



Niigani

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Special points of interest:

- Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2008 to 2012
- Moving Forward Together: Designing the Process for Selecting a Site
- Workbook for Moving Forward Together: Designing the Process for Selecting a Site
- NWMO Aboriginal Policy—Working Draft is available

Elders will Review *the Proposed Process for Selecting a Site...*

Since 2008, NWMO has been holding dialogues with interested organizations and individuals (including Aboriginal Organizations and individuals) on important principles and elements for a fair selection process to identify an informed and willing community to host facilities for Canada's used nuclear fuel for the long term. Guided by this public input, the NWMO has created the *Proposed Process for Selecting a Site*. A forty page document that outlines the NWMO's process for selecting a site.



The NWMO will meet with the Elder's Forum to review and discuss the *Proposed Process for Site Selection* in Oromocto, New Brunswick on July 28-30, 2009 so the Elders will have an opportunity to review and discuss the Proposal and make their suggestions regarding the process. The Proposed Process is describe on page 4 of this newsletter.

The Adaptive Phased Management Used Fuel facility will be a deep geological

repository, "...in a technically suitable site, hosted by an informed and willing community. The projected cost for the project will be \$16 - \$24 billion for national infrastructure that will safely contain and isolate used fuel through both engineered barriers and the surrounding geology."

The NWMO system will be designed so that the waste will be continually monitored and retrievable for an extended period of time.

The project will also involve the creation of a national centre of expertise for technical, environmental and community studies related to the design and operation of deep geological repositories.

The project will be implemented through a long-term partnership between the NWMO and an informed and willing community.

The NWMO has committed that the construction of the facility will proceed only after the NWMO demonstrates that all safety, health and environmental protection standards set by regulatory authorities can be met or exceeded.

The NWMO Proposed Process for Selecting a Site puts safety first, with site selection guided by rigorous

The NWMO meeting with the Elders Forum to discuss the Proposed Process for Selecting a Site ...

scientific and technical requirements. It proposes steps through which interested communities can learn more as they consider their potential interest in hosting the underground repository and the associated centre of expertise.

The NWMO is now inviting all Canadians to review the Proposed Process for Selecting a Site document and to share their thoughts on whether the proposed process is appropriate and what changes need to be made.

Elders are looking forward to this meeting because it will give them an opportunity to discuss their suggestions related to the process. Elders want a process that will provide communities with the information they need to make informed decisions. Elders know that technical, environmental and cultural impacts will need to be included and accommodated in the process.

Message from Chairperson—Gordon Williams



The work of the Elders Forum over the past four years has laid the foundation for active involvement of Aboriginal peoples in perspective host communities in the implementation of Adaptive Phased Management and the NWMO's work. We met earlier this year to provide the NWMO with some initial feedback on the draft

NWMO Aboriginal Policy, which followed our in-depth discussion at the fifth Elders Forum in Waskesiu, SK, in June 2008. We will finalize our discussion on this Policy at our next Elders Forum meeting in Oro-mocto, New Brunswick in July 2009. We also learned about the development of the *Proposed Process for Selecting a Site*, an important step in the NWMO's work which invites Canadians and Aboriginal people to comment on the proposed process. We are looking forward to discussing this process at the next Elders Forum. Over the past

few months Niigani has been active in assisting the NWMO in setting up dialogues on the process with Aboriginal organizations in New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and Saskatchewan and we will continue in this involvement through the Fall. I am looking forward to meeting with the Elders Forum members soon and to our conversations as the NWMO seeks our advice on the site selection process.

Gordon Williams, Chairman of Niigani

Introducing Sean Russell Acting Vice-President, APM Technology



Sean Russell is the Acting Vice President, Adaptive Phased Management Technology for the NWMO. He is a graduate of the University of Guelph and has a master's degree in physics. His specialty is health physics and mathematical modeling in used nuclear fuel management with a focus on potential impacts of radiological emissions on the environment.

Sean is married and loves to do things with his family. To say that he likes the outdoors does not capture his enthusiasm. He comes from a family of alpine skiers and regularly competes at the master's level in slalom and giant slalom races. The family also rock climbs and mountain bikes and they have travelled to Alberta, British Columbia, New Hampshire and Nevada to enjoy their passion. They enjoy the adventure, the challenge and the beauty of nature. They also like to canoe in Ontario when the opportunity arises.

