



NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
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Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update

Over the past several months, a series of workshops and discussions were conducted in Huron-Kinloss. Their focus was to develop a set of principles that will guide the way we talk together and further explore the Adaptive Phased Management project. This is important as we begin a new phase of more detailed exploration of the project.

The principles will help guide community and NWMO discussions to explore what it would mean if the Adaptive Phased Management project were implemented in Huron-Kinloss, including how we might come together in a partnership to implement the project. Over time, these discussions will also need to involve First Nation and Métis communities, as well as others in the area.

Principles to guide Discussions

- Safety must be the priority.
- Trust must be maintained. Discussions need to be respectful, open, transparent, and collaborative.
- Clear communication is essential. Discussions and statements about the project need to be clear, concise and accurate.
- Informed decision-making is critical.
- Discussions must be inclusive. All perspectives must be considered.
- Community well-being is important and must be discussed. There must be a broad benefit across the community now and in the future.
- Regional well-being is important and must be discussed. There must be a broad benefit to the region now and in the future.

Summary of activities and community discussions about principles

Purpose of these community discussions

Huron-Kinloss is one of several communities in Ontario learning about Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel (Adaptive Phased Management), and exploring the possibility of hosting the associated deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise and other project components.

Since 2012, Huron-Kinloss has been involved in a process of learning about the project and assessing whether it could be a good fit for the community, as part of the site selection process led by the NWMO. Preliminary studies conducted to date suggest the project has the potential to be implemented safely in Huron-Kinloss, and align with Huron-Kinloss' future plans – including vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals for the community – as outlined in *Our Future Huron-Kinloss Sustainability Plan: Strategic Priorities for Our Future*.

Huron-Kinloss and the NWMO are working together to begin more detailed discussions to explore, over the next several years, what it would mean if the project were implemented in the community.

The purpose of the recently completed community workshops and discussions was to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations. These principles will set the foundation for the way in which Huron-Kinloss and the NWMO will talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project.

Exploring the potential for partnership

The project will only be implemented at a site that meets robust safety criteria. Once safety criteria have been met, the ability to develop a supportive partnership is an important consideration in selecting a preferred location for the project. This partnership would need to begin with Huron-Kinloss, and also seek involvement of First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area.

In order to explore the potential for partnership, this next phase of more detailed discussions will consider how the project might be configured in order to align with Huron-Kinloss' priorities and objectives. It will also explore the investments which would be made in the near term and the longer term associated with the project, and how the broader area would be involved.

Ultimately, the project will only be implemented in the area if a safe site for the repository can be identified, if Huron-Kinloss is willing, and if a supportive partnership can be developed.

Engaging the community

Over the past several months, the NWMO and Township of Huron-Kinloss hosted multiple workshops and project information briefings, received phone calls and emails, and engaged in conversations to gather community member input and feedback on the values and principles that should guide future discussions. The community workshops were advertised in local newspapers, and a community mail-out was sent via direct mail to all property owners in the township.

Community workshops took place on the following dates:

Oct. 31, 2017 Township staff workshop
Nov. 7, 2017 Council and Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee (NWCAC) meeting
Nov. 14, 2017 Community workshops: Ripley (daytime and evening)
Nov. 16, 2017 Community workshop: Lucknow
Nov. 18, 2017 Community workshop: Point Clark
April 3, 2018 Community open house: Ripley

At each of the workshops last fall, NWMO staff provided a brief project overview, and Huron-Kinloss staff presented a summary of the township's involvement in the project to date. NWMO staff explained the importance of partnership in the criteria for selecting a preferred site for the project and in the discussions that are planned over the next several years. Following the presentations, participants broke into working groups for discussions, with a workbook and question sheet as tools. This material was developed in advance by Huron-Kinloss and NWMO staff members working together. After each working session, a spokesperson for each group reported on the comments and priorities that emerged during their group's discussion. Note takers were present to record the comments and suggestions. In addition to the community workshops, some residents shared their comments through phone calls to the township office, or by sending in comments and questions via email.

