of youth remains key activity • Proposal to have co-chairs was accepted.
<i>In the June 5, 2012 meeting:</i> NWMO reviewed in detail its Aboriginal engagement program and sought advice from Council on gaps or additional approaches to be adopted. Council advised: • NWMO should reach out to a breadth of respected leaders in the community in offering opportunities for learning and conversation; • Strong candidate host communities will demonstrate their commitment to reaching out and actively involving Aboriginal groups and neighbours; • Engaging local people to work at the community level; • Directing NWMO's engagement increasingly to the local level; • NWMO must respect that there is a spiritual component to decision-making; and • NWMO might choose to work with a range of organizations to further its Aboriginal engagement activities. Council was updated on the appointment of Elders to the new Council of Elders, Advisory Council members: • agreed that the Council of Elders should be advocates of learning, information and education about APM, not proponents of the project itself; • suggested a greater representation of women on the Council of Elders in the future; • sought confirmation that there will be Elders appointed with traditional knowledge and that spiritual components will be retained; • suggested to NWMO that Elders maintain an advisory role to NWMO; and • encouraged a role for youth.	• NWMO and communities are seeking to engage a range of community leaders • NWMO urges communities to initiate outreach to neighbours and Aboriginal communities • In future phases, NWMO will be interested in providing opportunities for engaging local people • NWMO's 2012 and 2013 workplans are increasingly focused at the local/community level • NWMO has followed up with additional organizations cited by Council • Management incorporated the Council's feedback and the advisory role of the Council of Elders has been emphasized to the group. • Appointments are approached to ensure traditional knowledge and spiritual components will be important components of the Council of Elders. • Greater representation of women is being sought for the Council of Elders as they begin their mandate. Donna Augustine was appointed as the other co-chair with Lawrence Joseph. • A role for youth was discussed at the 2012 Council of Elders meeting and will be continued in 2013 to confirm arrangements.

<i>At the September 10, 2012 meeting:</i> Council was invited to discuss the initial meeting of the new Council of Elders: • Council urged that the Council of Elders confirm a role for youth. • Council urged consideration of additional women to be appointed to the Council. • Council asked to be updated on the Council membership as it evolves.	• A role for youth under the Council of Elders will be further developed and confirmed in 2013 as part of NWMO's work with the Elders. • Additional women are being sought to join the Council of Elders in 2013. • NWMO forwarded the current membership list to the Advisory Council, and will continue to do so as membership expands.
<i>At the November 28, 2012 meeting:</i> • Council noted that the Council of Elders has sought computers and technological support from NWMO. The Advisory Council encouraged NWMO to equip Elders with access to tools for communications.	• As NWMO considers the full list of requests of the Council of Elders, NWMO will follow up with Elders to understand the specific needs for technology and communications support.
COMMUNICATIONS	
<i>In February and March 2012:</i> • Council reviewed NWMO's draft 2011 Annual Report to ensure clear, transparent and comprehensive reporting on NWMO's progress over the last year. • Council contributed to the development of its chapter for the annual report.	• NWMO incorporated Council's content and editorial suggestions as the Annual Report was revised.
<i>At the February 6, 2012 meeting:</i> • Council proposed that NWMO explore opportunities to more broadly communicate what Council felt was NWMO's innovative approach to public engagement and work with communities. NWMO had reported back to Council on a number of possible opportunities for greater communications Council members suggested as first step, pursuing an opportunity to have a US perspective because of the recent release of the US Blue Ribbon Commission report on America's Nuclear Future and careful consideration of process undertaken for the Commission.	• NWMO reported back in June to Council that it had engaged Tom Isaacs to prepare a core article that might be tailored as appropriate for different media outlets and publications. Mr. Isaacs was Lead Advisor to the U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission. • Council feedback was incorporated and the document was completed. NWMO submitted the article to several publications. • Mr. Isaac's article was published in NWMO's regular community newspaper advertising feature, <i>Ask the NWMO</i>.

• A Council member was supportive of encouraging essays about NWMO's approach to public policy development, noting there has been limited attention provided to NWMO's approach to process. • Council agreed to forward any further suggestions to NWMO.	• NWMO undertook to look for opportunities to profile its approach to engagement and policy development. At this time, NWMO is responding to requests to address these practices and experiences to international audiences and to universities and industry audiences through workshops and speeches.
NWMO'S WORK ON THE OPG LOW AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE DGR	
• Each of the 2012 Council agendas included standing updates from NWMO on its work on the OPG DGR, providing opportunity for Council to offer advice on plans and activities that may impact on the APM. Council remained interested in progress on the OPG project for relevant lessons learned and experience that could assist future phases of the APM project.	• At Council's request, through the year staff provided updates on the OPG program and supporting regulatory process, and responded to questions and Council requests for information concerning the OPG project.