

Advisory Council: 2008 Advice to NWMO

Recommendations	Action taken
SITING DESIGN PREPARATION AND DIALOGUES	
<p>Early in 2008, the Council was invited to review and comment on NWMO's preparations for the dialogues on siting design and the siting discussion document to be used in the dialogues:</p> <p>In March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council reviewed the supporting materials for the siting design dialogue and provided the following specific areas of comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council suggested that the timeframes for testing a proposed siting process plan might be too optimistic; and ○ Council provided some comments on potential background papers and asked to review the papers being prepared in support of the Discussion Document. <p>In May:</p> <p>Council further discussed the preparations for the fall dialogues on the design of the siting process asking NWMO to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the potential for pilot projects in communities in future phases of engagement; • some editorial enhancements to the draft Project Description; and • that the overall project time frames are long and it is important for NWMO to clearly communicate that the project is moving forward. <p>In September:</p> <p>The Council was invited to discuss the proposed participant funding program. The Council provided the following comments and advice to NWMO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council strongly supported this type of program being offered as it provides important opportunities for learning and allows NWMO to understand and address issues and concerns early in the process; • Council suggested that criteria or guidelines be developed for the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management incorporated feedback on the Siting Discussion Document and reviewed the supporting documentation with the Council at the May 13 meeting. • Comments were incorporated in plan for fall dialogues. • Advice was incorporated in the design of the "Learn More" program.

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<p>selection of consultants by communities, in order to ensure adequate minimum standards are met;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council encouraged NWMO to provide this as an on-going program for a period of time; • Council suggested that NWMO might develop guidelines making it clear how to apply for the grant and some criteria for the grants; and • Council urged making explicit the financial envelope available for the program. <p>Council suggested NWMO solicit some expert counsel in design of the engagement program to advise on the objectives and tools. NWMO was cautioned against over-reliance on web-based outreach.</p> <p>Noting the value of third parties in building confidence in the process, Council members suggested that NWMO consider involving such independent organizations as the Canadian Geographical Survey in the site selection process.</p> <p>A Council member cautioned that NWMO, in designing of the site selection process would have to carefully consider the appropriate timeframes over which a community could withdraw its interest in being a host for the project.</p> <p>Council noted the importance of transparent communication of the regulatory steps to enable interested organizations to prepare in advance for this participation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracted expertise assisted in designing engagement program. • Advice was considered in structuring third party reviews. Reflected in siting process. • Regulatory steps were elaborated in final siting document.
ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES & PLANS	
<p>Throughout the year the Council received updates on the NWMO's engagement activities and plans and were invited to comment:</p> <p>In March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In light of the organization's extensive consultations and engagement activities in recent years, several Council members suggested that NWMO should be cautious in "over" engaging citizens at this time, causing engagement fatigue; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web statistics were provided to Council at the May 13, 2008 meeting.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council asked to see NWMO’s website statistics graphed over time. • The Council discussed the significance of ensuring involvement of both municipal and provincial governments in addition to the federal government as NWMO moves forward. Increasingly, local governments will become key to implementation. <p>In May: Council also was invited to comment on NWMO’s proposal for a Municipal Organization Committee and provided the following advice:</p> <p>The Council agreed that there was great value in this type of Committee as an umbrella organization that would interface with communities, and suggested the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Committee should have a good measure of independence in order to provide a safe way for a community to become informed; • NWMO should participate in the Committee to ensure deliberations support NWMO timelines for siting; • NWMO should consider developing a similar type of Aboriginal organization in parallel; • NWMO must also consider how it will engage other local or regional communities, such as unorganized townships, district councils, Aboriginal areas; • regarding the Committee’s composition, Council suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a broad membership approach, with some of the membership becoming more localized as the project progresses; and ○ two representatives from each organization for continuity over time • have clear terms of reference to clarify expectations for the Committee <p>A Council member suggested NWMO must build parameters around capacity building with municipalities to determine how, where, and when will the processes with municipalities begin and end.</p> <p>In September: The Council sought confirmation that NWMO was continuing to engage environmental groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO engaged provincial government as well as federal. Plans were advanced for engaging at the municipal level. • Advice was accepted in design and establishment of Municipal Forum. • NWMO Elders Forum and Niigani continue to meet and provide advice. • Staff confirmed NGOs continue to be briefed and invited to dialogues.

