

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: May 29, 2017 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 29, 2017

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations
Marni Halter	Senior Counsel
Elena Mantagaris	Director, Government & External Relations
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary
Jennifer Noronha	Director, L&ILW DGR (items 12-15)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management
Bob Watts	VP Indigenous Relations

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

Mr. David Cameron chaired the meeting on behalf of Mr. Crombie. The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed upon as written.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the February 13, 2017 meeting were brought forward for Council review and were approved as written. Staff reviewed the action items from the previous meeting.

3. President's Report

The President updated the Advisory Council on recent developments which included:

- Work to continue building a strong safety culture at NWMO and NWMO's safety performance;
- Upcoming revisions to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act which could impact NWMO's work;
- The President's visits to the 9 potential host communities in the siting process;
- Staffing changes at NWMO;
- Internationally, NWMO's participation in Sweden's shaft design review process; and
- A cooperation agreement which will be signed with Japan to share NWMO's work on copper coating.

Council members asked questions about the time frame for the changes to CEAA. It was reported they are expected within the next two years. Council members discussed some of the challenges and improvements that were expected and how they would impact NWMO's work.

A Council member had heard a lot of discussion around Small Modular Reactors recently and asked how fuel from these reactors would be managed. Ms. Swami noted that NWMO is considering this eventuality and is establishing a framework for working with the companies involved as NWMO would provide services to handle the used fuel at a reasonable fee.

4. APM 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. Mr. Belfadhel noted that a more detailed report on risks would be provided to the Council in September.

A Council member asked about how NWMO is ensuring an ongoing exchange of information with Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL). Mr. Belfadhel stated that NWMO is working with CNL to agree on a process for exchanging technical and outreach information. Council also discussed what the various approval processes CNL might face.

5. Site Selection Process

Mr. Belfadhel reported that good progress is being made in advancing fieldwork and building relationships in the siting communities. He discussed readiness activities which continue as NWMO progresses towards borehole drilling in 2017. Mr. Belfadhel noted that NWMO is initiating discussions on partnerships with communities.

Council discussed the various agreements in place with some of the siting communities and indigenous communities and how legacy issues can impact different areas.

A Council member asked how NWMO will work with communities who are progressing at different paces and how that would impact the siting decisions being made. Mr. Belfadhel noted that there will be time to complete all the work needed to make a decision on a preferred site in 2022.

6. Update on Borehole Drilling

The Advisory Council was briefed on progress being made towards borehole drilling in two of the siting communities.

A Council member asked about what testing would be done once the boreholes had been drilled and asked to review the testing program. (*) Another Council member asked when NWMO expected to complete all borehole drilling. Mr. Wilson reported all borehole drilling would be complete by 2020.

7. Siting Process - In Camera Session

The Council held an in camera session to discuss key decisions that NWMO will be making in the siting process.

8. Partnerships - In Camera Session

The Council held an in camera session to discuss NWMO's approach to partnerships.

9. Report from Learnings on Engagement Audits

As a follow up to a previous request from Council, a verbal report on the findings and learnings from engagement audits was provided. Ms. Facella reported that since 2010, the NWMO engagement program has been subject to numerous internal and external audits and reviews. NWMO-led audits were used to ascertain Geoscience and Social Research staff compliance with internal procedures and quality plans, and external reviews were conducted against a set of discrete measures set out in annual plans and carried out by staff in the APM Social Research & Engagement group.

A Council member wanted to understand how NWMO's behaviour lived up to its principles and values in the eyes of the siting communities. Ms. Facella outlined a number of external audits which were conducted that focused on how well NWMO met these objectives.

10. **Plan for Board's Review of Advisory Council Membership**

The Council was updated on the Board's plans for reviewing the Advisory Council membership during 2017. Mr. Belfadhel reviewed the considerations for the Council appointments, the process and timelines.

Council members discussed the possibility of staggering Council member's terms. A Council member suggested it would be beneficial to continue with four meetings per year to ensure Council's understanding on NWMO's work progress. Council members were asked about their thoughts on any knowledge area gaps on Council, none were suggested.

11. **Plan to Address Advisory Council Triennial Report Recommendations**

Mr. Belfadhel thanked the Council for its work and recommendations in the Triennial Report. He stated that the NWMO had reviewed the recommendations of the Advisory Council contained in the Triennial Report and is developing a plan of activities for discussion with the Advisory Council. Staff sought initial feedback on the process that will be followed by the NWMO to address the recommendations.

A Council member noted, under the topic of knowledge management, he had thoughts about how to maintain knowledge as senior people depart the company and will provide comments when that item is discussed.

12. **Building Relationships**

Staff updated Council on the work of the Council of Elders and Youth, changes in the external landscape and an analysis of media reports related to NWMO.

13. **Transportation Engagement Update**

An update was provided on advancement of the transportation engagement work plan and an overview of recent refinements and key program components going forward was given.

Council asked questions about stakeholder mapping and public focus groups on transportation. A Council member asked whether focus groups were also being held in Quebec and New Brunswick. Staff noted that the focus group discussions were beginning in Ontario but would be extended to Quebec and New Brunswick in the future. Another Council member suggested NWMO could build upon the strong record of safe transportation that exists in Canada.

14. **APM Technical Program Update**

The Council was provided with an update on the engineered barrier design and proof testing program and the transportation technical program. A Council member noted that the trip to the NWMO Oakville Test Facility in February was very useful and educational.

15. **Review of Progress on OPG's L&ILW DGR**

Council was provided with an update on NWMO's work on the OPG low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) deep geologic repository (DGR) project.

Staff reviewed the types of additional information requests received and noted that OPG had submitted the responses. Mr. Wilson noted that the Minister's draft report will be put out for public comment and there is the possibility of additional hearings during licensing. A Council member asked if the original panel would be re-convened for those hearings. Mr. Wilson noted that the original panel would sign the license.

16. **Next Meeting of the Advisory Council**

Monday, September 18, 2017
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Toronto, Ontario

17. **In Camera Session**

The Council met in camera without the presence of staff or management.

18. **Termination of Meeting**

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 2:00 pm.

Dated the 19th day of September, 2017

David Cameron
Advisory Council Vice-Chair