

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: December 1, 2015 Meeting**

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /  
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,  
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST On December 1, 2015

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie, Council Chairman  
David Cameron, Vice Chairman  
Joseph Cavalancia  
Dean Jacobs  
Eva Ligeti  
Derek Lister  
Dougal McCreath  
Donald Obonsawin  
Linda Thompson

Advisory Council Members - Regrets:

Diane Kelly

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash                      President and CEO  
Kathryn Shaver              VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection  
Gillian Morris                Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel      Director, APM Geoscience  
Jo-Ann Facella                Director, Social Research & Dialogue  
John Fraser                    Director, Community Engagement  
Lisa Frizzell                  Director, Corporate Affairs  
Joe Gaboury                   Director, Aboriginal Relations  
Paul Gierszewski              Director, Safety & Licensing (items 9-14)  
Chris Hatton                   Director, Nuclear Design & Transportation (items 9-14)  
Monique Hobbs                Siting Project Coordination Manager  
Elena Mantagaris              Director, Government & External Relations  
Bob Watts                      Director, Aboriginal Community Relations (items 4-14)  
Derek Wilson                  VP, Design and Construction (items 9-14)

Guest:

Dr. Peter Kaiser                Chair, NWMO Geoscientific Review Group (Item 6)

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

### **1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed as written.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items**

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the meeting convened on September 21, 2015.

## **STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO**

### **3. President's Report**

Mr. Nash reported on the following recent activities in the NWMO work program:

- NWMO is finalizing the five-year update to the lifecycle cost estimate which will be taken to the Board for approval in February 2016;
- Work has been completed on the 2016-2020 Business plan which is consistent with lifecycle reference plan and for which Board approval will be sought;
- Site selection continues to progress well with all Phase 1 assessments now complete and studies continue to advance in Phase 2 study areas;
- Discussions will continue on opportunities to build capacity for near-term benefits to communities;
- OPG's low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) DGR waits for a government decision, now deferred until March 2016;
- A number of changes in the Canadian nuclear industry were recently announced in relation to refurbishing reactors;
- Internationally, Posiva in Finland received the world's first construction license for a used fuel DGR; and
- NWMO continues to make arrangements to host visits of other international waste management organizations.

### **4. APM Overview and Risk Assessment**

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management highlighted key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation.

### **5. APM Site Selection Process: Status Update**

Management provided the Council with a detailed review of the status of the site selection process. Ms. Shaver reported that NWMO met an important milestone completing the last Phase 1 preliminary assessment, which was for Central Huron. Ms. Mantagaris reported that the Phase 1 assessment findings had been delivered to Central Huron in late October, and that those findings confirmed that Central Huron was eligible to continue on in the siting process should it wish to do so. It was noted that this now concludes the 21 Phase 1 assessments requested by communities.

Progress in delivering Phase 2 site assessments and engagement was reviewed for each siting study areas. Council members received a thorough briefing on recent activities in regional siting areas and a report on NWMO's progress against plan. Council

members were also briefed on the rollout of the 2016-2020 Implementation Plan with communities.

Discussion with Council followed:

- Council members discussed NWMO's future plans for narrowing down communities during Phase 2. In responding to Council, management confirmed that there was not a prescribed number or scope for the next round of narrowing down – findings from initial studies and engagement would inform the future narrowing down, at a point in time when that information was fully analyzed.
- Council felt it important that NWMO have a solid understanding of support in remaining siting communities before areas are further screened down.
- Council members also had discussion on the narrowing down of communities to one preferred site. Management noted that while there may be an in-depth assessment of multiple sites, a center of expertise would be built and a regulatory process initiated for only one final site selected as the preferred location.
- Advisory Council members asked questions about how NWMO would contract companies for highly specialized drilling. Management reported that NWMO is working on an approach for contracting.
- Also discussed were NWMO's plans for building offices and future staffing in siting areas. In responding to Council questions, NWMO reported that it hoped to hire local engagement staff in the siting communities.

Council discussed NWMO's plans to support capacity building and sought clarification if this was just for the selected site at the end of the process. Management confirmed that NWMO's intent is to begin to invest in training and capacity building opportunities in all Phase 2 siting study areas. This would offer near-term benefits to communities by building portable, transferable skills.

## **6. Report from APM Geoscientific Review Group (GRG) Chair**

Dr. Peter Kaiser, the Chair of the GRG presented a review of NWMO's geoscientific preliminary assessments being conducted as part of Step 3 of the site selection process. Dr. Kaiser outlined the group's mandate, review process, findings and future review plans.