The NWMO reviewed and refined these draft principles with township staff, and then presented the draft principles to the Township of Huron-Kinloss NWCAC in March for consideration and comment. Following these meetings, the community and the NWMO hosted an open house on April 3 to give the community another opportunity to provide input on the draft principles that emerged during the community workshops. A separate workbook was created for the open house to encourage further reflection on the draft principles and provide comments or feedback at a later date.

Focus of discussion

The principles emerged from community discussions on three key questions:

1. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way Huron-Kinloss and the NWMO talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project. What values or principles – i.e., rules or requirements – should guide discussions and future decision-making between Huron-Kinloss and the NWMO? Why are these values and principles important?
2. What should we avoid doing while having partnership discussions?
3. Other suggestions or rules that should be considered?

These principles were the focus of further discussion at a community open house:

1. Have we covered what is most important? Are there important values and principles that should be added?
2. Each value and principle has a short description. Can you suggest refinements to these descriptions that would make them clearer or the principles stronger?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

Principles identified by the community

Seven principles emerged from these community discussions.

1. Safety – Safety is the priority.

The top priority for the project is that it be safe during construction and operation, and into the distant future. It is essential that people feel that they are safe and secure for the long period of time used nuclear fuel needs to be managed.

2. Trust – Discussions are respectful, open, transparent, and collaborative.

Strong trust needs to be developed with leadership and the community, and for this, decisions need to be open, transparent, and collaborative. All points of view need respect and consideration.

3. Clear communication – Discussions and statements about the project need to be clear, concise and accurate.

Ongoing education about the project is critical. Education must be widespread, and the messages conveyed need to be factual, clear, and understandable for everyone. People need to truthfully hear about project risks and benefits in clear, plain language.

4. Informed decision-making – Informed decision-making is critical.

Decisions need to be grounded in strong, factual information. Access to expertise to help understand the information tabled and the implications for the community is important. Throughout the project phases, the community members must understand the information presented and have the opportunity to contribute to decision-making.

5. Inclusive – All perspectives are considered.

All points of view deserve consideration. The negatives and positives must be heard.

6. Community well-being – There must be a broad benefit across the community now and in the future.

Project benefits must extend across the community. The project should be a platform for the future, including providing opportunities for youth. It should be a catalyst for innovative, managed growth in the community – physically, financially and socially. The project should not be stand alone; it needs to recognize and contribute to the qualities of the environment and agriculture landscape in the area.

7. Regional well-being – There must be a broad benefit to the region now and in the future.

The project must extend benefit beyond the community. To help ensure this takes place, neighbours need to learn about the project and be involved in implementation.

Next steps

With these guiding principles as a foundation, next steps involve getting into the details of the individual facilities and components associated with the project. This will help build community understanding of the project and its various components, and pave the way for reflecting on where facilities might be located in the area, investments that would be required in the near and longer term to support implementation of the project, and how others in the area might be involved if the project were implemented in the area.

Ongoing engagement, discussions and learning may suggest refinements to these principles over time. These principles will be reviewed and refined as needed through these detailed discussions.

Other comments

During the workshops, people also shared suggestions on next steps, and how to get more people involved in learning and discussions:

- Build understanding of the difference between the Ontario Power Generation deep geologic repository for low- and intermediate-level waste and the Adaptive Phased Management project.
- Increase proactive engagement to increase community understanding of, and involvement in, the project.
- Help build awareness of the nuclear presence already located in the area and capabilities in the region.
- Build understanding of the need for the project and why the interim storage of today is not a long-term solution.
- Build understanding of the project steps that lie ahead, the project implications for property values, and potential uses for the balance of site.
- Begin planning how best to undertake and communicate the process for soliciting and acquiring a project site.

Learn more

Review the history of Huron-Kinloss' involvement in the site selection process:

<https://www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Study-Areas/Huron-Kinloss>

Review *Our Future Huron-Kinloss Sustainability Plan: Strategic Priorities for Our Future*:

http://www.huronkinloss.com/public_docs/bylaws/Our-Future-H-K-Sustainability-Plan-FINAL.pdf

Review the activities of the Huron-Kinloss Nuclear Waste Community Advisory Committee:

<http://www.huronkinloss.com/nuclear-waste-committee-ab.cfm>

Read about the NWMO, Canada's plan and the site selection process: www.nwmo.ca