

Minister's Statement on the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's 2011 Annual Report

As Minister of Natural Resources, I am responding to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's 2011 Annual Report entitled *Learning More Together*.

This tenth annual report, describes the important work the organization has carried out over the course of 2011 towards implementing a safe and secure plan – known as the Adaptive Phased Management approach – for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste that is generated in Canada – past, present and future.

In 2011 the Nuclear Waste Management Organization made significant progress in rolling out its site selection process to identify a suitable, willing and informed community to host a long-term nuclear fuel waste management facility. This has resulted in a number of communities publicly coming forward to learn more about the plan and the multi-staged process to manage nuclear fuel waste over the long term in Canada. I am pleased, at this early stage of the Organization siting process, that communities are demonstrating an interest in learning about this project and considering the possibility of hosting the long-term waste management facility in the future.

The siting process is not designed to be a race to the finish line. It will take time, patience, and a lot of hard work and dedication by all of those involved, including political and business leaders, communities and citizens. And the keys to its successful implementation will continue to be transparency, inclusiveness and flexibility.

Looking ahead, the work of the Organization will increasingly take place at the community level, both with interested communities and neighbouring communities. I am confident that the Organization will continue to build trusting relationships and partnerships while maintaining momentum.

I note with particular interest that the Organization has initiated dialogues with government agencies that are involved in overseeing and regulating the transportation of dangerous materials in Canada. The safe and secure transportation of nuclear fuel waste is a key aspect of the implementation plan. I trust that the Organization will pursue its usual thorough approach to engaging communities and citizens as it addresses this issue.

Furthermore, I am pleased that the Organization has reported on its work as the project manager for Ontario Power Generation's proposed deep geological repository for its low and intermediate level radioactive waste. I recognize that this work has a number of synergies with the Organization's implementation of the Adaptive Phased Management approach. Many lessons will be learned along the way and many best practices will be developed that will undoubtedly prepare the groundwork for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's implementation of the Adaptive Phased Management approach.

The Government of Canada will continue to carefully monitor the activities of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to ensure that the organization fulfils its responsibilities under the

Nuclear Fuel Waste Act. I encourage interested Canadians and communities to read the Nuclear Waste Management Organization annual report and to learn more about the progress it is making to address an important public policy issue.

The Honourable Joe Oliver
Minister of Natural Resources

June 25, 2012