Council inquired of Dr. Kaiser the frequency and approach to their meetings. Council also confirmed with Dr. Kaiser the care taken in GRG reviews to ensure that there is consistency across approaches where multiple contractors may be required.

Council members discussed with Dr. Kaiser the composition of the GRG and how NWMO would ensure it has appropriate expertise in the group for each phase of work. It was noted, for example, that geochemistry and hydrogeology would likely be important areas of focus in future studies. Management confirmed that it had been discussing with Dr. Kaiser the need to evolve the membership over time to ensure key skills and expertise are reflected in the GRG. NWMO is expecting to add additional expertise in required areas.

Council inquired as to how the geoscience work and geosphere modelling would be applied in the assessment of sites against safety criteria. NWMO and Dr. Kaiser reported on how, in the near term, geoscience work was helping to guide the field work locations. They also outlined the overarching approach to integrating technical work, and confirmed that the geosphere modelling of sites would be one of many important inputs

into the overall safety case modelling. Management reported there is a process to integrate information across geoscience, safety and engineering work groups.

Council members also asked how NWMO ensures information interpreted by a contractor does not exhibit a bias. Dr. Kaiser noted that while contractors may interpret results slightly differently, part of the GRG's role is to ensure there are no fundamental errors in the work undertaken.

## **7. Triennial Report Planning**

Management provided information to the Council which outlined the Council's process for drafting its comments for the last Triennial report. Council members considered their plan for development of the 2014-2016 Triennial Report to be published in 2017.

A Council member suggested that the background material proposed by management would be useful in preparing the Council's Triennial Report comments.

## **8. In Camera Session**

The Advisory Council met in camera to consider its approach to developing its independent comments for the next Triennial Report, and to prepare for the planning discussion with the Board. Subsequent to the in camera session, Council requested that management follow up to support the contracting of the writer that Council had chosen to assist with the development of its Triennial Report comments. (\*)

## **9. Transportation of Used Fuel to a DGR**

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on progress to develop a plan, supported by the relevant stakeholders, to safely transport used fuel to a DGR as part of Phase 2 site selection.

Management reported that NWMO is preparing a transportation discussion document that will be used to support an active and ongoing transportation-themed dialogue with interested, Aboriginal, surrounding and siting region hub communities.

Council members discussed how the transportation workplan integrates with the overall site selection plan and how safety is considered in the plan. Management noted that safety is inherent in the transportation package regardless of the route or transportation method.

## **10. Indigenous Knowledge Policy**

The Advisory Council was presented with NWMO's draft Indigenous Knowledge Policy for consideration. Bob Watts reviewed the proposed policy with the Council stating that it had been reviewed with the Council of Elders. Mr. Watts welcomed the Council's feedback on the policy.

A Council member offered some content refinements, suggesting that the Indigenous Knowledge Policy be cross-referenced with NWMO's ethics and values statement. (\*)

A Council member also suggested that Indigenous Knowledge could be incorporated into the Centre of Expertise to be constructed at the selected site. A Council member offered a suggestion that staff also compile a package of best practices in this area to accompany the Policy

## **11. Building Relationships**

Council received NWMO's reports on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, engagement activities, media coverage and recent meetings of the Council of Elders.

A Council member asked if NWMO was planning to review the proposed discussion paper on transportation with municipal associations. Management reported that it would be reviewed with municipal and transportation associations.

## **12. APM Technical Program Update**

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on NWMO's APM engineered barrier and proof testing program.

## **13. Review of NWMO Support to OPG**

Council members were provided with an update on NWMO's work in support of the low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) DGR. Derek Wilson reported that the statement from the Minister on the OPG L&ILW DGR was delayed until March 1, 2016.

#### **14. Upcoming Meetings of the Advisory Council**

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is confirmed for:

Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

#### **Termination of Meeting**

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 2:45 pm.

Following the regular Advisory Council meeting, Council had an in camera discussion with the NWMO Board of Directors to support planning for 2016. Dialogue centered on discussion of the external landscape and Council's thoughts on key areas of advice it would like to provide to NWMO in 2016. During this session, Council identified the following topics of interest: NWMO's social and ethical framework, engagement, environmental policies, and transportation-related matters.

Dated the 10th day of February, 2016

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*David Crombie*

*Advisory Council Chair*