

11 January 2010

TO: Nuclear Waste Management Organization
22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6th Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 2S3

FROM: J.W. (Hans) Albarda

Dear NWMO

Thanks for sending me the "Adaptive Phased Management 2010 to 2014 Draft for Review". I have been involved with this issue for some time. One of these connections took place when I was a member of the Ontario Hydro Nuclear Environmental Advisory Group. I had to withdraw from this group when I moved to Nova Scotia, but I am glad to help in any way possible now anyway. I am a retired prof., as you can probably tell from the following comments.

The copy of the booklet on which you asked me to comment, had mixed-up pages. The content did not follow the table of contents, and there were duplicate pages (and perhaps missing pages, too). Perhaps I am the only one on your mailing-list who received such a mixed-up version, or perhaps not. You could check on this as this work is much too important to mix up.

My next comment also involved pedagogy. The list of "Strategic Objectives" needs to be re-written. In my classroom, I would have given this an "f". The problem is that active verbs are consistently used in describing the objectives. An objective is usually not a process....think about that...an objective is a result or outcome of a process. So I had difficulty in reading this. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES should read:

Long-term relationships will exist with interested Canadians and Aboriginal Peoples of Canada and their involvement in future...etc.

The establishment of a process to site....etc.

The more refined and developed generic designs....etc

The availability of funds to pay for the safe...etc.

My next point is that this document describes a process which aims at involving all interested Canadians and Aboriginals in Canada. This is repeated throughout the booklet. What is largely overlooked is that the storage of nuclear spent-fuel is an issue which has a very much broader span. The problem of storing spent nuclear fuel is a problem which lasts many thousands of years. It is safe to say that the problem will outlast Canada. Canada is only 143 years old, what would lead anyone to believe that it will last twice that long, or a thousand times?

I am not suggesting that Canadians and Aboriginal Canadians should not be involved in the handling of the nuclear spent-fuel problem, but what I am saying is that we have a problem here that is of concern to all humanity. So this pertains to Question #1 on your "Share Your Thoughts" sheet. Throughout your booklet you refer to "Canadians and Aboriginal Canadians". This often repeated phrase should read, "all peoples of the world, including Canadians and Aboriginal Canadians". The values and concerns of everyone on our planet must be invited, collected and included. Nowhere is this more important than on page 23, where NWMO Members and Board Members are described. Membership must be world-wide. We're dealing with an issue which is very definitely of worldwide scope.

On the questionnaire, you also ask, "Have we missed key areas?" (concerning the seven strategic objectives). Yes. An eighth objective should be added. This should read, "The establishment of an on-going study team which would have the goal of constantly keeping nuclear waste production to a minimum, thereby shrinking the problem of what to do with increasing amounts of future high level nuclear waste." This team should consist of nuclear physicists, experts from other forms of energy production, and professionals who specialize in energy efficiency and conservation.

These are my ideas concerning implementing adaptive phased management.

Thank you for inviting me to contribute. Please keep me informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ALBARDA". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. Above the signature is a horizontal line that starts under the first letter and extends to the right, ending under the last letter.

J.W. (Hans) Albarda