



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS
ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SUITABILITY: PHASE 2

Resources to Support Engagement of First Nation Communities in the NWMO Site Selection Process



Aboriginal Partnerships Resources Program 2016

OCTOBER 2016

I. Introduction

In May 2010, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) launched a process to identify a safe site in an informed and willing community to host facilities for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The principles and decision-making framework to guide the selection of a site were developed collaboratively through a two-year dialogue involving a broad cross-section of Canadians and Aboriginal peoples.

Canada's plan for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel is called Adaptive Phased Management (APM). The ultimate goal of APM is to safely contain and isolate the used fuel in a single deep geological repository (DGR) in a suitable rock formation. The objective of the site selection process is to arrive at a single location for the DGR and associated Centre of Expertise through several phases of progressively more detailed technical, scientific and socio-economic assessment.

The process is advancing through a multi-year series of steps to ensure that, above all, the site selected is safe and secure, and meets the highest scientific, professional and ethical standards. Since launching the process, the NWMO has been working collaboratively with communities interested in learning to begin exploring their potential to meet site selection requirements. Upon the completion of Phase 1 assessments, a smaller list of communities is identified as warranting further study by advancing to Phase 2.

The second phase of preliminary assessment work involves more intensive community learning and engagement. Work will take on a broader focus to include First Nation and Métis peoples, and surrounding communities. Preliminary fieldwork will begin, including airborne surveys, and at a later date, limited borehole drilling, to further assess geology and site suitability against technical safety requirements.

Engagement activities in the second phase of preliminary assessment are designed to be implemented through a partnership involving interested communities, First Nation and Métis peoples, surrounding communities, and the NWMO in a process based on trust, fairness and mutual understanding.

The NWMO is committed to the active and meaningful participation of interested communities, Aboriginal communities and surrounding communities. From its inception in 2002, the NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of interested communities and Aboriginal peoples, laying a foundation for ongoing engagement and partnership.

As interested First Nation communities continue to learn more about the project, the NWMO recognizes that implementation of the plan must be community-driven. The engagement plan is therefore flexible in the pace and manner of its implementation and provides opportunities for engagement to include a range of forms and activities. Ultimately, implementation of the plan will only proceed with the involvement of the interested community, potentially affected Aboriginal peoples and neighbouring communities working in partnership.

1. Moving Towards Partnerships With Aboriginal Communities

The NWMO recognizes and respects that Aboriginal peoples believe all life is sustained by Mother Earth, and that in carrying out our work, we all have a stewardship responsibility to protect and preserve the Earth for this and future generations, guided by the seven teachings.

The NWMO wishes to build relationships and develop partnerships with Aboriginal communities, groups and peoples on a foundation of respect for languages and customs, cultural protocols, and political, social, economic, and cultural institutions. The NWMO recognizes and will honour the diversity of spiritual beliefs, practices and governance of Aboriginal peoples within and among Aboriginal communities.

2. Phase 2 Preliminary Assessments

By the end of Step 3, the NWMO plans to have advanced technical evaluation of suitable geological formations to a point of being able to understand whether a sound safety case can be built to store used fuel in the long term.

As fieldwork continues in Step 3: Phase 2, the NWMO remains committed to respectful dialogue with potential partners to ensure decision-making takes into account the interests of the whole community and includes the wisdom that can be derived from Indigenous Knowledge when planning for future generations.

II. 2016 Resource Program Funding for First Nation Communities

1. Purpose

The resource program is designed to deepen understanding and continue learning about APM and what implementation of the project would mean to communities, people and cultural/community practices. Implementation of this program will help expand learning and discussion, while working towards answering the overarching question of whether a safe site can be identified in an area and whether the project can be implemented in a way that will foster the long-term well-being of the area in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and communities in the area.

It is important to note that in order to ensure independence of First Nation communities, an application for funds under this program and reports provided to the NWMO at this step in its work will not be considered to constitute support for APM or a commitment to continued involvement in this work.

2. Program Description

Funding is available for First Nation communities in the area surrounding the interested communities currently in the Step 3: Phase 2 site selection process to support learning and dialogue with the NWMO and within the community in order to support consideration of the project by the community, and reflection on the opportunities that may come with the implementation of the project.

Activities should be designed together with the NWMO to meet the needs of the community over the course of the work to review APM, the assessment approach and participation in site selection activities. The NWMO will work collaboratively with communities to further understanding and identify potential opportunities, as well as concerns and challenges, that this project may bring.

