Economic Effects:
One Consideration in Fostering Well-Being

The NWMO continues to learn from communities about the many dimensions of well-being that are important to people in an area. Economics is just one aspect. For some, Spirit is at the core. Conversations continue about the many aspects of well-being that need to be considered.

MANY DIMENSIONS OF WELL-BEING

People:
- Employment
- Training
- Opportunities for population growth

Infrastructure:
- Water and wastewater
- Schools and libraries
- Emergency services
- Roads

Environment:
- Land
- Livable communities
- Protection of environmental values

Community and Culture:
- Enhancement of community values
- Ways of life
- Cultural traditions

Economics and Finance:
- Economic diversity
- Revenue

About the Economic Model

The NWMO commissioned development of a model to help understand the economic effects associated with Canada's long-term plan for used nuclear fuel. This information will be used to facilitate conversations with communities involved in the site selection process. The model uses a commodity-based approach and economic multiplier information derived from Statistics Canada's Interprovincial Input-Output Model of the Canadian Economy. These are initial estimates that provide a general idea of expected job numbers, based on currently available information.

A more detailed report describing the model and the work conducted to date is available at www.nwmo.ca/BlindRiver, under "What We're Doing".

Working Together

The NWMO is committed to working with communities to understand and explore how the project could foster well-being in their area. Through working together to plan the implementation of the project, we can optimize and direct economic benefits associated with the project to support communities' preferences and aspirations. Plans may consider elements such as training programs for local and regional residents, purchasing policies that give preference to local or regional products and services, support for new businesses, and local infrastructure development to serve the project.

We will work with communities to optimize and direct economic benefits to support well-being in the area.

Project Economics: Employment

BLIND RIVER

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is implementing a collaborative process to select a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained and isolated in a deep geological repository. We are committed to working with municipal, First Nation and Métis communities in potential siting areas. This work includes exploring how the project might foster local well-being.

To help understand the economic effects the project would have in potential siting areas, we have developed models that provide initial estimates. By working together to implement the project, we can optimize and direct economic benefits to meet community expectations and needs. Confirming a safe site with an informed and willing host will take several years of progressively more detailed technical, environmental, social, economic, and cultural studies.

Twenty-two communities, including Blind River, Ontario, expressed interest in learning about Canada's plan and their potential to host the project. We are still conducting preliminary assessments in the vicinity of nine of these communities, including Blind River. These studies assess each area's potential to meet technical requirements, as well as the potential for the project to foster well-being.

Once all safety requirements are met, the NWMO has committed to implementing the project in a way that fosters well-being in the area as defined by people living there.
If the project proceeds in the area, it will create many jobs in and around the Blind River area. During the construction phase, we expect the project will create an average of 1,230 jobs per year for local residents. During the operations phase, we expect the number of jobs for local residents will increase to an average of 1,520 per year. In both cases, this includes direct, indirect and induced employment.

Given the project’s extended time frame, there would be many opportunities for people living in the area. New families would be attracted to the area and would also contribute to area communities.