

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: June 25, 2018 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. EST On June 25, 2018

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair
Sue Hartwig
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Diane Kelly (via conference call)
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-23)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection (items 1-25)
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-23)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-23)
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-23)
Paul Gierszewski	Director, Safety & Technical Research (items 13-18)
Sarah Hirschorn	Manager, Geoscience (item 12)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-25)
Jessica Perritt	Senior Advisor, Indigenous Knowledge (item 12)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management (Items 1-23)
Bob Watts	VP Indigenous Relations (items 1-23)
Allan Webster	Director, Regulatory Affairs & Environmental Assessment (item 8)

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 March 20, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members.

3. **President's Report**

The President provided a report on recent developments and NWMO activities which included reports that:

- momentum in the APM siting process will continue to build towards 2023, NWMO will look to Council for advice;
- NWMO recently celebrated National Indigenous Peoples Day with a number of events;
- NWMO hired new CFO, Georgina Kossivas;
- NWMO recently received two important honours – an Ontario Research Fund grant for further study of stability of used fuel containers \$4 million, working with several universities. Jo-Ann Facella received the Canadian Nuclear Society award for Communication and Education;
- the recent international EDRAM (International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials) meetings in Toronto and a trip to visit Posiva in Finland, were both attended by Parliamentary Secretary Kim Rudd and the ADM. The strong leadership role women took in the EDRAM meetings was noted.
- A number of external developments continue to unfold, including decisions on other large Canadian energy projects, changes to NAFTA, the implementation of new impact assessment legislation (Bill C69) and a change in Provincial government.

Ms. Swami also reported that a request had been received from Dr. Peter Ottensmeyer to present to the Advisory Council on the topic of used fuel reprocessing. She noted, that even if reprocessing used fuel were to become viable, a deep geological repository would still be required for remaining wastes. Council members discussed the request by Dr. Ottensmeyer and agreed to invite him to a future Advisory Council member to hear his perspectives on reprocessing (*).

4. **Update on Meeting with Kim Rudd**

Donald Obonsawin, Advisory Council Vice-Chair, reported on a meeting he attended with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada, Kim Rudd and the Assistant Deputy Minister in conjunction with NWMO's hosting of the EDRAM meeting. Mr. Obonsawin reported to the Council that it was a productive meeting and good exchange of information on the work of the Advisory Council which included discussions about NWMO's work in Indigenous relations, transportation and the future work of the Advisory Council as NWMO narrows down to fewer sites. Ms. Rudd

emphasized the importance of the Advisory Council's work as an important independent sounding board. Mr. Obonsawin reported that he was impressed with Ms. Rudd's knowledge on NWMO's file and the NWMO Advisory Council.

5. **Update on Site Selection**

Staff provided the Advisory Council with an update on the status of the work underway in site selection and site assessment in each of the siting areas. The report included discussion of ongoing efforts to build and strengthen relationships with the siting and Indigenous communities. Council members discussed Indigenous relations in several of the siting areas.

On site assessment work, Council asked about the work of the Geoscientific Review Group and outcomes of the group's work. Council also asked about results from borehole testing. Mr. Wilson reported to the Council that results from borehole testing are not yet available but there had been nothing unexpected in the preliminary work.

6. **Reconciliation Statement**

Council members were provided with information on NWMO's draft Reconciliation statement and reconciliation initiatives underway. Mr. Watts reported that a ceremony will be held with the Board and Council of Elders on the Reconciliation Statement and that the development of a reconciliation policy is expected in 2019.

Council members discussed the development of the statement and reasoning for some of the wording used. Council members were supportive of the NWMO's work on reconciliation and the statement as it was written.

7. **Updated Community Funding Program** *(In Camera)*

Management provided an update to the Advisory Council on plans to revise the structure of existing community funding programs to better adapt to evolving community needs and support partnership discussions.

8. **Access to Land** *(In Camera)*

Management described plans to develop and implement a land access strategy for the project.

9. **Site Selection Criteria and Siting Third Party Review**

Management shared a preliminary plan for putting in place a third-party review group to monitor and report on fairness of NWMO process for narrowing down the number of communities and selection of a preferred site going forward. The objective of the review is to ensure fairness, openness and transparency of the site selection process, in order to provide assurance that the selection of the preferred site is beyond reproach. Management also provided an overview of site selection criteria.

Council asked about whether the third party group would review prior decisions made or future decisions. Management reported that the review group would focus on future narrowing down decisions.

In discussion about NWMO's plan for third party review, Council members suggested there would be benefit in the third party reporting to the CEO rather than the VP of Site Selection as proposed to demonstrate greater independence. Council members also supported the idea that NWMO's selection criteria is grounded in NWMO's Ethical and Social Framework and that NWMO has an established criteria and process.

Council supported the idea to establish a third-party review group to ensure NWMO is implementing the process in a fair manner.

10. Triennial Report Recommendations Summary

Management provided an update on work underway to address the Advisory Council's recommendations in the 2014-2016 Triennial Report.

The items on the agenda for review were:

- Communication on Water & Waste in the Repository (including a presentation on The Journey of Water)
- Support to Communities to Learn about the Social & Ethical Framework
- Engagement on Safety
- Communication of NWMO Evolution of thinking from Willing Host Partnership
- Mechanisms for Technical Peer Review
- Best Practices and the Development of a Knowledge Management System
- Information to Communities on Radiation Release Likelihood and Effects

11. Communication on Water & Waste in the Repository

Management provided an update on the Advisory Council's request for information about plans for communicating about water issues related to the repository. Management reviewed and asked for Council's input on the approach being developed. Management noted that the work will be implemented in a manner that dovetails with NWMO's overarching visibility plan goals, which include increasing public visibility of the NWMO, focusing on specialists and NWMO's work, as well as increasing visible third party support for the project.