Sean has seen a lot of change in the management of used nuclear fuel during his career. "... The most significant change is the direct involvement of people in the decision making regarding the safe and secure long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Historically, most decisions regarding the management of used nuclear fuel were significantly influenced by tech-

nical people and citizens made their views known through a hearing process. With the formation of the NWMO, every interested citizen has the opportunity to have their voice heard. "

We now have a unique Canadian approach being designed and implemented. "... I am proud to work on a process that is being watched by other radioactive waste management organizations around the world. We are now involved in a collaborative process, where technical and non-technical groups can have their say. The process is unique. Another significant change is 'who' is responsible for the paying for the management of used nuclear fuel. It is now clear that the responsibility rests with the owners of used nuclear fuel. Owners are responsible to pay for the safe and secure long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

When asked what he sees as the NWMO's biggest challenge, he said "... designing and implementing a process for selecting a site. One aspect of the process is the involvement of Aboriginal peoples. I have recently begun working with the Elders. They have a unique point of view and a different way of looking at the world.

Elders have given us a deeper meaning of trust and respect. People want to hear from people they respect and trust. Trust means that you have to have 'competence' and 'character'. At the NWMO we are seeking the best people in the industry to provide us with technical expertise. We

"The Elders can teach us many things, give us new perspectives and shed some light on how to interweave scientific and traditional knowledge."

believe that we have people who have technical competence and they also have character. Character means people with integrity, people who are honest and good communicators as well. I believe that our organization is going to be successful because we have people who meet this standard of trust. We also have the other NWMO principles to guide our work. As I hear the Elders speak they are very straight forward – in a respectful way. They have shown us that relationships take time and effort, but taking time is necessary. I think all of us at the NWMO understand that relationship building is based on trust.

The Elders can teach us many things, give us new perspectives and shed some light on how to interweave scientific and traditional knowledge, especially at a specific geographic location. This will take time."

Message from the President of NWMO—Ken Nash



I would like to thank Elders Forum members for their ongoing advice in our work and especially in developing the implementation of Adaptive Phased Management. The NWMO recently published a key document in our

work titled "Moving Forward Together: Designing the Process for Selecting a Site." This document is an open invitation to Canadians and Aboriginal peoples to review the *Proposed Process for Selecting a Site* and will provide the NWMO with input and advice to ensure that the site selection process is responsive to their priorities and objectives as we move forward. This process will be the focus of the upcoming sixth Elders Forum along with a review of the Working Draft of the NWMO Aboriginal

Policy which is also now available for public review on the NWMO website. This newsletter once again highlights our work with the Elders Forum and one of the senior members of our staff and provides ongoing information on the work of Niigani and the Elders Forum which has been invaluable in our development over the past four years.

Ken Nash, President, NWMO

NWMO Board of Directors Publically Acknowledges Elders Forum

In a letter to Mr. Gordon Williams, Chair of Niigani, The NWMO Chairman, Dr. Gary Kugler announced that the NWMO Board unanimously passed the following resolution on April 16, 2009 Board Meeting.

"...The Board acknowledges and values the strong contribution that Niigani and the Elders Forum have made to NWMO's work and expresses its appreciation to the members for their commitment and passion. Niigani and the Elders Forum have played an important role in developing the ability of NWMO to understand the Aboriginal way of life based on the protection and preserva-

tion of all creation for this and future generations. NWMO thanks Niigani and the Elders Forum for enhancing NWMO's understanding of the goals and aspirations of Aboriginal peoples and NWMO's ability to work and consult with Aboriginal communities. The Board of Directors meeting minutes will be made available and posted on the NWMO website later this year. "

"...The Board acknowledges and values the strong contribution that Niigani and the Elders Forum have made to NWMO's work and expresses its appreciation to the members for their commitment and passion. "

The letter went on to extend personal thanks and appreciation for the contribution of Elders and Youth involvement in the NWMO's work.

The 6th Elders Forum to be held in Oromocto, New Brunswick

The 6th Elders Forum will be held on July 28-30, 2009 at Oromocto, New Brunswick. The focus of the meetings will be to finalize the Aboriginal Policy and discuss the *Proposed Process for Selecting a Site*. Each Elder is invited to ask a young person to accompany him/her to Forum meetings to provide support and in keeping with the traditional teachings, attend Forum meetings to listen and learn from Elders. Youth will also have an opportunity to meet. The Elders Forum members

have a broad range of interests including Aboriginal traditional knowledge, political affairs, community development, health, communications, cultural life in the community, treaty and historical relationships. The Elders are successful in their own right and are recognized leaders in their communities. Each member is a respected and credible leader of Aboriginal people. Members are *not* representatives of the recommending organizations, but are invited to participate in the Elders Fo-

rum to bring an Aboriginal perspective and world view to the work of the NWMO. Elders accept and abide by the Elders Forum Mission Statement and need to be able to commit the necessary time and interest to serve on the Elders Forum. All meetings respect appropriate cultural protocols by acknowledging and respecting the territorial First Nation where meetings are held. Niigani membership includes 4 Elders, 4 youth, Chairperson & Secretary/facilitator.

NWMO Elders Forum

How to have your voice heard. Send an email.

