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CANADIANS WANT TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION:

PHASE ONE THEMES

Canadians have made clear what they expect from the NWMO as it proceeds with its study of long-term management options for used nuclear fuel. "Whether meeting with nuclear workers in Quebec or citizen representatives in New Brunswick, we were told we have to be transparent and we have to provide a baseline of neutral, fact-based information," said President Elizabeth Dowdeswell.

Ms. Dowdeswell initiated more than 250 face-to-face conversations with individuals and representatives of organizations during the first phase of the NWMO study. Called Conversations About Expectations, the early informal discussions were designed to introduce the organization and to ask people how they wanted to be included in its Study Plan. The plan, which is posted on the NWMO website, is a product of those discussions and will continue to evolve through the course of the NWMO study in response



"We must have the public interest at heart." Elizabeth Dowdeswell, NWMO President

to ongoing conversations. A more detailed report on the first phase of the NWMO study will be made available in the coming weeks.

To assist meaningful participation in the dialogue, the NWMO has commissioned a series of papers providing information about nuclear waste management issues. Prepared by a diversity of knowledgeable individuals, the papers examine the current status of nuclear fuel waste and outline preliminary descriptions of various approaches for its long-term management. All will be posted on the NWMO website for comment and discussion.

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84% OF CANADIANS SUPPORT NWMO ACTIVATING CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT WILL BE A CHALLENGE

Most Canadians aren't aware of the NWMO but, when told about it, 84% of them support the organization and its mandate. That is one of the findings of a recent cross-country telephone survey of 1901 Canadians by Navigator Ltd.

The challenge will be engaging people in public dialogue. While 69% of respondents said they were highly or somewhat interested in the issue of managing used nuclear fuel, and more than half think the public should be involved in finding a solution, only 17%

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Join the dialogue today!

TRUST FUNDS - A SOLID FOUNDATION

Canadian nuclear waste owners have established trust funds to pay for long-term waste management activities. Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec, NB Power and AECL were required by the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act to set up the funds in keeping with the Government of Canada's "polluter pays" principle.

Audited statements of the trusts are posted on the NWMO website and indicate that the companies have made the following initial contributions:

Ontario Power Generation	\$ 500,000,000
Hydro Quebec	\$ 20,000,000
NB Power	\$ 20,000,000
Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd.	\$ 10,000,000

"Canadians now have a clear indication that the nuclear industry intends to meet all of its financial responsibilities for the long term," said Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal about the trust funds.

The companies are required to continue making annual payments into the trust funds which will accumulate and not be tapped until a construction or operating licence has been issued to implement the waste management approach decided upon by the government. ■

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CANADIANS WANT TRANSPARENCY AND INFORMATION

PHASE TWO ON TRACK

Phase two of the Study Plan, Exploring the Fundamental Issues, is well underway. A key milestone will be release of the first major NWMO discussion document. It will be shaped by a broad-based e-dialogue with citizens and a number of specific topical meetings, workshops and sessions. A scenarios workshop in June and August brought together a multi-interest team to discuss likely future conditions that may face any long-term nuclear waste management approach. A dialogue forum with nuclear host communities and a traditional knowledge workshop are among other planned activities.

Expected this fall, the discussion document will describe various management approaches being considered and outline the key questions that might be used to assess them. A preliminary description of the approach



Scenarios Workshop:
Astronaut Rusty Schweickart leads session

being taken to develop the analytical framework has been posted on the NWMO website. The first discussion document will form the basis for an intensive period of in-depth citizen dialogue and discussion activities to ensure that the NWMO's study and recommendations reflect the values and priorities of Canadians. ■

EVALUATING MANAGEMENT APPROACHES

"We want to keep people informed of our thinking at every stage of the study."

— Elizabeth Dowdeswell,
NWMO President

Phase three of the NWMO study plan will first see the various waste management options assessed through the analytical framework

that emerges, and then will culminate in a draft study report which will include preliminary recommendations. "We want to keep people informed of our thinking at every stage of the study, and to ensure that insights from our dialogue are continually integrated into our work," said Ms. Dowdeswell. "By the time we report to the Minister in November, 2005 there should be no surprises," she added.

The NWMO study and engagement plans, as developed to date, are posted at: www.nwmo.ca ■

Be Involved

The NWMO wants Canadians to become involved and help shape its study of nuclear waste management approaches. We're using electronic and face-to-face methods to dialogue with you and ensure your values and concerns are considered. Let your ideas and perspectives be known.

SUBSCRIBE TO NWMO E-MAIL LISTS

Visit www.nwmo.ca



WEBSITE ACTIVE

www.nwmo.ca

The NWMO website is proving to be an important tool among the range of innovative mechanisms the organization is employing to engage Canadians in a dialogue about the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Since going online earlier this year www.nwmo.ca has seen the average number of monthly "hits" grow by more than 30 percent and the average number of unique monthly visitors more than double.