RESOURCES FOR FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

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| <p>1. Funding for administrative expenses associated with co-ordinating community activities to expand understanding of the project and engage the community in reflection on the project</p> <p>It is recognized that communities will incur administrative costs. In order for a community to participate, resources are available for administrative expenses incurred through participating in Phase 2 well-being studies. This includes costs associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dedicated full-time/part-time support staff• Expenses to support communications, and/or travel associated with community or regional activities <p>Note: Costs associated with expenses of part-time staff and with communications among the community and Council typically include payroll, accounts payable, tracking receipts, phone, fax, email, and travel expenses for meetings directly related to the APM Project.</p> <p>Expenses in this category to be covered at cost. An accounting must be kept of activities and money spent suitable for third-party audit and submitted to the NWMO every six months for the duration of participation in this program.</p> | <p>Up to \$100,000 for each 12-month period for the duration of the Phase 2 assessments is available</p> |
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| <p>2. Support for community engagement</p> <p>Funding is provided for dialogue and workshops in order to work together with the community to support learning about the NWMO project.</p> <p>The community and the NWMO may collaboratively plan community information sessions as required to promote joint learning opportunities. Participation from community members, including Elders, youth, women, and knowledge holders, is encouraged.</p> <p>Expenses in this category will typically include rental of meeting space, meals and refreshments, Elder travel and participation and meeting preparation with the community, as well as expenses associated with participation of Elders and knowledge holders (i.e., honoraria), and ceremonies that the community may wish to undertake such as opening/closing ceremony.</p> | <p>Up to \$40,000 for each 12-month period for the duration of the Phase 2 assessments is available</p> |
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3. Aboriginal translation and communication	Funding provided for translation and other communication requirements for community understanding.	Up to a maximum of \$5,000 for each 12-month period of Phase 2 assessments is available
4. Community well-being	<p>The NWMO supports communities interested in assessing community well-being as it relates to their traditions, goals for the future and how the APM Project could fit in those evaluations.</p> <p>The NWMO is working to ensure that its community well-being framework is inclusive of and accommodates the Aboriginal world view.</p> <p>To this end, the NWMO is providing funding support to communities interested in undertaking a baseline well-being study. Funding can also be used towards updating a previously undertaken community well-being study.</p> <p>Relevant expenses could include costs associated with retaining a third-party expert to undertake the study and preparing a study report, as well as meeting space rental and other costs associated with a strategic planning session/community meeting associated with review of the well-being study findings.</p>	Up to a maximum of \$40,000 for each 12-month period of Phase 2 assessments is available
5. Youth engagement	<p>The NWMO understands the importance of engaging Aboriginal youth and has made funds available for their participation in the APM learn more process.</p> <p>Expenses in this category will typically include rental of meeting space, meals and refreshments, youth travel and participation, and meeting preparation.</p>	Up to a maximum of \$15,000 for each 12-month period of Phase 2 assessments is available

6. **Funding to participate in forums to understand key topics such as radiation, geoscience studies, environmental protection, and multiple barriers** Costs covered

The NWMO acknowledges the importance to communities of developing a deep understanding of key topics from NWMO specialists, and also from third parties such as academics and consultants.

The NWMO will facilitate opportunities for community representatives to learn from NWMO specialists and academics working in the field by organizing a series of workshops which will bring community representatives and these academics and specialists together.

Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these workshops or similar learning opportunities.

7. **Visit an interim storage facility** Costs covered

Community members may be interested in seeing how used nuclear fuel is currently managed on an interim basis.

The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to visit an interim nuclear waste storage facility in Ontario or other nearby facility.

8. **Meet with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)** Costs covered

Community members may be interested in learning about the regulatory framework that governs the NWMO project.

The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to learn more about the regulatory framework governing the long-term management of used nuclear fuel by meeting with the CNSC.

The timing and agenda for the meeting is established directly by the CNSC in concert with the delegation, in order to ensure the delegation's areas of interest and questions are addressed.

9. **Understanding the international perspective – Speakers** Costs covered

The NWMO encourages communities to keep abreast of international programs and best practices.

The NWMO will facilitate opportunities for community representatives to learn from those involved in the implementation of used fuel management programs in other countries by organizing a series of workshops which will bring together community representatives and these international leaders.

Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these workshops.

* Please note that the 12-month period referred to in the program description commences on the date of the signing of an agreement.

Additional resources are available to Aboriginal communities heavily involved in the NWMO APM learn more and site selection process under the Aboriginal Communities Enhanced Resources Funding Program.

III. Submission of Proposals

First Nation communities in the vicinity of communities involved in APM Step 3: Phase 2 are invited to submit a proposal to receive funding for all or some of the previously mentioned programs.

Communities involved in Step 3: Phase 2 are:

Hornepayne, Ignace, White River, Manitouwadge, Blind River, Elliot Lake, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce and Central Huron in Ontario.

1. Proposals must include, at a minimum:

- Name of community
- How the work to be considered will be conducted – roles, responsibilities and accountabilities
- A list of the people involved in the work proposed
- An outline of the priorities of the community to be considered within this resource program and how the work will be conducted, including the community's objectives and steps it will take to answer those objectives through the work with the NWMO
- Budget breakdown (how funds will be spent)
- Name and contact information of person co-ordinating the study and primary contact for the NWMO on this work

2. Expected deliverables:

a. Progress reporting

The community should provide written (i) interim report and (ii) year-end report summarizing all activities under the agreement with the NWMO. The community is also invited to report on other opportunities as may be identified by the community.

b. Financial reporting

Every six months, the NWMO will require a financial report describing how funds have been spent under the agreement, including the following documentation:

- A statement of expenditures identifying the use of NWMO-provided funds by type of cost accompanied by an extract of the General Ledger or listing of expenditures, printed from the accounting system, which shows the use of NWMO funding; and
- The NWMO may request further explanation or supporting receipts if needed.

Financial reporting will be updated on revision of the External Entity Funding Standard.

For more information, please contact:

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