

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: May 31, 2016 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. EDT On May 31, 2016

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash President and CEO (items 1-14)  
Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection (items 1-14)  
Gillian Morris Board Secretary (items 1-14)

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience (items 1-14)  
Michelle Dassinger Digital Communications Program Lead (item 11)  
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 4-14)  
John Fraser Director, Community Engagement (items 1-14)  
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs (items 1-14)  
Paul Gierszewski Director, Safety & Licensing (items 12-14)  
Monique Hobbs Siting Project Coordination Manager (items 1-14)  
Bob Watts Associate Vice President, Aboriginal Relations (items 4-14)  
Derek Wilson VP, Design and Construction (items 12-14)

Guest:

Suzanne Barrett Advisory Council Triennial Report Writer

## **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 February 10, 2016.

### **3. Actions and Tracking Matrix**

Another Council member suggested additions to the tracking matrix (\*). A correction was also noted to the actions list noting the Transparency Policy would come forward to the September meeting for review.

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

### **4. President's Report**

Mr. Nash reported on the following recent activities in the NWMO work program and national and international developments in radioactive waste management:

- The APM site selection process continues to make strong progress as NWMO works closely with communities to support them in their continued learning about the APM project, planning for field work and expanding dialogue with community members;
- Management continues to manage and assess risks to the APM program;
- Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) has made application to initiate the regulatory approvals process for a Near Surface Disposal Facility at Chalk River for low level radioactive waste; and
- Internationally, strong progress continues on the repository programs in Finland, Sweden, France and Switzerland. Both the U.S. and U.K. are examining how to re-start progress on their siting programs.

Council members asked questions about the nature of the proposed CNL disposal facility. The Council also had a lengthy discussion on the concept of social acceptability. A Council member suggested that it would be helpful to have further discussion with management to understand the geography of support and consent NWMO would require going forward in the siting process (\*).

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

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

Council discussed the work underway by OPG (with support from NWMO) to respond to the Minister of the Environment's further requests for information on OPG's low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) repository project.

## **6. Status of APM Site Selection Process**

Management provided the Council with a detailed review of progress against the Phase 2 siting work in all areas, covering work plans and activities.

Management reported on progress related to geoscience studies. Council was provided with preliminary updates from airborne surveys and lineament analysis for some siting areas. For purposes of future presentations, several Council members recommended clarifications and refinements:

- Council suggested additional context be provided when discussing geology and rock fractures to avoid misinterpretation or misunderstanding of the implications of the fractures for a repository.
- Council recommended geoscience presentations also include reference to the broader multi-barrier system, noting in addition to geology there are engineered barriers that are part of the system keeping used nuclear fuel safely isolated.

Updates were provided on municipal and Aboriginal engagement and relationship-building underway to support learning and community member engagement on the project. Council had a discussion about the nature of NWMO's agreements with Aboriginal communities in the siting areas. Council reviewed NWMO's aboriginal engagement in 2015 and plans for 2016. Management reported that very positive feedback has been received on NWMO's work in Aboriginal relations.

A Council member emphasized the importance of NWMO seeking to foster good relationships between First Nations and municipalities, as well as with NWMO. Where possible NWMO should make effort to reconcile and resolve outstanding issues and concerns of community members.

As requested by Council members, NWMO brought forward letters that were sent from Hornepayne First Nation to the Advisory Council. Council members asked the record to show that Council members reviewed and considered the letters from Hornepayne First Nation and passed the following resolution:

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

*The NWMO Advisory Council supports NWMO's continued dialogue with the Hornepayne First Nation.*

The motion was made and unanimously passed.

Management reviewed NWMO's ongoing efforts to engage with Hornepayne First Nation.

## **7. First Nations Governance**

In response to Council's request at its February meeting, a presentation led by Mr. Watts addressed the decision-making processes and governance of First Nation communities and organizations in relation to the siting process.

A Council member advised that when NWMO is working with First Nations groups it should understand that the communities and organizations may have differing views about roles and responsibilities with respect to rights.

## **8. Preliminary Business Planning**

The Council was provided with preliminary information on NWMO's business planning for the period of 2017-2021. It was reported that the key planning assumptions used to develop the preliminary business plan for APM implementation are consistent with those used to develop the latest APM lifecycle cost estimate and the project execution plans for the Phase 2 site selection and Engineered Barrier Design and Proof Testing. The information was taken as read.

## **9. Communicating 2043 and the Cost Estimate**

The Council was provided with an update on the continuing communications of the APM lifecycle cost estimate and the current planning assumption dates. The report was taken as read.

## **10. Transportation Engagement Update**

Staff reported that as part of the NWMO's transportation engagement plan reviewed in December 2015 with the Advisory Council, the NWMO has since released a draft discussion document to advance dialogue with Canadians, First Nation and Métis people. Feedback received from this dialogue will guide the development of a transportation plan that will provide a constructive foundation for early discussion.

In responding to a Council question about the World Nuclear Transport Institute, referenced in the NWMO discussion document, management responded it is a London-based global organization that works closely with industry members and international bodies to promote safe transportation of radioactive material.

Council suggested to NWMO that it is very important to start early with general discussions about transportation and to provide education about international performance in the radioactive waste transportation field.

## **11. NWMO Website Presentation**

At the request of Council, members were provided with a lunch time presentation by Ms. Dassinger on the features of NWMO's new website and plans for social media.

In answering Council questions about NWMO's digital strategy, Ms. Dassinger responded:

- NWMO frequently posts news releases and information about current events to its website and monitors closely social media for references to NWMO and its work;
- NWMO has a YouTube channel that is in the process of being expanded to include more video feeds;
- In terms of resources, management of the website involves a collaboration of staff across the communications team who share responsibility for developing and updating content and also works with a digital agency for technical management.

12. **Social and Ethical Framework**

In response to Council's request, Ms. Facella provided an overview of work related to NWMO's social and ethical framework.

Further to the discussion, the Advisory Council requested additional background from management that elaborates on how NWMO responded to Council's Triennial Report recommendations related to the social and ethical framework. (\*)

13. **Building Relationships**

Council received NWMO's updates on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, media coverage and recent meetings of the Council of Elders. Council was also provided with the recent Council of Elders' Declaration of the Keepers of the Land.

14. **APM Technical Program Update**

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

15. **Planning for the Triennial Report – In Camera Working Session for Advisory Council Members**

Advisory Council members convened an in camera working session to further plan for development of its Triennial Report comments for the NWMO 2014-2016 Triennial Report.

16. **Upcoming Meetings of the Advisory Council**

The next meetings of the Advisory Council are confirmed as follows and will take place at NWMO, 22 St. Clair Ave. E.:

Triennial Report Working Session  
Thursday, September 8  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT

Advisory Council Meeting  
Monday, September 26  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT

Triennial Report Working Session  
Tuesday, September 27  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT

**Termination of Meeting**

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 3:50 pm.

Dated the 26th day of September, 2016

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*David Crombie*  
*Advisory Council Chair*