

## Minister's Statement on the 2006 (NWMO) Annual Report

Natural Resources Canada  
June 19, 2007

On March 21, 2007, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) submitted its fifth annual report, as required by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste (NFW) Act*. The 2006 annual report highlights the activities carried out by the (NWMO) in anticipation of a government decision on the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

On June 14, 2007, the Government of Canada announced its acceptance of the long-term plan, the Adaptive Phased Management approach, as the best option for managing Canada's used nuclear fuel. This approach includes the isolation and containment of the used fuel in a deep geologic repository, with an option for temporary shallow underground storage. This safe, long-term approach will ensure that used nuclear fuel is monitored and retrievable. It is designed to take advantage of emerging energy technologies, including the future possibility of recycling used nuclear fuel.

In 2006, the (NWMO) focused on its transition from an organization tasked with studying options for managing used nuclear fuel to an agency responsible for implementing the selected management approach. Some of the key highlights in the 2006 annual report include:

- expanding the board's membership with the appointment of three new members;
- developing a new membership agreement and a new bylaw to support implementation;
- continuing dialogue and information sharing with Aboriginal peoples;
- building on outreach and communications efforts with citizens and stakeholders;
- strengthening and broadening the social and ethical research capacity;
- enhancing and building technical and scientific capabilities for a research program; and
- designing and launching an internship program to attract talented people to the (NWMO).

The report also highlights the financial contributions made by Ontario Power Generation, New Brunswick Power, Hydro-Québec, and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited. Since the NFW Act was passed in 2002, almost \$1 billion has been invested in trust funds by the nuclear energy corporations for the eventual construction of a storage facility. Over the next several years, these funds will continue to grow, assuring Canadians that the owners of used nuclear fuel will be able to meet all of the financial costs associated with its long-term management.

Our Government will ensure that the long-term management of used nuclear fuel is carried out in a safe, comprehensive manner and in the best interests of Canadians. The activities outlined in the (NWMO) 2006 annual report position the organization to carry out its mandate in accordance with the NFW Act.

— The Honourable Gary Lunn, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Natural Resources Canada