



NUCLEAR WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
DES DÉCHETS  
NUCLÉAIRES

# Transparency Policy

DECEMBER 2016



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## Policy Statement

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) will be open and transparent in its process, communications and decision-making, so that the approach is clear to all Canadians.

## Rationale

Transparency is one of the values the NWMO has identified in its Statement of Vision, Mission and Values. Transparency allows the NWMO to demonstrate how it adheres to its values and to establish the credibility of the results of its work.

Sharing information and encouraging an exchange of perspectives are fundamental to its mandate to implement Canada's plan for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. In fulfilling its mandate, the NWMO has undertaken to carry out its work collaboratively with Canadians by:

- » Seeking the participation of all interested individuals and organizations, and being responsive to a diversity of views and perspectives;
- » Communicating actively, promoting thoughtful reflection and facilitating a constructive dialogue; and
- » Pursuing the best knowledge, understanding and innovative thinking in its analysis, engagement processes and decision-making.

Transparency is a key component of the NWMO's ability to carry out this work effectively. The NWMO is committed to open and transparent communication with the public. It endeavours to make material about its activities available, including information it creates, receives or analyzes in support of its work. The NWMO will also describe how it used this information when it documents its decision-making.

## Requirements/Decision Rules

The NWMO will continue to engage Canadians in all aspects of its work through formal public engagement activities, round tables, public meetings, and other forms of dialogue.

It will also provide access to information through its website and to members of the public upon request. Requests can be sent to [contactus@nwmo.ca](mailto:contactus@nwmo.ca). It will endeavour to publish or provide its information on a timely basis and will do its best to accommodate reasonable requests for information.

The NWMO will consider a variety of factors in determining what information it publishes or provides, including:

- » Whether the release of information would infringe on any third-party rights, such as personal privacy, labour relations or employment information, intellectual property, and/or confidentiality;
- » Whether the information contains financial, commercial, scientific, or technical information of a third party, unless the third party consents;
- » Whether the information is legally privileged, protected from disclosure by law or protected for security reasons;
- » Whether the information contains interim work products (such as drafts), or is a record for consideration in making decisions, before those decisions are made and implemented;
- » Whether the information contains materials generated for strategic planning, or deliberations of senior management and/or the Board of Directors, where confidentiality is necessary to ensure proper conduct of business;
- » Whether the request is frivolous and/or vexatious;
- » Whether responding to the request will be prohibitively costly or time-consuming; and/or
- » Whether the request is made in bad faith or for a purpose other than to obtain access to information.

Where consent is required for publication, the NWMO will not publish information without that consent.

## What Will Be Posted on the Website?

The NWMO's initial mandate was to study options for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. During the course of the study process, it relied on its website for disseminating information and providing access to a wide range of documents that were generated during that process, in addition to its public engagement activities.

The documents illustrating the NWMO's work during the study phase will continue to be posted on the website as they provide a record of how the NWMO reached its recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management (APM), which was approved by the government in 2007.

In addition to the information it shares through its public engagement activities, the NWMO will continue to use its website to publish, in accordance with this policy, documents that are generated as it proceeds with the implementation of APM to find a site for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The NWMO will also continue to use the website to receive submissions on its work. It has continued to use its website as a place where anyone can provide comments and submissions on its work. The website also offers people a service that allows them to be added to the NWMO's mailing list.

The following provides further detail on what will be posted to the website. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list.

### NWMO Work Program

- » NWMO implementation plans
- » NWMO-commissioned research reports
- » Reports from formal public engagement activities, round tables, public meetings, and other dialogues arranged or commissioned by the NWMO where there has been prior notification to the participants that such reports will be published on the website and the documents developed to initiate and support those processes
- » Submissions received by the NWMO where the correspondent has given permission to post it on the website
- » Documents describing the site selection process, assessments and decision-making process
- » Information about the various funding programs available to communities exploring their interest in the project
- » Siting updates and reports corresponding to individual siting study areas
- » Information about Community Well-Being Reserve Fund contributions to communities acknowledged for leadership
- » Backgrounders, brochures, videos, and other material shared with the public
- » NWMO decision documents arising from the siting process

## **Governing Documents and Corporate Reports**

- » Legislation – Link to the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA)* (outlines mandate and responsibilities of the NWMO)
- » NWMO Statement of Vision, Mission and Values
- » NWMO annual and triennial reports to the federal minister of Natural Resources
- » Minister's responses to NWMO annual reports (s. 19 *NFWA*)
- » NWMO annual audited financial statements
- » Member company trust funds – Annual audited financial statements

## **Board of Directors**

- » Minutes from meetings of the Board of Directors

## **Advisory Council**

- » Records of discussion (minutes) from Advisory Council meetings

## **References**

NWMO Statement of Vision, Mission and Values

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**For more information,  
please contact:**

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