A Council member suggested that there are many advocates for water and suggested NWMO might connect with the Canadian Water Network in Waterloo. A Council member noted that NWMO has a unique position to advocate for groundwater and its interaction with surface water.

12. Support to Communities to Learn about the Social & Ethical Framework

Management reported that at the last meeting NWMO staff presented initial thoughts on an approach to updating the Ethical and Social Framework and an initial updated draft. At the March meeting, Advisory Council members provided advice and direction on how the document could be strengthened. Staff presented a revised draft document which incorporated Advisory Council suggestions.

13. **Journey of Water**

NWMO staff presented to the Council on the Journey of Water, a presentation that has been provided to the siting communities and is an example of NWMO communicating a complex subject in an understandable format.

The presentation reviewed the very different time scales associated with the movement of groundwater with depth. Council found this presentation to be a helpful example of how NWMO is translating complex subjects into understandable material for communities, but also provided a few suggestions to enhance the presentation.

A Council member suggested that NWMO will need to develop a common language around the results of borehole testing so they are understandable by those who are not technical. A Council member suggested the key message heard from the presentation is that depth provides safety.

15. **Engagement on Safety**

Management outlined a plan for engaging the public and communities in addressing safety concerns, in response to the Advisory Council's recommendation in the last Triennial Report.

The Advisory Council recommended that the NWMO develop a participatory approach to engage the public and potential host communities in identifying, analyzing and addressing safety concerns. Management outlined its work plan to address this recommendation and the next steps. Council members were pleased to see increased prominence of safety in NWMO's work.

16. **Communication of NWMO Thinking from Willing Host to Partnership**

Management provided an update and sought input on work underway to address the Advisory Council's recommendations concerning partnership. The Advisory Council recommended that the NWMO explain, in its communications with the public and with communities in the siting study areas, how its understanding of the willing host concept has been enhanced to include supportive and inclusive partnerships.

Management outlined its work in a number of areas:

- Collaborative implementation of the partnership roadmap;
- Discussions of values and principles
- Community well-being investments;
- Preparing for project visioning; and
- Next steps.

A Council member encouraged NWMO to ensure it clearly understands communities' goals in order to have a successful partnership. Mr. Belfadhel reported the partnership discussions will progress in a collaborative manner to ensure NWMO has a clear understanding of communities' goals.

17. **Mechanisms for Technical Peer Review**

Council was provided with an update on the various technical peer reviews activities conducted to date and plans for future technical peer-reviews. Management also outlines its intent to conduct a comprehensive international independent review at a later stage in the program. The NWMO asked Council for input as to whether the actions outlined adequately address the recommendation, or where the Council believes additional consideration be given to any specific area.

Council Members felt that management's plans for conducting peer-reviews of NWMO's technical program adequately addressed the Council's recommendation.

18. **Best Practices and the Development of a Knowledge Management System**

Management outlined the actions the NWMO has undertaken, or is planning to implement, in response to the 2014 – 2016 Triennial Report recommendations including participation the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) Preservation of Records, Knowledge and Memory (RK&M) Across Generations working group.

The NWMO asked Council Members whether the actions described adequately address the recommendation, or where the Council believes additional consideration be given to any specific area.

Council noted that knowledge management goes beyond record-keeping and should include knowledge management of social and Indigenous components as well. Management agreed with this definition. A Council member asked NWMO if it was a "learning" organization. Ms. Swami reported that a work program related to becoming a learning organization was being implemented.

19. **Information to Communities on Radiation Release Likelihood and Effects**

Management provided the Council with some examples of activities undertaken related to the Advisory Council's comment specific to providing information on radiation release and the effects of radiation on human health.

Council members noted that NWMO staff should be well prepared to answer questions related to past international nuclear power incidents, such as Chernobyl. Council members also suggested that legacy issues in a number of Indigenous communities related to mining and nuclear will need to be acknowledged. A Council member suggested putting radiation doses in plain language comparisons should be considered (i.e. sitting beside a transportation container on the highway for x amount of time is equal to x number of flights).

20. **Municipal Forum**

Linda Thompson provided an update to the Council on her attendance at the recent meeting of the Municipal Forum, participating as the Advisory Council representative. Ms. Thompson reported that the Municipal Forum received updates from its members on the work of their organizations, updates from NWMO on its work, and had a lot of discussion on the draft principles for partnership and community consultation. She

reported the Forum also discussed NWMO's visibility strategy and emerging issues related to upcoming elections.

21. **Building Relationships**

The Council was provided with updates on the following:

- recent Council of Elders' meetings;
- the external landscape;
- progress on youth engagement; and
- an analysis of media reports.

Council members discussed the report on the external landscape and how Community Liaison Committees (CLCs) communicate with communities and also how NWMO responds to online opposition.

22. **Transportation Engagement**

The Council was provided with an update on the work underway in transportation engagement. Council discussed work underway on stakeholder mapping and public attitude research.

23. **APM Technical Program Update**

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

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

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on September 18, 2018.

25. **In Camera Session**

The Council met in camera with some management present and then met without any management present.

Termination of Meeting

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

Dated the 18th day of September, 2018

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair