

PHASE 2 INITIAL BOREHOLE DRILLING AND TESTING, SOUTH BRUCE

WP01B: Site Commissioning Report for SB_BH02

APM-REP-01332-0328

August 2022

Geofirma Engineering Ltd.

nwmo

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MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

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DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

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Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing, South Bruce

WP01B: Site Commissioning Report for SB_BH02

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Prepared for:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

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1 INTRODUCTION

The activities described in this report are one component of the geoscientific investigation that were completed by Geofirma as part of the NWMO Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing Program, in South Bruce, Ontario (Figure 1). Specifically, this report describes the activities undertaken to setup on-site infrastructure for drilling and testing activities at the drill site for borehole SB_BH02. These activities were completed under the scope of work associated with Work Package 1 (WP01) (Site Construction and Infrastructure).

1.1 Background

The Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing project in South Bruce, Ontario is part of Phase 2 Geoscientific Preliminary Field Investigations of the NWMO's Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Site Selection Phase.

This project involves the drilling and testing of two deep boreholes (SB_BH01 and SB_BH02) in the South Bruce area. The project will be carried out by a team led by Geofirma Engineering Ltd. on behalf of the NWMO. The overall program is described in the Initial Borehole Characterization Plan (Geofirma 2021a). A similar overall scope of work is planned for each of the two boreholes.

Borehole SB_BH02 is located 5.5 km northwest of the community of Teeswater, Ontario (Figure 1) and will be drilled vertically to a total target depth of approximately 900 metres below ground surface (mBGS) through the entire sedimentary bedrock sequence down to the Cambrian sandstone (or Precambrian bedrock if Cambrian is absent).

This report outlines several activities which collectively establish the site access, site infrastructure, and the drill pad. This report describes the activities and information related to WP01, including the set locations associated with the access road, drill pad, temporary field facilities, temporary power and utilities, and perimeter fencing for borehole SB_BH02. Temporary facilities at SB_BH02 include drill fluid containment system(s), field offices, washroom facilities, storage containers, portable generators, fuel tanks, and lighting. Work described in this report was completed to meet the requirements of the SB_BH02 WP01 Test Plan (Geofirma 2020).

1.2 Objective

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed description of the equipment and project-specific activities that were completed by Geofirma for the setup of site infrastructure for drilling and testing at SB_BH02, including, but not limited to: installation of perimeter fencing, setup of office trailers and workstations, washroom facilities, and utilities.

1.3 Site History

1.3.1 Preliminary Site Visit

Staff from Geofirma and NWMO completed a site visit on June 3, 2020, to inspect potential drilling locations along Concession Road 8, near Teeswater Ontario. Based on findings from this visit, the

NWMO selected the second borehole location (SB_BH02) at 1257 Concession Road 8, Teeswater, Ontario. The drill pad for SB_BH02 is located approximately 400 metres south of Concession Road 8 and is situated on a hill above the Teeswater River that is 200 metres to the east.

1.3.2 Care and Control of SB_BH02 Drill Site

The NWMO transferred care and control of the SB_BH02 drill site to Geofirma for three days starting on November 17, 2020, so that pre-construction soil sampling could take place. The site was officially handed over to Geofirma on December 7, 2020, so that site construction activities could commence. Included in the care and control area were the access road and proposed drill pad, plus a buffer along the edge of both the road and the pad for facilitation of construction activities. Upon completion of site construction, Geofirma care and control of the construction facilitation area and site access road was returned to NWMO on May 27 and August 13, 2021. The drill pad will remain in Geofirma custody until the end of drilling and testing activities.

1.3.3 Site Construction

Prior to site construction, Geofirma completed a baseline soil sampling and topographic survey. The baseline soil sampling program was completed on November 17, 2020, to obtain a record of soil type and quality prior to site construction activities. The topographic survey was completed on October 16, 2020, by Geofirma's subcontractor GM BluePlan and was used to develop a high-resolution site topographic model that could be used to prepare a tender package for the site construction work. Results from the baseline soil sampling program were provided to NWMO as a memorandum (Geofirma 2021b). The topographic survey data was provided to NWMO as a data deliverable on January 27, 2021.

Construction of the access road and drill pad for SB_BH02 started on December 7, 2020. Cedarwell Excavating Ltd. was subcontracted by Geofirma to complete the construction with support from GM BluePlan for survey of construction grades and compaction testing. Construction of the SB_BH02 access road and drill pad was mostly completed by January 21, 2021. Minor reshaping of swales and installation of a culvert under the access road was completed in May 2021.

A separate report has been prepared by Geofirma that outlines the site construction activities completed as part of WP01A at SB_BH02. Included in the site construction report are inspections completed during construction, as well as details of the final as-built elevations and site conditions.

1.3.4 Timeline of Site Infrastructure Activities

- **June 03, 2020:** Site visit by NWMO and Geofirma at potential drill sites along Concession Rd 8
- **November 17, 2020:** Baseline soil sampling at SB_BH02
- **December 07, 2020:** Start of site construction at SB_BH02
- **January 21, 2021:** End of site construction at SB_BH02
- **May 26-27, 2021:** Installation of electrical infrastructure at SB_BH02, ESA Inspection
- **July 28, 2021:** Start setup of onsite infrastructure at SB_BH02 for drilling and testing
- **Oct 23, 2021:** Site commissioning inspection completed for SB_BH02

2 SITE PREPARATION & SETUP

2.1 Security Perimeter Fencing

A 1.8 m (6ft) high panel fence was installed by Moduloc Rentals around the perimeter of the SB_BH02 drill pad. The fence dimensions were 120 x 50 m to contain the entire drill pad. The fenced area was setup to contain the working areas for all subsequent drilling and testing activities. Three gates were installed at the northwest, east, and southwest corners of the site to provide multiple access points and space for clearing snow.

2.2 Temporary Site Infrastructure and Facilities

The following section describes the onsite infrastructure that was setup at the SB_BH02 site but does not include drilling equipment and infrastructure that were used exclusively for WP02 (drilling) activities. Additional information about the WP02 equipment used at SB_BH02 can be found in the WP02 Test Plan (Geofirma 2021c). The final configuration of the SB_BH02 drill site is shown in Figure 2.

2.2.1 Office Trailers

All office and work trailers were setup along the east and north sides of the drill pad. Two office trailers were setup at the site, including an office trailer for Geofirma and an office trailer for NWMO. Each office trailer was setup with desks, chairs, and shelving to provide adequate workspace for site personnel.

The Geofirma office trailer was used for pre-job briefings, meetings, as a lunchroom, and as the primary office for the Geofirma site supervisor. The NWMO office trailer was used as the primary workspace for NWMO staff and observers from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON).

2.2.2 Workspaces for Technical Work

Two additional office trailers were setup onsite for technical work activities.

A trailer was setup as the core processing trailer. The core processing trailer contains all logging and preservation equipment, including the NWMO-owned CoreScan3 system. The configuration of the trailer included a main room for core logging/preservation activities, and a second smaller room used as a break room for core logging field staff.

The fourth trailer was setup as the laboratory trailer. The lab trailer housed all equipment and facilities required to complete opportunistic groundwater sampling (WP07) and other water sampling activities that were completed during the drilling and testing program (e.g. drill fluid sampling for WP02). The laboratory trailer was divided into three rooms: a lab for performing field analyses and calibrations, a central bottle storage depot, and a microbiology sampling station. Temperature sensitive field equipment used for water sampling (e.g. Westbay MOSDAX sampler) were also stored in the laboratory trailer.

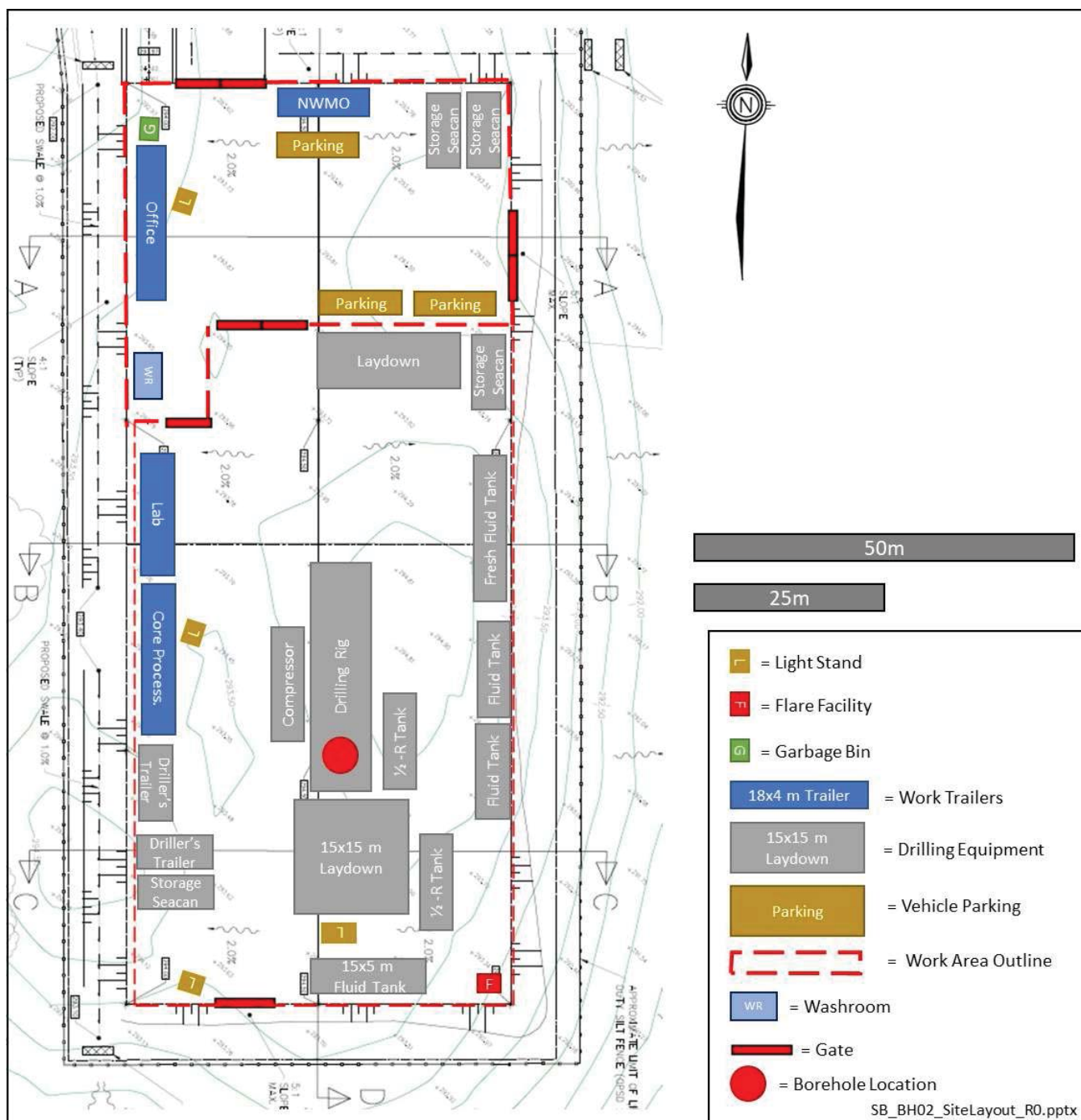


Figure 2: SB_BH02 Drill Site Layout – Final Layout

2.2.3 Additional Equipment Storage

Additional storage facilities were setup onsite to house atmospheric sensitive equipment. Three unheated sea cannisters were used to store core boxes and field equipment. A heated sea cannister was used to store other field equipment including hoses, air monitoring equipment, fridges, and water sampling equipment. These storage facilities were not used as primary workstations for field staff.

2.2.4 Washrooms

A two-unit washroom trailer was rented from C & P Portable Toilets based in Teeswater, Ontario. The two-unit washroom trailer was temperature controlled and has two complete washrooms (toilet, faucet, etc.). This onsite washroom was restocked and cleaned twice weekly by C & P.

2.2.5 Potable Water Supply

Potable water for field staff was provided onsite by Culligan with service from Culligan's Hanover office. Water coolers were set up in the main office trailer, NWMO trailer, and core logging trailer with suitable replacement quantities for the number of field staff present. Culligan restocked onsite potable water supplies twice monthly.

2.2.6 Site Communication

Personal cellular phones were used as the primary method of communication and were used to communicate between the onsite field staff and support staff in Geofirma's Ottawa office. An additional "site supervisor" phone was purchased so that there was one consistent number for communication with site, regardless of which staff were onsite.

In the absence of local high-speed internet providers, internet connectivity at the site was enabled through use of Rogers Rocket Hub routers that connect cellular data. Four internet routers were setup in the following locations to ensure adequate internet connectivity across the site: Geofirma office trailer, NWMO office trailer, and two in the core logging trailer. Access to the onsite internet was restricted to Geofirma and NMWO staff/subcontractors performing work associated with the drilling and testing program so that adequate speeds and data were available to perform these tasks.

2.2.7 Site Illumination

Onsite illumination was provided by portable light stands and lights affixed to the work trailers. Vital drilling provided a diesel-powered light stand to illuminate the work area around the drill rig. The rest of the site was illuminated using three portable electricity-powered LED light stands. The locations of the light stands are shown on Figure 2.

3 POWER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION

3.1 Primary Power Supply

The primary source of power for the SB_BH02 drill site is electricity supplied by HydroOne. Hays Electric, a licensed electrical contractor based in Teeswater, Ontario was subcontracted by Geofirma to design and install the electrical infrastructure for the site. Hays Electric completed work associated with the electrical hook-up on May 26-27, 2021. A primary electrical line was run underground from a pole along Concession 8 to a transformer that was installed near the northwest corner of the drill pad. Two electrical panels were setup at the drill site and armoured cable was used to run power from the panels to each of the work trailers. Additional outlets were installed near the drill rig and near the water storage tanks.

3.2 ESA Inspections

Hays Electric booked an Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) inspection once the onsite electrical infrastructure was setup. ESA inspections were completed by an ESA inspector when the work trailers were hooked up, and every three months for the duration of the drilling and testing program.

3.3 Onsite Generators and Fuel Storage

Whenever practically possible, Geofirma and Vital staff used extension cords to power equipment, with the electricity sourced from the primary power supply (e.g. exterior outlets on trailers): this minimized the carbon footprint associated with the use of portable generators and the potential for accidental fuel spills. However, some field activities required use of external diesel or gasoline powered generators. All gasoline or diesel-powered equipment was owned or rented by Geofirma and Vital and contained within portable spill berms when stored or in use.

Use of portable generators and other gasoline or diesel-powered equipment on site included the following equipment:

- 2000–7500-watt gasoline powered generators used for operation of small pumps and geophysical/Westbay logging equipment. These small generators double as backup power supply in the event of a power outage.
- Gasoline powered pumps to transfer water.
- Diesel powered air compressor used for air hammering to ream borehole.
- Diesel powered light stand to illuminate work area around the drill rig.

3.3.1 Fuel Storage, Spill Containment, and Spill Response Supplies

All fuel containers and gasoline/diesel powered equipment (including the drill rig) were setup within spill containment structures and protected from vehicular impact. All spill containment structures were inspected daily by Geofirma field staff, with records of inspection documented on daily site inspection sheets.

Spill kits were made available at fueling stations, fuel or hazardous material storage areas, on heavy equipment, and all company vehicles that are equipped with fuel storage tanks. Two types of spill kits were used: small kits in orange/yellow bags or large kits in yellow/black drums. The spill kits contained a variety of spill containment supplies including sorbent pads, socks, pillows, and disposal bags.

3.3.2 Fuel Supply

Diesel and gasoline onsite were supplied by local fuel distributors. Vital drilling purchased fuel from Edward Fuels in Teeswater, Ontario. All refuelling at site was completed with the equipment in secondary containment and spill response equipment available.

3.4 Ground Fault Protection

All electrical equipment operated outdoors or near a source of water were connected to GFCI outlets. GFCI outlets provide protection to the equipment and operators if there is an electrical fault.

The only equipment operated without GFCI protection were the 2" Submersible Grundfos pumps that require non-GFCI power source. Additional safety precautions to prevent a fault were used when this equipment was used, including use of indoor plugs to connect extension cords, running extension cords under protective mats, and weatherproofing any connection that may potentially be exposed to water.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT

4.1 General Health and Safety Equipment

Geofirma and Vital drilling provided all onsite health and safety equipment. Each office trailer and workstation were provided with a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, and eye wash station. Additional first aid supplies and an automated external defibrillator (AED) were stored in the Geofirma Office trailers. Extra fire extinguishers were provided near gasoline/diesel powered equipment, including two extinguishers on the drill rig and an extinguisher at the diesel-powered light stand.

Geofirma and Vital maintained a large stock of personal protective equipment (PPE) onsite. PPE was stored in the Geofirma office trailer and the office of the Vital Tool Push. Except for protective footwear, all PPE onsite was provided by Geofirma/Vital including:

- Hard hats
- Reflective vests and jackets
- Rain/wind gear
- Gloves (leather, rubber, nitrile)
- Eye protection (goggles, face shields, safety glasses)
- Hearing protection (over-ear muffs, plugs)
- Respirators (half face with cartridges, supplied air)
- Fall arrest equipment
- Air monitoring equipment

4.2 COVID 19 Supplies

Additional supplies for implementation of COVID-19 safety measures were provided onsite by Geofirma. Disposable 3-ply masks, hand sanitizer, and sanitary wipes were provided in each office trailer and workstation.

5 WASTE AND CHEMICAL STORAGE

5.1 Chemical Storage

Chemical storage onsite was completed using purpose-built bottle and storage containers. All laboratory chemicals used for analytical testing and core logging were stored in a chemical storage cabinet in the laboratory trailer. Copies of SDS for all WHMIS regulated chemicals were maintained as paper copies in the lab and office trailers, and as digital copies on Geofirma's office server.

5.2 Waste Storage

5.2.1 Solid Waste

Solid waste onsite was stored in one large bin that was rented from Affordable Waste Disposal, based in Teeswater, Ontario. Affordable Waste would empty the garbage weekly to twice a month depending on the volume of material that was being produced at the site.

5.2.2 Liquid Waste

Liquid waste was produced as part of several onsite activities and falls into several categories: fresh water produced from drilling, potentially contaminated water from berms/containment structures, brine water produced during drilling, and laboratory wastewater. Each type of liquid waste had a different method for containment.

Fresh water produced during drilling was contained in half round tanks within secondary containment berms until disposed offsite.

Rainwater and snowmelt that accumulated in berms could contain low concentrations of hydrocarbons from the equipment and fuel stored within the berms. The potentially contaminated water was contained in totes onsite for pickup by a liquid waste hauler or filtered onsite using Rain Drains; a hydrocarbon filter produced by SEI Industries.

Brine drill fluid and water produced from drilling was contained in half round tanks within secondary containment berms until disposed offsite.

Laboratory wastewater contains chemical used for field calibration and analytical testing of water samples from WP02 (drilling) and WP07 (opportunistic groundwater) activities. Laboratory water was contained in 20 L plastic buckets for offsite disposal.

6 SITE COMMISSIONING INSPECTION

Geofirma completed a detailed site inspection of SB_BH02 prior to site commissioning on October 23, 2021. The purpose of the site inspection was to confirm that requirements for site infrastructure and equipment described in the WP01 test plan were established onsite prior to the start of drilling and testing activities.

A copy of the SB_BH02 site commissioning checklist is provided in Appendix A.

7 SUMMARY

Geofirma was contracted by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to complete site construction and infrastructure setup for two drill sites along Concession Road 8 near Teeswater, Ontario. Construction and infrastructure setup for SB_BH02 (this report) started with pre-construction sampling on November 17, 2020. Access road and drill pad construction was completed between December 07, 2020, and January 21, 2021. Electrical site infrastructure, including buried cable, a transformer, and two electrical panels were installed May 26-27, 2021. All other site infrastructure was installed between July and October 2021, prior to the start of coring activities.

The SB_BH02 drill site consists of a 50 x 120 m fenced-in gravel pad accessed by a ~400 m long gravel access road at 1257 Concession Road 8, Teeswater, Ontario. Onsite facilities include several office and work trailers that will be used for the SB_BH02 drilling and testing program:

- Two office trailers were purposed for office work and meetings for Geofirma and NWMO.
- Two work trailers were setup to complete core logging (core processing trailer) and water sampling (laboratory trailers).
- Four additional equipment storage trailers: a heated sea cannister for temperature sensitive equipment and three non-heated sea cannisters for storage of equipment and core boxes.

The primary source of power for the site was the electrical hookup that was installed by Geofirma subcontractors in May 2021. All work trailers and most equipment onsite (e.g. light stands) were powered by electricity from the main power supply. Additional power was provided as needed by small diesel and gasoline powered generators. One diesel power light stand was used for illuminating the drilling work area and several small generators were available for backup power.

Geofirma, with support from Geofirma's contractors, coordinated all other infrastructure required for drilling and testing activities at SB_BH02 including:

- Washroom facilities consisting of a 2-room, temperature-controlled washroom trailer.
- Potable water supply.
- Secondary containment structures for all fuel storage and fuel-powered equipment.
- Safety equipment including supplies for implementation of COVID 19 protocols.
- Containment structures for solid and liquid waste generated during drilling and testing.

A site commissioning inspection for SB_BH02 was completed by Geofirma on October 23, 2021, to confirm that onsite infrastructure was adequate to commence coring operations and conformed to requirements described in the WP01 Test Plan.

8 REFERENCES

Geofirma Engineering Ltd., 2020. WP01 Test Plan: Site Infrastructure and Access Road Construction for SB_BH02. – Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing, South Bruce. Revision 0. December 03.

Geofirma Engineering Ltd., 2021a. Initial Borehole Characterization Plan for SB_BH02 – Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing, South Bruce. Revision 0. September 13.

Geofirma Engineering Ltd., 2021b. Baseline Soil Sampling at SB_BH02, NWMO Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing South Bruce. Memorandum Revision 0. February 17.

Geofirma Engineering Ltd., 2021c. WP02 Test Plan: Borehole Drilling and Coring for SB_BH02, NWMO Phase 2 Initial Borehole Drilling and Testing, South Bruce. Revision 2. December 05.

Appendix A
Site Commissioning Checklist

WP01 Site Commissioning Checklist – NWMO South Bruce Drilling and Testing

Drill Site: SB.BH02 Date: 23-OCT-21

Not completed
NWMO has
separate
record

Item/Description	Item Completion Sign-Off		
	Geofirma Initials	NWMO Initials	N/A
Pre-Construction Activities			
Baseline groundwater sampling completed	Ch		
Baseline soil sampling completed	Ch		
Baseline noise, light, and odour studies complete			X
Site Handover Agreement completed and signed			X
Drill Site and Access Road			
Drill site and access road construction completed.	Ch		
High traffic areas in drill site and along access road surface are free of debris or equipment that pose a risk to vehicles and field staff.	Ch		
Fuel Storage, Berms, and Containment Structures			
All fuel containers are stored within containment structures. Volume of the containment structures is sufficient to contain the entire volumes of the fuel canisters.	Ch		
Generators are stored within containment structures. Volume of the containment structures is sufficient to contain the entire volumes of fuel contained in the generator.	Ch		
Drilling rig is stored within containment structures. Volume of the containment structures is sufficient to contain the entire volumes of fuel contained by the drilling rig.	Ch		
Drilling Equipment			
BOP Equipment	Ch		
Drillers Trailer	Ch		
Drill Rig and Substructure	Ch		
Drill Water Containment Structures	Ch		
General Site Infrastructure			
Perimeter fence constructed with 6 ft fencing.	Ch		
Locks are available at each entry/gate. Geofirma representative has a key to access the site.	Ch		
Drill site electrical supply hooked up by certified electrician	Ch		
Meter and billing set-up with Hydro One	Ch		
Primary electrical source to the site is buried or suspended from poles such that it will not impact regular site activities	Ch		
All secondary electrical lines (e.g. trailer feeds) are located out of high traffic areas. Flagging tape, pylons or other high-visibility supplies are used to alert field staff of electrical line locations (as required).	Ch		
Light stands are set-up and provide sufficient coverage to illuminate all regular work locations. Diesel powered light stands are in containment berms.	Ch		
Washroom/Hygiene Facilities			
Potable toilet/hygiene facility present onsite and secured for use by field staff	Ch		
Sanitary supplies (e.g. toilet paper) stocked	Ch		
Cleaning and decontamination supplies stocked (hand sanitizer, soap, cleaning wipes)	Ch		