Launching the website in January, NWMO president Elizabeth Dowdeswell said she expected it to evolve and "provide a dynamic virtual environment where people can learn more about the issues of nuclear waste management and help shape how they are addressed." The organization developed the site to become a central repository for submissions, reports, studies and research. It also features a number of interactive mechanisms including a survey tool and e-dialogue capability to facilitate public involvement throughout the study process.

Recent postings include the NWMO Study and Engagement Plans. The Study Plan describes the work and milestones expected to occur over the next two and a half years. And, the Engagement Plan provides a general description of the overall process and a discussion of activities contemplated for Phase 2 of the study.

Major upcoming content will include a series of background papers on the current state of knowledge about radioactive waste, and an initial discussion about how the questions that will be used to assess various management options should be developed.

In a recent statement, Canada's Natural Resources Minister Herb Dhaliwal said the NWMO dialogue is "enhanced by using modern tools of communication." He encouraged Canadians to use the web to make their views known. ■

Visit www.nwmo.ca ►

Visitors to www.nwmo.ca can review information like the audited financial statements of trust funds that nuclear waste producers have established to finance the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. NWMO reports, news releases, fact sheets and speeches are also available.



MINISTER COMMENTS ON ANNUAL REPORT



Dhaliwal:
"Impressive Beginning"

The Hon. Herb Dhaliwal, Minister of Natural Resources Canada has responded to the NWMO's first Annual Report. In his statement, the minister said that "much effort has been spent in a relatively short period of time since the establishment of the NWMO in October 2002."

He pointed to several accomplishments including:

- **The formation of an organizational structure**
- **The establishment of trust funds by the nuclear utilities and AECL**
- **The deposit of first payments into those trust funds (see Trust Funds)**
- **The establishment of an Advisory Council**
- **The beginning of public consultations**

Minister Dhaliwal noted that President Elizabeth Dowdeswell has "made certain

that public input is sought at the outset on NWMO activities and proposed plans." The NWMO Annual Report had described phase one of the organization's work, Conversations About Expectations, in which the public would be invited to help shape the work plan by defining how they wish to be consulted.

In discussing what he called an "impressive beginning" to the dialogue on the next steps in the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, the minister encouraged all Canadians to make their views known. He said he is looking forward to a solution that has the confidence of the Canadian public. ■

NWMO

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been established under the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA) to investigate approaches for managing Canada's used nuclear fuel, a by-product of electricity generation in a nuclear power plant. If not managed properly, it is hazardous to humans and the environment for a very long time. The NWMO must submit its study of approaches for the long-term management of nuclear waste, along with a recommended approach, to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada by Nov. 15, 2005. The Government of Canada is authorized to decide on the approach, which will then be implemented by the NWMO, subject to all of the necessary approvals. ■

DIRECTORS COMMITTED TO NFWA

The NWMO Board of Directors is doing its part to fulfill the requirements of the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act. Even before the legislation came into force in November, 2002, the directors - representing Canada's nuclear energy corporations - incorporated the NWMO and appointed its president.

Early initiatives of the board included developing governance structures for the organization, and committing to a cost sharing formula which provides secure funding for its operations. Establishing an Advisory Council was another important requirement of the NFWA met by the board.

Chair Richard Dicerni has said that the board remains committed to fulfilling all of its legislated responsibilities and to "ensuring a full public dialogue" as the NWMO works to complete its study. ■

ADVISORY COUNCIL – ACTIVELY ENGAGED

"The NWMO Advisory Council intends to play a meaningful and substantive role," said the Hon. David Crombie after he was named chair of the group. And, indeed they have. The council has been actively engaged providing ongoing advice and guidance to the organization above and beyond the legislative requirement that it independently review and comment on the NWMO study and the waste management approaches that are considered.

The Advisory Council has been meeting since its appointment in October, 2002 to be briefed on issues and to review and comment on aspects of the NWMO study plan. Individual members have participated with President Dowdeswell in community visits and discussions. Several toured a nuclear generating station to learn about current nuclear waste storage practises and a number



Crombie: "meaningful and substantive role"

travelled to the deep geological disposal facility at Yucca Mountain to increase their understanding of one approach to the long-term management of nuclear waste.

"We welcome and encourage the active involvement of the Advisory Council," said Elizabeth Dowdeswell. "They are significant guarantors of the public interest," she added. ■

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84% OF CANADIANS SUPPORT NWMO

said they preferred to be extremely or very involved in the process.

Canadians admit their own limited familiarity with used nuclear fuel and suggest that first and foremost, Canadian and international scientists and engineers in the nuclear energy industry have an important role to play in informing the recommendations of the NWMO. Second only to those professionals, 69% of people surveyed said it is extremely or very important for the NWMO process to involve representatives of communities with nuclear power plants.

These and the other findings from the research reveal that nuclear waste is an issue that Canadians don't think about, but care about, and that when the NWMO's work is complete, the public will want to know a wide range of interests, opinions and experts informed the recommendations.

The Navigator poll was conducted from April 22 to May 9, 2003. Results have been weighted using 2001 Statistics Canada data and are accurate within 2.25%, 19 times out of 20. A full report of results can be found on the NWMO website at www.nwmo.ca. ■