

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: September 26, 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 September 26, 2016

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie, Council Chair
David Cameron, Vice Chair
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs
Diane Kelly (items 8-15)
Eva Ligeti
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Donald Obonsawin (via teleconference)
Linda Thompson

NWMO Staff Present:

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

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Lisa Frizzell Director, Corporate Affairs
Joe Gaboury Director, Aboriginal Relations
Paul Gierszewski Director, Safety & Licensing (items 12-14)
Marni Halter Senior Counsel
Monique Hobbs Siting Project Coordination Manager
Elena Mantagaris Director, Government and External Relations
Bob Watts Associate Vice President, Aboriginal Relations
Derek Wilson VP, Design and Construction (items 12-14)

Guest:

Suzanne Barrett Advisory Council Triennial Report Writer

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 May 31, 2016.

3. Actions and Tracking Matrix

The Council was provided with the status of the actions from the last meeting and a draft of their advice tracking matrix for 2016 to-date.

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 2016 work program is on track in all areas;
- the draft 5-year business plan is well developed and will be reviewed by the Board in September, it is consistent with what was reviewed with the Council in June;
- NWMO continues to work with the CNSC on pre-licensing reviews as per the agreement with the CNSC; and
- Nationally, Canadian Nuclear Labs (CNL) is moving ahead with its near surface disposal facility for historical low-level radioactive waste and other suitable waste streams.

The Council discussed the work of CNL and the required regulatory process. Council asked questions about the types of waste that would be included in its near surface repository. Management reported that it would include short-lived radioactive wastes from its historical operations including Whiteshell Laboratories. Council also asked if NWMO was aware of CNL's transportation plans. Management reported that it has met with CNL and has asked to be kept abreast of its plans on a regular basis. Council members advised that NWMO must pay careful attention to CNL's activities and continue an ongoing dialogue with them.

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 members discussed the risks and requested that NWMO identify the relative importance of the risks. Management noted that only the highest-level risks were presented but will revise the way they are presented at the next meeting and also include the overall corporate risks (*).

6. Strategic Discussion 1: Partnership / Willingness

Staff further explored the ideas of support and consent within the siting process, how partnership potential will be assessed and the activities involved through 2022. Mr. Watts discussed how the NWMO's thinking has evolved over the years and has moved from "willing host community" to "supportive and inclusive partnership". He also discussed how NWMO will work to assess partnerships in APM Phase 2 siting.

The Council heard examples of how NWMO is helping to foster relationships between municipal and Aboriginal communities. Council encouraged NWMO to expand work to include some of the smaller areas in the siting regions to further foster collaboration amongst first nations groups. A Council member suggested collaboration and sharing between communities could be a good session topic for next year's Association of Municipalities of Ontario meeting. A Council member also suggested when mapping lands, NWMO might indicate recognition of lands underwater which may have a different treatment as treaties do not cover these lands in most cases.

Council members discussed the concepts of consent and veto. They also discussed the status of non-participants in the NWMO process and how NWMO includes those who are not interested in participating in the process. Staff noted that while some people were not interested in participating, they remain interested in staying abreast of developments in the project. Staff noted there are many degrees of participation and interest in the project.

Council members were impressed by NWMO's multi-faceted and sophisticated approach to working to build consent in communities and acknowledged it was an extremely complicated process. Council requested and was provided with a copy of the MOU between NWMO and Natural Resources Canada on the duty to consult.

7. Strategic Discussion 2: Approach to Skills Training and Capacity Building

Another key area of discussion for Council was focused on NWMO's approach to skills training and capacity building. Staff sought Council feedback on the approach being adopted to start community discussions on capacity building and types of investments planned for next year.

Council was pleased to see a focus on science, math and the environment. Council members suggested a number of other areas upon which NWMO might also focus education.

Council also noted that education is helpful for creating a lasting, positive impact in a community even if the community is not ultimately chosen for APM.

8. Safety Case Presentation

The Council was provided with an overview of the APM safety case. The presentation covered the nature of the used fuel, how safety is achieved through multiple barriers, and the post-closure safety assessment.

A Council member suggested that NWMO add information to the presentation on how NWMO will maintain the safety during the operation phase. Council members also discussed how NWMO might more clearly communicate the radioactivity of the used fuel over time relative to natural uranium.

9. Working Towards Regulatory Certainty

Staff reviewed with Council the NWMO's plans on further developing certainty in the regulatory process with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). NWMO reviewed its approach to pre-licensing work and preparing for eventual submission of the environmental assessment and construction license.

Council members asked about the process for licensing. Staff reported that NWMO has a pre-licensing agreement with the CNSC. The broader licensing process is defined at a high level and covers a number of different types of operations. NWMO will, at a point in the future, submit a project description and the CNSC will provide feedback on what needs to be done to obtain a license. Council members discussed the licensing experience in Sweden. Staff noted future decisions will be made on the approach and timing to apply for an environmental assessment and construction license.

10. Transparency Policy

As follow up to earlier Council discussions, the revised Transparency Policy was brought to Council for discussion. Marni Halter discussed the revisions made to the policy to address earlier Council input, noting it had been compared to policies of similar types of organizations and NWMO's Members' policies. She noted that NWMO's medium for disclosing information is the website.

Council members appreciated the work and the process undertaken to improve and elaborate on the policy and reported that it much more accurately reflected how information is handled at the NWMO. Council provided a few suggestions for minor changes.

11. Site Selection Process: Status Updates

The Council was provided with updates on the status of the APM site selection process which highlighted progress by each siting region and NWMO's progress against its execution plan.

Council members asked questions about what work will be involved in borehole drilling. Staff reported that work continues on geological studies and input from communities to determine suitable areas for possible borehole drilling. Regular meetings and discussions with the Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) continue about launching engagement activities to choose borehole drilling sites. Staff also discussed efforts to encourage collaboration between municipal and Aboriginal communities and surrounding areas.

12. **Building Relationships**

The Council received updates on the Council of Elders, changes in the external landscape and an analysis of media reporting.

Bob Watts noted a couple of member changes on the Council of Elders and reported that the Council recognized Ken Nash's contributions at the last meeting.

13. **Transportation Engagement Update**

Staff provided an update on the status of transportation engagement. It was reported that the Transportation Discussion Document had been completed and released to the public in September. A Council member asked how NWMO would secure agreement for moving fuel over an extended period. Staff noted that discussion on this topic will emerge through the questions in the discussion document.

14. **APM Technical Program Update**

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on NWMO's APM engineered barrier and proof testing program. Mr. Wilson reported that pressure testing of the first copper coated container was completed. An independent review of NWMO's corrosion program was also completed and concluded that the program was robust. He also reported that full scale testing of the gapfill emplacement equipment was successfully completed.

A Council member asked if the independent review of NWMO's corrosion program was published, staff confirmed it is available on the NWMO website.

15. **Review of NWMO Support to OPG**

The Council was provided with an update on NWMO's work on the OPG low and intermediate level waste repository. Mr. Wilson reported on the progress in responding to the Minister of Environment's request for further information.

Termination of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 3:45 pm.

Dated the 29th day of November, 2016

David Crombie
Advisory Council Chair