



NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION  
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES



April 2018

## Guiding principles for exploring partnership – Community conversations update

Over the past several months, a series of workshops and discussions were conducted in South Bruce. Their focus was to develop a set of principles that will guide the way we talk together and further explore the Adaptive Phased Management project. This is important as we begin a new phase of more detailed exploration of this project.

The principles will help guide community and NWMO discussions to explore what it would mean if the Adaptive Phased Management project were implemented in South Bruce, including how we might come together in a partnership to implement the project. Over time, these discussions will also involve First Nation and Métis communities, as well as others in the area.

### Principles to guide discussions

- Safety must be first and foremost.
- The environment must be protected.
- Trust and transparency; decision-making must be open and honest.
- Communications need to be clear, concise and readily understood.
- Inclusive and collaborative. We must work together collaboratively.
- Community betterment is important. There must be a broad benefit across the community now and in the future.
- Regional involvement. The region must be involved, and there should be benefit to the region now and in the future.

## Summary of activities and community discussions about principles

### Purpose of these community discussions

South Bruce is one of several communities in Ontario learning about Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel (Adaptive Phased Management), and exploring the possibility of hosting the associated deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise and other project components.

Since 2012, South Bruce has been involved in a process of learning about the project and assessing whether it could be a good fit for the community, as part of the site selection process led by the NWMO. Preliminary studies conducted to date suggest the project has the potential to be implemented safely in South Bruce, and align with South Bruce's future plans – including vision, mission, guiding principles, and goals for the community – as outlined in the *Municipality of South Bruce Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019* and a number of other community reports.

South Bruce and the NWMO are working together to begin more detailed discussions to explore, over the next several years, what it would mean if the project were implemented in the community.

The purpose of the recently completed community workshops and discussions was to develop guiding values and principles to set the groundwork for these more detailed conversations. These principles will set the foundation for the way in which South Bruce and the NWMO will talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project.

### Exploring the potential for partnership

The project will only be implemented at a site that meets robust safety criteria. Once safety criteria have been met, the ability to develop a supportive partnership is an important consideration in selecting a preferred location for the project. This partnership would need to begin with South Bruce, and also seek involvement of First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area.

In order to explore the potential for partnership, this next phase of more detailed discussions will consider how the project might be configured in order to align with South Bruce's priorities and objectives. It will also explore the investments which would be made in the near term and the longer term associated with the project, and how the broader area would be involved.

Ultimately, the project will only be implemented in the area if a safe site for the repository can be identified, if South Bruce is willing, and if a supportive partnership can be developed.

## Engaging the Community

Over the past several months, the NWMO and Municipality of South Bruce hosted multiple workshops and project information briefings, and engaged in conversations to gather community member input and feedback on the values and principles that should guide future discussions. The community workshops were advertised in local newspapers, and a community mail-out was sent via direct mail to all property owners in the municipality.

Community workshops took place on the following dates:

Oct. 30, 2017 Municipal staff workshop  
Nov. 9, 2017 Council and Community Liaison Committee (CLC) meeting  
Nov. 27, 2017 Community workshops: Formosa (evening)  
Nov. 28, 2017 Community workshop: Formosa (daytime)  
Nov. 29, 2017 Community workshop: Teeswater (morning and evening)  
Nov. 30, 2017 Community workshop: Mildmay (evening)  
Jan. 18, 2018 Community workshop: Mildmay (evening)  
April 5, 2018 Community open house: Teeswater (afternoon/evening)

At each of the workshops in November and January, NWMO staff provided a brief project overview, and South Bruce staff presented a summary of the municipality's involvement in the project to date. NWMO staff explained the importance of partnership in the criteria for selecting a preferred site for the project and in the discussions that are planned over the next several years. Following the presentations, participants broke into working groups for discussions, with a workbook and question sheet as tools. This material was developed in advance by South Bruce and NWMO staff members working together. After each working session, a spokesperson for each group reported on the comments and priorities that emerged during their group's discussion. Note takers were present to record the comments and suggestions. In addition to the community workshops, some residents shared their comments by dropping by the community office.

The NWMO reviewed and refined these draft principles with municipal staff, and then presented the draft principles to the Municipality of South Bruce CLC in March for consideration and comment. Following these meetings, the community and the NWMO hosted an open house on April 5 to give the community another opportunity to provide input on the draft principles that emerged during the community workshops. A separate workbook was created for the open house to encourage further reflection on the draft principles and provide comments or feedback at a later date.

