



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS  
ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SUITABILITY: PHASE 2

# Resources to Support Engagement of Interested Communities in the NWMO Site Selection Process



Addendum to Support Communities Involved in Advanced Studies

SEPTEMBER 2017

## I. Purpose

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is committed to provide resources to assist communities that are participating in Phase 2 preliminary assessment studies to support their efforts to explore interest in hosting the deep geological repository and Centre of Expertise, which are core components of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

As communities advance through the multi-year Phase 2 assessment process, technical studies become more detailed, and the breadth and depth of engagement activities, more intensive. Greater involvement by communities is required, as well as additional resources to support these activities.

The resources outlined here are being added to the existing resource program available to interested communities involved in Phase 2 studies (Preliminary Assessment of Potential Suitability: Phase 2). These additional resources to interested communities that advance to initial borehole studies are intended to ensure that community costs associated with participating in advanced phases of work are fully covered.

These resources are available to communities that expressed interest in learning more about the project. They have successfully completed an initial screening, they have worked with the NWMO to complete Phase 1 preliminary assessment studies, and through these assessments, their area has been identified as having strong potential to meet the robust requirements associated with this project and warrant initial borehole studies.

The additional resources outlined here are being added to the existing resource program and are intended to support the community to:

- More broadly and deeply involve community members in learning
- Further build and strengthen relationships with nearby First Nation and Métis communities
- Begin to engage in activities with neighbours to explore how the project might best fit in the area, and be implemented in a way that addresses the priorities, needs, and sensitivities of people and communities in the area
- Make investments in the well-being of their community while participating in advanced studies

These resources are automatically available to interested communities that have reached advanced phases of work, such as initial borehole studies, as an addition to the existing funding program.

## II. Resources Available

Resources available to interested communities involved in initial borehole studies include : 1) the resources offered to all interested communities involved in Phase 2 preliminary assessments (items 1-8 below); and 2) additional resources intended to cover the costs of deeper and broader engagement in the area (items 9-12 below).

Funding levels reflect maximum budget envelopes for a 12-month period. Actual funding to an interested community will be limited to actual documented spending within program parameters.

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<b>1.</b>	<b>Funding for administrative expenses associated with working with the NWMO and communicating with community members</b>	Up to \$125,000
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Resources are available for expenses incurred through participating in Phase 2 feasibility studies, which will be covered at cost. This includes costs associated with:

- Dedicated support staff
- Administrative expenses of a community working group and its regular meetings, including newsletter, website and advertising
- Aboriginal cultural awareness training within the community
- Support for small learning infrastructure improvements such as computer for project administrator, table or chairs for a community liaison committee (CLC) meeting room, audiovisual equipment for CLC meeting room, map printer, and photocopy or printing costs

This also includes costs associated with expenses of Council and municipal staff regarding communications among staff and Council, payroll, accounts payable, tracking receipts, phone, fax, email, etc., related to the NWMO process, and expenses regarding meetings with Aboriginal peoples in the area and surrounding communities or region.

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.

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<b>1a.</b>	<b>Community learning through conference attendance, including conference fees and travel expenses</b>	Up to \$10,000
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Community representatives may be interested in attending conferences which bring together researchers, implementers, regulators, and/or other specialists to share information about approaches, plans and activities for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Expenses 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.

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1b. **Community youth initiatives to support science learning and learning about Canada’s plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel** Up to \$15,000

The involvement of youth in community learning and decision-making is a goal of both the community and project. In support of this goal, funding is available to support community-led initiatives in this area.

Expenses 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.

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2. **Support for community strategic planning activities** Up to \$40,000

Detailed studies will be conducted during Phase 2 assessments of the potential social, economic and cultural effects associated with the project. These studies will be conducted in close collaboration with the community, and may include economic modelling, market and other studies.

The community may wish to enhance or augment an existing long-term vision for community sustainability, integrated community sustainability plan and/or strategic plan during this process to support its participation in the planning and implementation of these other studies with the NWMO.

Funding is available for a community to contract with an outside expert to enhance or augment an existing plan to support community participation in the process.

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3. **Support for building community understanding on 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 academics working in the field by organizing a series of learning events and workshops which will bring community representatives and these academics and specialists together.

Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives (and their invited neighbours) to participate in these learning events and workshops.

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4.	<b>Community representatives visit an interim storage facility</b>	Costs covered
	<p>Community members may be interested in seeing how used nuclear fuel is currently managed on an interim basis.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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5.	<b>Community representatives meet with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)</b>	Costs covered
	<p>Community members may be interested in learning about the regulatory framework that governs the NWMO project.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
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6.	<b>Support for building community understanding of the international perspective</b>	Costs covered
	<p>The NWMO encourages communities to keep abreast of international programs and best practices.</p> <p>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 learning events or workshops which will bring together community representatives and these international leaders.</p> <p>Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these workshops.</p> <p>Community members may be interested in seeing how nuclear material is being managed over the long term. In the latter part of Phase 2 assessments in a community, the NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to visit an operating waste management facility and meet the host community in the United States or Europe, as organized with the NWMO.</p>	

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7.	<b>Community learning centre</b>	Costs covered
<p>The NWMO community office will be expanded to house exhibits and other learning material and will be staffed to support learning within the community as Phase 2 assessment studies are planned and implemented and findings are shared.</p>		
8.	<b>Open houses and community discussions</b>	Costs covered
<p>A regular schedule of open houses will be planned and organized with the community to seek community involvement in the conduct of the studies and to share study findings as they become available.</p>		
9.	<b>Funding to support future community decision-making</b>	Costs covered
<p>a. Access to independent third-party advice to represent community interests in discussions with the NWMO and communities in the area</p> <p>b. Training/skills development in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project planning/management</li> <li>• Participating in/running effective committees or boards/meetings</li> <li>• Facilitation and/or conflict resolution skills (e.g., for processes/meetings)</li> <li>• Communication training</li> <li>• Funding for Economic Development Officer positions where these do not exist currently</li> </ul>		
10.	<b>Funding to support shared learning and shared planning initiatives in the area</b>	
<p>Funding to conduct the following, in collaboration with the NWMO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing/research studies to examine barriers to relocation of trades/professionals to the communities and area, tourism development, business expansion and retention, etc.</li> <li>• Working with other regional interests such as economic or workforce development planning institutions or groups</li> <li>• Sponsor economic development seminars and workshops</li> <li>• “State of the region” updates</li> </ul>		

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11. **Funding to support exploring and building partnership in the area**

Funding to support partnership building between the interested community and their neighbours. In addition to ongoing support for community-specific strategic planning/implementation, support could be provided for:

- Broader regional strategic/economic development planning initiatives to explore the project
- Extending/improving reflection through existing regional approaches or agreements

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12. **Building knowledge and awareness of the Adaptive Phased Management Project in the broad area**

Funding to facilitate speakers in the area, learn more tours for key area opinion leaders and cross-section of community members, and area learning workshops.

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13. **NEW - Funding to support investments in community sustainability and well-being**

NWMO yearly contribution

Funding to support community investments in sustainability and well-being provided by the NWMO to the community's *Community Well-being Reserve Fund*. Administered by the community, these funds are intended to support continuing efforts to build community sustainability and well-being. Examples of activities that could be supported include

- Projects, programs or services for community youth
- Scholarship programs for community youth
- Projects or programs or services for community seniors
- Projects or programs to support community sustainability
- Projects or programs to support community economic development
- Projects or programs to support energy efficiency

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## **For more information, please contact:**

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