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<p>Council supported NWMO’s continued delivery of government briefings and emphasized the importance of engaging all provincial governments in nuclear provinces. Members discussed a number of key items including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perceived shifts in public attitudes towards nuclear energy; • the amount of focus NWMO might place on the topic of transportation; and • participation expected in the upcoming multi-party dialogues. <p>Emphasizing their desire to stay abreast of evolving public opinion, Council members suggested that it would be helpful to review stocktaking summaries of public opinion research regarding nuclear energy and waste and suggested adding this topic to the November Council agenda for discussion. A Council member noted that he was impressed with the amount of engagement work NWMO has conducted.</p> <p>In November: Council received a presentation from Mr. Jamie Watt to review the findings from the Citizens’ panels. Council sought clarification on the methodology used to select participants. Council discussion surrounded the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citizen perspectives on timelines for APM implementation; • the importance of retrievability to some citizens; • the trend towards a more favourable opinion about nuclear power among citizens; and • citizen interest in knowing more about the international dimension of the nuclear waste issue. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navigator presented to Council at November 2008 meeting and IPSOS presented at March 2009 meeting.
CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM	
<p>In May, the Council discussed NWMO’s proposed corporate citizenship program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council discussed alternative terms for referring to the corporate citizenship program based on feedback received at the Citizens’ panels. A Council member suggested asking the Citizens’ Panels for feedback on what makes a good corporate citizen. • The Council offered a range of possible themes and focus for the program for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program was renamed “community investment program”

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<p>NWMO's consideration including: First nations; Building best practices – dialogues on land use issues; and environmental issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council advised that NWMO consider limiting its focus to some specific areas linked to NWMO's key objectives. It was recognized the program focus may change over time as NWMO's work becomes more community specific. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO accepted this advice and created specific focus on youth and science for current period.
TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF APM	
<p>The Council was updated at every meeting on the technical program and on occasion delved into a topic in a more in-depth way.</p> <p>In March, the Council was briefed on the formation of the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG). Council was invited to suggest candidate names. Council also discussed the composition and competencies required in the group. One member recommended NWMO ensure Canadian membership in the ITRG.</p> <p>Council requested a refresher course on the technical aspects of NWMO's work.</p> <p>In May, the Council reviewed the backgrounds of the nominees for the ITRG before seeking Board approval. The Council discussed the composition of the group and a Council member noted that he was pleased to see the breadth of international experience within the proposed group. A member also commended NWMO on joining the international cooperation project with Mont Terri.</p> <p>In November, discussion of the technical program update included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council commented on the International Technical Review Group (ITRG) recommendation of further research on sedimentary rock, noting this had been an area previously recommended by Council. <p>Also in November, the ITRG Chair, Dr. Hooper joined the meeting to present the first ITRG report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were pleased to see the ITRG recommendation for further research in sedimentary rock. It was noted that two areas the ITRG are planning to review in further detail are sedimentary research and monitoring / 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the ITRG members is from the University of Alberta • Presentation was provided at May 13, 2008 Council meeting. Follow up session planned for 2010. • Technical staff have been added to NWMO through hires in 2008-2010.

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<p>retrievability. Council pursued the ITRG recommendation for greater in-house technical resources of NWMO. The President confirmed that resourcing would be addressed accordingly.</p>	
BUSINESS PLANNING	
<p>In March, the Council was invited to review NWMO's draft Implementation plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council provided detailed feedback on all aspects of the draft Implementation Plan. • Specific suggestions included placing the strategic objectives into the executive summary, increasing the level of attention on transportation, further clarifying NWMO's proposed process for adapting to change, specifically the issue of new build, and more demonstration of NWMO's ongoing commitment to include ethical considerations in its work. <p>In September, the Council reviewed NWMO's proposed 2009-2013 business planning assumptions. Council reviewed and commented on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the budget allocation and the breath of consultations for the planning period; • the L&ILW DGR project and NWMO's role in constructing that project; and • the importance of addressing transportation considerations and the regulatory regime for transportation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions were incorporated into plans.
REGULATORY	
<p>In September, Council noted the importance of transparent communication of the regulatory steps to enable interested organizations to prepare in advance for their participation.</p> <p>In November Council members inquired as to the status of the protocol with the CNSC. It was reported that the development of the protocol with the CNSC continues to progress.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation has been elaborated in the siting materials. • NWMO has since finalized protocol with CNSC.
NIIGANI	
<p>In November, the Advisory Council met with Niigani, and provided the following</p>	

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<p>comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members acknowledged the importance of understanding Traditional Knowledge. Council commented on Niigani's views regarding consultation and agreed that the next steps are critical. Council members discussed youth engagement and believe NWMO has been given a clear message that further involvement of Aboriginal youth is required. It was also noted that the issue of neutralizing the waste or being able to use it as a resource is something the Council has also discussed at length. A Council member noted that APM is about giving NWMO the time to recognize that there might be other management approaches down the road, and the importance of staying abreast of new developments. Several Council members encouraged Council members to hold further meetings with Niigani. A Council member suggested that a ceremony for the production and use of nuclear energy and the gifts of Mother Earth should be conducted at a nuclear facility such as Darlington. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth engagement is an important part of Niigani and Elders Forum focus. Council agreed to meet with Niigani and receive cultural training on March 9, 2009. Council met again with Niigani in November of 2009.
ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT	
<p>In March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council received an update on recent Aboriginal engagement and asked questions relating to the level of interest in technical knowledge received from Aboriginal groups and whether natural analogues are helpful in describing the NWMO's work. Council also agreed that seeking opportunities to speak about NWMO at existing gatherings or meetings is a helpful method for avoiding engagement fatigue. <p>In May:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council discussed how to ensure the knowledge in Aboriginal communities is equal to that of other participants as NWMO moves into the discussion on the collaborative design of the siting process. Council had a lengthy discussion regarding how NWMO might effectively engage Aboriginal people at the community level. Council cautioned NWMO about moving too quickly, ahead of Aboriginal communities' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural analogues have been addressed in briefings. This advice has been accepted in NWMO's approach to engagement. Niigani is leading a project to advise NWMO on community engagement.

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<p>understanding of the project. Council suggested working with the Aboriginal organizations or communities to develop two or three pilot projects at the local level to work with communities to learn how best to engage at the community level.</p> <p>In September, Council discussed some of the proposed protocols being developed with Aboriginal groups. The Council flagged issues for consideration, such as the interrelationship between Aboriginal communities and non-Aboriginal communities in engagement programs and urged Aboriginal engagement at regional and local levels concurrently.</p> <p>Council also reviewed NWMO's proposed Aboriginal policy. Council provided specific feedback for the policy and the structure of the document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO engages Aboriginal organizations at national and provincial levels, as well as regional levels. Engagement will evolve to local level as siting begins • Aboriginal Policy amended with Council comments.
YOUTH	
<p>In March, Council reviewed NWMO's draft youth engagement plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member felt that it might be difficult to engage and sustain the interest of young people while in this broad stage of engagement. • Council also expressed concern as to how NWMO might ensure broad perspective of youth on the Council rather than a segment of youth who are specifically interested in the topic of nuclear fuel waste management. • There was discussion regarding attracting youth by broadening the context for discussion to sustainability. • NWMO was encouraged to seek opportunities within the context of its corporate citizenship program to support youth engagement and capacity building. <p>In May: The Council also discussed the objectives for the youth engagement strategy and its desired outcomes. NWMO noted the strong support for involving youth, to enhance understanding of nuclear issues for future generations and in recognition of the ethical dimension of incorporating opinions of youth on decisions that will have impacts into the future.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments were taken into account as NWMO evolved its youth strategy. <p>Suggestions were incorporated into the Youth strategy and an update was provided May 13 in the written engagement report.</p>

