

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: September 18, 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 September 18, 2017

**Advisory Council Members Present:**

Hon. David Crombie, Council Chairman  
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
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management (Items 5-17)
Bob Watts	VP Indigenous Relations (by teleconference Items 6-9)

## **1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

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 May 29, 2017 meeting were brought forward for Council review and were approved as written. There were no comments on the action items from the previous meeting.

## **3. President's Report**

The President provided an update to the Advisory Council on the following items:

- NWMO's safety performance;
- NWMO's work on stock-taking in the siting process;
- Recent developments in OPG's license application for the low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW) DGR;
- The optimum level of involvement and nature of NWMO's relationships with other organizations in the nuclear industry;
- The invitation for an NWMO staff member to participate in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) general conference;
- Plans for a staff celebration of NWMO's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Council members discussed the President's report asking a number of questions related to the licensing of the OPG L&ILW DGR and the requests made by to the Minister by the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON).

On NWMO's relationship with the nuclear industry, Council members agreed with NWMO should be providing information on its work to other nuclear organizations and that NWMO should be informed of developments in the nuclear industry.

## **4. Site Selection Process Update**

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel provided an update on the siting process including fieldwork and engagement activities underway in the communities. He reviewed the decisions made in June regarding Central Huron and White River not being considered for further study. He reported that initial discussions with some remaining communities had begun on initial principles and framework for partnership. It was also reported that an application for borehole drilling had been submitted for the Ignace/Wabigoon area and that the technical team is prepared and waiting for the permit.

A Council member cautioned that in preparing for borehole drilling, First Nations communities may need a longer period to prepare for this and may suffer "process fatigue" with fewer resources available, particularly in Southern Ontario where they are also dealing with the OPG L&ILW DGR project. Council members also asked about the process for land acquisition in the various areas.

5. **APM Risk Assessment** (In Camera)

The Council held an in camera session to discuss NWMO's risk reporting.

6. **Update on Stocktaking** (In Camera)

The Council held an in camera session to discuss NWMO's work on stock-taking in the siting areas.

7. **Community Recognition Program** (In Camera)

The Council held an in camera session to discuss the proposed recognition program for communities.

8. **Report on Independent Review of Narrowing Down** (In Camera)

The Council was provided with a report on an independent review of NWMO's narrowing down process.

9. **Update on NWMO's Statement of Values**

Lisa Frizzell discussed some proposed changes to NWMO's statement of values. She noted that the Board and management had reflected on what needs to be in place for the next phases of work. It was recognized that there was an opportunity to refresh NWMO's values to ensure they remain current. She reviewed the suggested changes which included:

- Adding a value about safety, which NWMO already emphasizes but hadn't been formally a value;
- Making the value descriptions present tense, using less repetition and more direct language;
- Including key words like collaboration, trust, partnership – to ensure the values are current and specific to the NWMO.

The Council supported the changes to the values and made one suggested to refine the transparency value. Ms. Frizzell noted that management would propose the suggested refinement when the values were brought to the Board for approval. (\*)

10. **Update on Board's Review of Advisory Council Membership**

The Council was updated on the Board's plans for reviewing the Advisory Council membership with all Council members' terms ending at the end of 2017. Mr. Belfadhel outlined the areas of required expertise that had been determined by the Board and plans for completing the membership review.

11. **Draft Plan and Timelines - Advisory Council Triennial Report Recommendations**

Staff outlined the plan proposed to address the Advisory Council recommendations made in the 2014-2016 Triennial Report. It was noted that several items would be discussed at the next meeting and a timeline was provided for when the other items would be addressed.

A Council member suggested that when NWMO is developing an environmental statement, it should consider how to incorporate Indigenous environmental values. A Council member also suggested NWMO should explain evolution of “willing host community” to partnerships.

#### **12. Planning for Annual Session with the Board of Directors**

Staff outlined some possible topics for the annual discussion between the Board and the Advisory Council in November.

A Council member suggested another topic could be reviewing how NWMO communicates its statement of purpose as earlier discussed in the meeting. The Council further discussed this topic in their in camera session at the end of the meeting and provided their preferred topic to management.

#### **13. 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.

Council members asked about the Council of Elders’ work related to reconciliation and legacy issues. Ms. Swami noted that there are legacy issues in some of the areas where NWMO works, and NWMO has to acknowledge these issues and have an understanding of what they mean. In the context of reconciliation, NWMO needs to be aware of the history and how it relates to work with NWMO.

Advisory Council members expressed interest in taking the NWMO Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training. (\*)

#### **14. Transportation Engagement Update**

The Advisory Council was provided with an update on NWMO’s transportation engagement work. It was reported that findings from the public attitude research project, as well as insight from ongoing engagement on transportation, will be used to develop a draft transportation framework which will be shared in draft in 2018 for review, refinement and confirmation. Additional public attitude research will be conducted as part of this work.

A Council member suggested that, once work has further progressed on transportation, it might be helpful to organize an advisory body, which could include municipalities, to advise on transportation safety along potential routes.

#### **15. APM Technical Program Update**

The Council was provided with an update on the work underway in the APM technical program.

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

The Council was provided with an update on NWMO's work to support the OPG L&ILW DGR.

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

Tuesday, November 28, 2017  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Toronto, Ontario

**17. 2017 Annual Tracking Matrix – In Camera**

The Advisory Council met in camera to discuss its annual tracking matrix. The Council then met in camera without management present.

**18. Termination of Meeting**

The Chair declared the meeting for the day terminated at 1:45 pm.

Dated the 28th day of November, 2017

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*David Crombie*

*Advisory Council Chair*