



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS
ORGANIZATION NUCLEAIAES

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Dear Minister O'Regan,

Thank you for your letter dated November 13, 2020, in which you asked the NWMO to lead the development of Canada's Integrated Strategy for radioactive waste. On behalf of the NWMO, I am honored to accept this great responsibility. This strategy represents a next step and builds on what we have heard from Canadians and Indigenous people and the work previously undertaken by government and industry on radioactive waste management planning.

We are proud of our role as leaders in used nuclear fuel management and public engagement, and are pleased to lead this initiative as well. The NWMO's work is guided by science, international best practices, and what is most important to Canadians and Indigenous people. Our values of safety, integrity, excellence, collaboration, accountability and transparency will be central to the design and implementation of this engagement process.

In collaboration with waste producers and owners, government, Indigenous people, and interested Canadians, we will focus on identifying gaps in current plans for the long-term management for radioactive waste and providing technical options to address these gaps. The resulting recommendations will also consider options for the number of long-term waste management facilities in Canada, as well as for the staging, integration, siting, establishment and operation of these facilities.

Our work and contributions will be kept separate and distinct from our ongoing work implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. We will continue advancing the site selection process and associated technical work, mindful of our goal to identify a single, preferred location for a deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel, to be located in an area with informed and willing hosts, in 2023.

We thank you for entrusting us with this important work. Based on the NWMO's extensive experience in both used nuclear fuel management and public dialogue, we feel we are well placed to convene these conversations and shape recommendations for the government, informed by the best available science, international best practice, and what is most important to citizens.

Sincerely,

Laurie Swami

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President and CEO