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TRANSPORTATION	
<p>In March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council members suggested that the issue of transportation should be assigned greater focus in NWMO's plans and documents and that it will be a critical component of NWMO's work <p>In November,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council requested information or research that NWMO has available regarding transportation. A Council member recalled viewing a video showing the testing of transportation containers under a number of scenarios and suggested this may be of interest to other members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWMO is working with federal and provincial authorities and CNSC. NWMO has developed broader range of communications on transportation. Sent Council information on transportation on January 19, 2009 and Council received presentation on transportation on May 27, 2009. Videos were presented to Council.
EVOLVING EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE	
<p>In March, Council members Dr. Rozon's and Lister's paper was presented which discussed the possible utilization of the fluoride volatility method for reprocessing fuel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council agreed to refer Dr. Rozon and Dr. Lister's work to NWMO for consideration, but are not suggesting NWMO undertake a specific work program on this issue. Mr. Frank King offered to meet with Dr. Rozon and Dr. Lister to have a more in-depth technical discussion on the issue. At the request of Council, the President agreed staff would report back in future as to NWMO's consideration of and actions on, this item. <p>In September, the Council held a discussion on NWMO's commitment to continually review, adjust and validate plans in light of the changing external environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council asked to review NWMO's annual work on the potential technical, social and ethical implications of reactor refurbishment and new nuclear build on Adaptive Phased Management and the work prepared on advances in reprocessing and other technologies. Council discussed NWMO's plans to estimate cost implications of new nuclear build. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. King met with Drs. Rozon and Lister for a more in-depth discussion. No further action has been reported. Annual report on Reprocessing and the "technical design implications of potential changes in volumes and types of used fuel to be managed" provided to Council on March 10-09. NWMO will provide Council with new materials (2010) on reprocessing.

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OPG L&ILW DGR	
<p>In May: The Council discussed the importance of NWMO's continued focus on Adaptive Phased Management while engaging in building the DGR for low and intermediate level waste. Council also discussed the possible political and social risks of NWMO assuming this role and the mechanics of the staffing model for both projects.</p> <p>In September, Council further discussed NWMO's broadened responsibilities in support of project management of Ontario Power Generation's (OPG's) Low & Intermediate Level Waste (L&ILW) deep geological repository (DGR):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council discussed whether it has a role in advising NWMO on these additional matters and different services NWMO may provide. Recognizing that NWMO's mandate is growing beyond used fuel management, the Council identified the need for clarity on the legal scope of the Advisory Council mandate. • The Council Chairman requested that NWMO report back on the legal interpretation of scope of Council's mandate under the <i>Nuclear Fuel Waste Act</i>, to enable consideration of the appropriate breadth of its mandate for providing counsel. 	<p>In November, the Council discussed their mandate in relation to commenting on the OPG L&ILW DGR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council agreed that it is important to continue to be advised on developments in the L&ILW DGR project, but the focus of their work would remain on the implementation of APM. • Legal opinion was provided at the November meeting. While Council will stay abreast of the L&ILW DGR activities, its advice will remain focused on APM. • A Council member asked if the opinion disallowed Council from advising on the L&ILW DGR. Mr. Nash clarified that while the Council is not mandated to advise on the L&ILW DGR, it should be kept informed on the project and any impacts that may relate to Adaptive Phased Management (APM). Mr. Nash also noted that there are advisory groups already in place for the DGR. • Regular updates have been provided to Council on the work on OPG's L&ILW DGR project.
NWMO STAFFING	
<p>The Council asked to be kept informed on the skills and expertise NWMO is hiring in the technical program. NWMO undertook to provide an update.</p>	<p>An update on new technical staff hired has been provided to the Council on several occasions.</p>

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COUNCIL BUSINESS	
<p>In September, Council commented that they found the matrix that tracks action taken on Council recommendations from the Study to be a useful tool for monitoring how their recommendations had been addressed by NWMO.</p> <p>In November, Council participated in a site tour of the Darlington Plant and waste management facility, also receiving a presentation on new build.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly advice tracking matrices being provided to Council.
STATUS OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS	
<p>Council requested opportunities to stay updated on international developments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In September, to keep Council abreast on developments in other counties, management arranged for Eero Patrakka, the head of Finland's waste management program to present to the Council. President provides regular updates at each meeting.