Website www.nwmo.ca
Webmaster Email

Call us Toll Free 1.866.249.6966
(within Canada) or send a letter or fax
Tel 416.934.9814
Fax 416.934.9526

Nuclear Waste Management Organization

22 St. Clair Avenue East, Sixth Floor
Toronto Ontario Canada M4T 2S3

www.nwmo.ca

An Invitation to Get Involved

You Are Invited to Get involved by answering these questions and sending your comments on the Proposed Process for Selecting a Site to the NWMO at the above address:

1. Are the proposed siting principles fair and appropriate?
2. Are the Proposed decision-making steps consistent with selecting a safe site and making a fair decision?
3. Are there additional safety-related questions which you would like to see addressed?
4. Does the proposed process provide for the kinds of information and tools that are needed to support the participation of communities that may be interested?
5. What else needs to be considered? Please let us know your thoughts on the topic that need to be addressed in the design of a process to select a site?

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Excerpts from NWMO's Document "Moving Forward Together: Designing the Process for Selecting a Site—Invitation to Review a Proposed Process for Selecting a Site"

The proposed process is designed to address the broad range of issues and protections that people told us are important for any appropriate siting process in Canada. It draws from experiences and lessons learned from past work and processes developed in Canada to site facilities for the management of hazardous material. It also draws from similar projects in other countries pursuing the development of a deep geological repository. The proposed site selection process is designed to use a partnership-based approach to: help ensure that any community that is selected to host this facility is both informed about the project and willing to host it; help ensure that any site that is selected to host this facility will safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel for a very long period of time, in

- an appropriate geological formation, and that there is an acceptable way of transporting used fuel to the site;
- assist the potentially interested host community to consider carefully and thoroughly the project's potential benefits and risks when deciding whether to express interest, and ultimately, willingness to host the project;
- involve surrounding communities, regions and other jurisdictional levels potentially affected by the project and the transportation of used fuel in the identification and assessment of public health, environmental, social, economic and cultural effects of the project as part of a broader regional assessment;
- involve First Nations, Métis and Inuit who are potentially affected by the implementation of this project; and
- help foster an ongoing public conversation on questions to be answered and issues to be addressed throughout the site selection process. We invite you to review the nine steps proposed in our discussion document Proposed Process for Selecting a Site.

The Proposed Process for Selecting a Site – At a Glance

The NWMO is now implementing Adaptive Phased Management. The next step is to design A Process for Selecting a Site in an informed and willing host community. The process will be a fair, ethical and effective process for making the decision to find a location where used nuclear fuel can be contained and isolated for the long term. The following process is being suggested and is being presented to Canadians for their comment.

Step 1 The NWMO initiates the siting process. Through a broad program of activities, the NWMO will provide information, answer questions, and build awareness among Canadians and communities about the project and the siting process. Awareness-building activities will continue throughout the siting process.

Step 2 For communities that would like to learn more, an initial screening is conducted. At the request of the community, the NWMO will evaluate the potential suitability of the community against a list of initial screening criteria.

Step 3 For interested communities, a preliminary assessment of potential suitability is conducted. At the request of the community, a feasibility study will be conducted to determine whether a site in the community has the potential to meet the detailed requirements for the project. The NWMO will conduct the feasibility study in collaboration with the community.

Step 4 For interested communities, potentially affected surrounding communities are engaged and detailed site evaluations are completed. In this step, the NWMO will work with interested communities to engage potentially affected surrounding communities in a study of health, safety, environment, social, economic and cultural effects of the project at a regional level, including effects that may be associated with transportation. Involvement will continue throughout the siting process. The NWMO will also select one or more suitable sites from communities expressing formal interest, and conduct detailed site evaluations in collaboration with the community.

Step 5 Communities with confirmed suitable sites decide whether they are willing to accept the project and negotiate the terms and conditions of a formal agreement to host the facility with the NWMO.

Step 6 The NWMO and the community with the preferred site enter into a formal agreement to host the project. The NWMO selects preferred site, and the NWMO and community ratify formal agreement.

Step 7 A centre of expertise is established, and construction and operation of an underground demonstration facility proceeds. The NWMO, in partnership with the community, will establish a centre of expertise involving the construction of an underground demonstration facility and surface facilities to demonstrate technologies that will be used to implement the project. The regulatory requirements for this step will be discussed with regulatory agencies.

Step 8 Regulatory authorities review the safety of the project and, if all requirements are satisfied, give their approvals to proceed. The regulatory review and approval process will involve an environmental assessment and a series of consecutive licensing phases related to site preparation and construction, and the operation of facilities associated with the project. Various aspects of transportation of used nuclear fuel will also need to be approved by regulatory authorities.

Step 9 Construction and operation of the facility. The NWMO implements the project, starting with site preparation and construction of the deep geological repository and associated surface facilities. Operation will begin after an operating license is obtained. The NWMO will continue to work in partnership with the host community in order to ensure the commitments to the community are addressed throughout the entire lifetime of the project.