### Focus of discussion

The principles emerged from community discussions on three key questions:

1. Values and principles are important because they will guide the way South Bruce and the NWMO talk and work with each other during more detailed conversations about the project. What values or principles – i.e., rules or requirements – should guide discussions and future decision-making between South Bruce and the NWMO? Why are these values and principles important?
2. What should we avoid doing while having partnership discussions?
3. Other suggestions or rules that should be considered?

These principles were the focus of further discussion at a community open house:

1. Have we covered what is most important? Are there important values and principles that should be added?
2. Each value and principle has a short description. Can you suggest refinements to these descriptions that would make them clearer or the principles stronger?
3. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

## Principles identified by the community

Seven principles emerged from these community discussions.

**1. Safety – Safety is first and foremost.**

It is essential that the project be safe across its lifespan of construction, operation and into the distant future. People need to feel confident that the project will not be a source of health problems. They must feel safe and secure for the long period of time used nuclear fuel requires management.

**2. Environment – The environment must be protected, including precious waters, land and air.**

Environmental protection stands alongside health and safety. The area has unique natural resources and a rich agricultural heritage. These resources must not be compromised. It is essential they be safeguarded across the whole lifespan of the project.

**3. Trust and transparency – Discussions and decision-making must be open and honest.**

A successful partnership rests on the cornerstones of trust, transparency, accountability, and respect. All partnership actions and decisions should be grounded on these values.

**4. Communication – Project communications and discussions need to be understood by a broad audience. Communications are concise, consistent, and encourage dialogue.**

Communications need to be clear, concise and readily understood. Increased awareness within the community needs to be generated, and outreach to neighbours needs to take place. Learning must be ongoing, and the community needs to be actively involved.

**5. Inclusive and collaborative – We will work together collaboratively.**

All negatives and positives will be heard. There are no exclusions. We seek opportunities to engage our youth.

**6. Community betterment – There must be a broad benefit across the community now and in the future.**

Project benefits must extend across the community. The project should be a platform for the future, including providing opportunities for youth. It should inspire innovation and managed growth in the community – physically, financially and socially. It should recognize, support and enhance the unique character and attributes of community, and ensure they are not compromised.

**7. Regional involvement – The region must be engaged, and there should be benefit to the region now and in the future.**

The project must have benefit beyond the community. To help ensure this takes place, neighbours need to learn about the project and be involved in implementation.

## Next steps

With these guiding principles as a foundation, next steps involve getting into the details of the individual facilities and components associated with the project. This will help build community understanding of the project and its various components, and pave the way for reflecting on where facilities might be located in the area, investments that would be required in the near and longer term to support implementation of the project, and how others in the area might be involved if the project were implemented in the area.

Ongoing engagement, discussions and learning may suggest refinements to these principles over time. These principles will be reviewed and refined as needed through these detailed discussions.

## Other comments

During the workshops, people also shared suggestions on next steps, and how to get more people involved in learning and discussions.

- Increase proactive engagement to increase community understanding of, and involvement in, the Adaptive Phased Management project.
- Help build awareness of the nuclear presence already located in the area and capabilities in the region.
- Build understanding of the need for the Adaptive Phased Management project and why the interim storage of today is not a long-term solution.
- Collaborate to develop and understand the project steps that lie ahead, the potential project implications for the community, and potential uses for the balance of site.
- Begin planning how best to undertake and communicate the process for soliciting and acquiring land for the repository site.
- Continue to build community capacity to advance discussions about the project and explore partnership.

## Learn more

Review the history of South Bruce's involvement in the site selection process: <https://www.nwmo.ca/en/Site-selection/Study-Areas/South-Bruce>

Review the *Municipality of South Bruce Corporate Strategic Plan 2014 – 2019* and other community reports: <http://www.town.southbruce.on.ca/content/government/south-bruce-corporate-strategic-plan-2014-updated-oct-7-2014.pdf>

Review the activities of the South Bruce Community Liaison Committee: <http://clcinfo.ca/southbruce/>

Read about the NWMO, Canada's plan and the site selection process: [www.nwmo.ca](http://www.nwmo.ca)