

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: March 14, 2005 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 49 Jackes Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST. on
March 14, 2005.

Present

Advisory Council:

David Crombie	Chairman
David Cameron	Member
Helen Cooper	Member
Gordon Cressy	Member
Fred Gilbert	Member
Eva Ligeti	Member
Derek Lister	Member
Donald Obonsawin	Member
Daniel Rozon	Member

NWMO:

Elizabeth Dowdeswell	President (Agenda Items 1-3, 5-6)
Kathryn Shaver	Corporate Secretary (Agenda Items 1-3, 5-6)
Peter Brown	Natural Resources Canada (Agenda Item 4)
Carmel Létourneau	Natural Resources Canada (Agenda Item 4)

PART I

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. EST.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the minutes of the Council meeting convened on February 1, 2005.

3. Advisory Council Letter to Minister Efford

The Advisory Council approved the letter that it prepared for transmittal to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, reporting on the Council's activities. Following last year's practice, the letter will be sent to the Minister in late March, consistent with the timing of NWMO's annual report filing.

NWMO management withdrew from the meeting.

Mr. Brown and Ms. Létourneau, of Natural Resources Canada, joined the meeting.

4. Meeting with Natural Resources Canada

The Advisory Council met with Natural Resources Canada, without the presence of NWMO management.

Natural Resources Canada, in fulfilling its oversight functions under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, sought an update with the Advisory Council as to how it was fulfilling its legislative mandate.

PART II

REPORTS FROM NWMO

5. Draft Study Report

The President tabled the NWMO's draft text for the Draft Study Report for Advisory Council discussion and comment.

As context, Dr. Rozon commented on the NWMO mandate and on future nuclear options for Canada. He articulated some of the developments in the policy and industry landscape against which the long-term management approach would be implemented. The NWMO mandate is primarily concerned with the used fuel arising from existing power reactors in Canada. It was pointed out that the rationale for an extended period (100-300 years) of retrievable centralized storage is related either to the future economic potential for recycle, or to the possibility of reducing the future toxicity of the wastes by using "partitioning and transmutation" technologies. Both of these avenues would require large-scale reprocessing facilities. The discussion highlighted that the economic case for recovering the used fuel for its residual resource value would largely depend upon the future role of nuclear energy and the selection of future generations of reactors.

The Chairman invited general comments on the NWMO's Draft Study. Structural suggestions for the report were tabled. As part of this discussion, Council members suggested that the document be reordered to give prominence to the summary of comments received from NWMO's engagement with the general public and Aboriginal Peoples, and set the context for the assessment of management approaches.

The Chairman invited the President to lead the Advisory Council through a section-by-section review of the document, with a view to inviting comments of a specific nature on the study:

- Suggestions were offered for providing more extensive discussion on the breadth of research and development on the conceptual management methods previously undertaken, from which NWMO has drawn.
- Clarifications were proposed to the technical and financial descriptions of the management options, to highlight clearly the differences across approaches.
- Elaboration was suggested, to make explicit the assumptions underlying the cost estimates of the options and the illustrative timelines around the rebuilding of storage facilities.
- Discussion ensued on the specification of economic regions for implementation, and the social and technical siting requirements. Council members emphasized that the process of siting must never compromise safety. Members noted that some participants in public engagement sessions had suggested that the provinces that have benefited most from the nuclear fuel cycle should bear the responsibility for hosting a waste management facility.
- With respect to addressing social, economic and cultural effects, it was noted that impacts are not exclusively negative; that implementation is likely to also make possible positive, sustained socio-economic impacts in the area hosting the facility.
- In reviewing the proposed research agenda to support implementation, the Council emphasized the important role of social research in supporting future decision-making.
- It was suggested that there may be a role for periodic third-party reviews and comments on NWMO's planned research and development program during the implementation process.
- A Council member undertook to provide additional comments on the section addressing reprocessing, partitioning and transmutation.

6. NWMO Engagement

The President distributed reports from Aboriginal dialogues to members of the Advisory Council's Sub-Committee on Aboriginal Engagement.

Through the agreements that NWMO has established with Aboriginal organizations, Aboriginal Peoples will continue to lead their discussions and provide NWMO with comments on the study. Following the release of the Draft Study, the NWMO will invite comments on the draft recommendation and the process of implementing a management approach. The Sub-Committee stressed the importance of ensuring that Aboriginal Peoples have a forum in which to provide their feedback on the NWMO study and the draft recommendation.

The President debriefed the Advisory Council on the comments received from the general public in national and regional dialogues. The NWMO distributed copies of the report summarizing comments received through the NWMO's nationwide public information and discussion sessions.

The President invited Advisory Council discussion around the NWMO's proposed plans for public engagement following the release of the Draft Study Report.

- The President presented proposals for public engagement that are under consideration by the NWMO, and which build upon the earlier advice of the Advisory Council.
- As proposed, the initiatives would comprise of NWMO presentations and facilitated discussions, intended to continue the dialogue with past participants in NWMO's engagement activities. The dialogues would be intended to maintain continuity with the key groups and individuals with whom NWMO has built a relationship over the last two years.

In addition, NWMO will continue to invite public comments through written or electronic submissions, and will respond to requests from organizations for specific meetings.

The Chairman invited discussion on the proposals. In responding to Council questions, the President addressed the timing and proposed formats for the sessions.

The Advisory Council inquired as to the possibility of Council members attending the sessions in order to observe the discussions first hand. The President confirmed that this would be possible.

At the request of the Advisory Council, the President undertook to distribute copies of the revised Ethical and Social Framework, upon completion by the Roundtable on Ethics.

NWMO management withdrew from the meeting.

7. In Camera Session

This portion of the meeting was dedicated to the in camera session of the Advisory Council, without the presence of NWMO management.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 4:00 p.m.

Dated the 13th day of May, 2005
Corporate Secretary