Item/Description	Item Completion Sign-Off		N/A
	Geofirma Initials	NWMO Initials	
Potable and Non-Potable Supply			
Onsite storage set-up for storage of non-potable water (drill fluid, etc.)	ch		
Potable water supply available for field staff (water coolers)	ch		
Core Processing Trailer			
Trailer is in the correct location (according per drill site layout)	ch		
Electrical supply hooked up and working for required load (e.g. all core processing equipment)	ch		
Refrigerators/Freezers working (with a fridge thermometer located in each)			X
Compressed gas cylinders secured upright	ch		
Heating/cooling system working	ch		
Fire extinguisher is in working condition	ch		
Smoke alarm tested	ch		
Desks, tables, and office furniture is available for required work activities	ch		
First Aid Kit stocked	ch		
Internet service set-up and working with sufficient speeds to operate acQuire logging software (for WP02, WP03 and WP07)	ch		
Cleaning and decontamination supplies stocked (hand sanitizer, soap, cleaning wipes)	ch		
Laboratory Trailer			
Trailer is in the correct location (according per drill site layout)	ch		
Electrical supply hooked up and working for required load	ch		
Refrigerators/Freezers working (with a fridge thermometer located in each)	ch		
Heating/cooling system working	ch		
Fire extinguisher is in working condition	ch		
Smoke alarm tested	ch		
Desks, tables, and office furniture is available for required work activities	ch		
First Aid Kit stocked	ch		
Internet service set-up and working with sufficient speeds to operate acQuire logging software (for WP02, WP03 and WP07)			X
Cleaning and decontamination supplies stocked (hand sanitizer, soap, cleaning wipes)	ch		
NWMO Trailer			
Trailer is in the correct location (according per drill site layout)	ch		
Electrical supply hooked up and working for required load	ch		
Refrigerators/Freezers working (for personal food storage)	ch		
Heating/cooling system working	ch		
Fire extinguisher is in working condition	ch		
Smoke alarm tested	ch		
Desks, tables, and office furniture is available for required work activities	ch		
First Aid Kit stocked	ch		
Internet service set-up and working with sufficient speeds to access email, complete files sharing, and perform searches	ch		
Cleaning and decontamination supplies stocked (hand sanitizer, soap, cleaning wipes)	ch		
Office Trailer			
Trailer is in the correct location (according per drill site layout)	ch		
Electrical supply hooked up and working for required load	ch		

Item/Description	Item Completion Sign-Off		N/A
	Geofirma Initials	NWMO Initials	
Refrigerators/Freezers working (for personal food storage)	gh		
Heating/cooling system working	gh		
Fire extinguisher is in working condition	gh		
Smoke alarm tested	gh		
Desks, tables, and office furniture is available for required work activities	gh		
First Aid Kit stocked	gh		
Internet service set-up and working with sufficient speeds to access email, complete files sharing, and perform searches	gh		
Printer/Scanner connected to laptop and working	gh		
Cleaning and decontamination supplies stocked (hand sanitizer, soap, cleaning wipes)	gh		
Notice of project filed with the Ministry of Labor and displayed onsite	gh		
Copy of Project HSEP available (including MSDS and appendices)	gh		
Sign In/Out Sheet is available	gh		
PPE and Safety Equipment			
Spare PPE supplies available onsite (helmets, nitrile gloves, safety glasses, work gloves, hearing protection)	gh		

Comments
Tag extinguisher in storage trailer. Set up auxiliary ground on light stand. Reviewed with Peter Miller (NWMO)

Sign-Off			
Completed by (Geofirma):	Chris Morgan	Date:	
Completed by (NWMO):		Date:	
Approved by (Geofirma):		Date:	