

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: March 20, 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 March 20, 2018

Advisory Council Members Present:

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

Regrets:

Dean Jacobs

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-17)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection (items 1-17)
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-16)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-16)
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-16)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-17)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management (Items 1-16)
Bob Watts	VP Indigenous Relations (items 1-16)

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 November 28, 2017 meeting were brought forward for Council review and were approved as written with one addition suggested by a Council member. There were no comments on the action items from the previous meeting.

3. President's Report

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

- Completing internal NWMO re-structuring, budgeting improvements and hiring 27 employees in 2017;
- Continuing to increase focus on safety as NWMO progresses with its borehole drilling program;
- Demonstrating container performance with preparations for a container serial production run in 2019.
- Advancing partnership discussions in the siting areas;
- Increasing focus on regulatory approvals;
- Advancing NWMO's visibility with stakeholder groups; and
- Developments related to other international waste repository siting programs.

Council members discussed the OPG L&ILW DGR and NWMO's decreasing involvement with OPG's work as the regulatory process continues to be delayed. Ms. Swami spoke about the importance of being aware of the work of other nuclear organizations and possible impacts on NWMO's work.

4. Update on APM Site Selection

The Council was provided with an update on the status of the work underway in the APM siting process. Management reported on the recent narrowing down decision which involved removing the North of Huron communities from the site selection process. Management described the engagement activities NWMO undertook to explain the rationale for the decision and ensure a graceful exit of the North of Huron communities from the process. Management reviewed the status of work and engagement in each of the remaining communities in the siting process.

Council members talked about the different pace at which communities in the siting process are advancing and whether this would have an impact on the planning assumptions for selecting a site. Mr. Ben Belfadhel reported that NWMO is confident timelines for selecting a single site can be met despite different paces of communities. Council members asked about NWMO's plans to review funding programs for communities. Mr. Belfadhel noted that the original funding programs were for the "learn

more” phase and as NWMO moves into partnership discussions, the funding programs will evolve.

Derek Wilson talked about de-mobilizing the drilling site in Ignace with the completion of the drilling of the first borehole. A Council member asked if NWMO learned anything that would change the approach to the second borehole. Mr. Wilson noted that areas for further efficiencies had been identified and NWMO is undergoing a “lessons learned” exercise with the contractors.

5. APM Risk Assessment

Staff reviewed NWMO’s corporate risks with Council members. Council had a lengthy discussion about some of the risks identified. Council asked why transportation did not appear as a corporate risk. Management explained that transportation has been identified as a risk but is not consider imminent at this early phase of work. NWMO is monitoring this risk and understands that it will likely increase as the siting program progresses. The Council was pleased with the systematic and thorough procedure that is being taken to identify, assess and mitigate risks.

Management discussed some risks with Council members in camera.

6. Small Modular Reactors (SMR)

The Council was provided with a presentation on NWMO’s approach to manage potential future fuel wastes from Small Modular Reactors. Council was informed of the various types of SMR approaches and applications, as well as, and the status of SMR development within Canada. Staff also discussed the elements that are important for the NWMO to consider including the physical composition of the waste and the end-product characterization that would impact the potential approach and cost for disposal.

Council members asked if NWMO would be able to accommodate these new waste forms. Management noted that further examination of the wastes would be needed as SMR’s are currently in a design phase. Mr. Wilson noted that the waste would have to meet NWMO’s Waste Acceptance Criteria. Council members asked if commercial SMR reactors currently operated in other countries. Mr. Wilson reported there are SMRs within research reactors, nuclear submarines and one in Russia, but there are not commercially viable reactors currently operating. Ms. Swami noted that commercial SMRs are under development and would not be operating before a 5-10 year timeframe.

7. Update on Partnership Discussions

The Council was updated on the discussions held with the communities on partnership and, in particular advancement along the Partnership Roadmap developed by the NWMO and launched with communities. It was reported that NWMO has now introduced its Partnership Roadmap in public presentations to all core communities and work is advancing on developing values and principles. Mr. Belfadhel reported the roadmaps were well received by communities and discussions on values and principles are advancing. He also reported that the community well-being investment program approved by the Board in June of last year is being implemented. Council feedback on the partnership approach was welcomed.

Council members encouraged NWMO to ensure the values and principles being developed for partnerships are consistent with those in NWMO's Social and Ethical framework. Ms. Facella noted that the values and principles being developed in the partnership discussions are emerging from the communities, but agreed that a common set of principles is required. Mr. Belfadhel reported that the Social and Ethical framework is an integral part of all discussions with the communities, but agreed that NWMO would document this more explicitly as per the Advisory Council recommendation. A Council member noted an absence of a reference to relationships with First Nations in the example provided. Mr. Belfadhel noted that the example emerged from a specific Municipality, but that NWMO is working to create a stronger profile for indigenous issues when working with municipalities.

8. Triennial Report Recommendations – Social & Ethical Framework

NWMO continues work to respond to Council's recommendations in the 2014-2016 Triennial Report. Council members had a very positive reaction to NWMO's plans to update the Social and Ethical Framework in response to the Council's Triennial Report recommendations.

Management proposed a draft revised Social & Ethical framework. Council members had a lengthy discussion about how the updated framework would be presented and evolved as the siting activities and decisions advance.

Council members suggested that the framework become a living document reflecting two components:

- a) A broader articulation of enduring principles which also covers the principles outlined in the original framework, and
- b) A reflection of current and future siting activities (i.e. site selection and partnership development)

A Council member suggested the document could contain key questions and key ethical and social issues that would frame a discussion at the next phase as NWMO moves into operations. Council members also asked staff to reflect on the relationship of the new framework to the original framework.

Council members also suggested that expert review of the updated framework planned by NWMO should take place prior to socializing it with the Community Liaison Committees (CLCs). Council also encouraged NWMO to consider how its social and ethical principles are included during discussions with communities on Partnership values and principles.

9. Triennial Report Recommendations – Approach to Assessing Effectiveness of Youth Activities

Also in response to one of Council's Triennial Report recommendations, Council was informed about NWMO's approach to assessing the effectiveness of its youth engagement activities. Council members generally agreed with management's proposed approach but made some suggestions to improve proposed indicators for measuring effectiveness.

10. NWMO Annual Report & Implementation Plan

Lisa Frizzell provided the NWMO Annual Report to Council. She reported that NWMO has listened to feedback related to the report and has continued to make improvements by reducing its length, increasing story-telling and including staff profiles.

Ms. Frizzell also outlined a revised process for reviewing the NWMO implementation plan. Rather than publishing a separate draft report in the fall and asking for input, the report will be published once and feedback received will be published in the next year's implementation plan. She also noted that when the Implementation Plan is published, it will include an embedded summary of "What We Heard", which was previously a separate document.

Council members appreciated the improved accessibility and effectiveness of the NWMO's Annual Report.

11. Building Relationships

The Council was provided with updates on the recent meeting of the Council of Elders and Youth, the external landscape, a youth engagement report and media analysis.

Ms. Frizzell summarized NWMO's media and social media outreach related to the recent narrowing down announcement. Council members discussed NWMO's social media strategy, plans for increasing visibility and plans for responding to opposition.

12. CEAA Update

Lisa Frizzell provided the Council with an update on Bill C-69, "An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to Amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts."

The Council discussed the proposed revisions to the impact assessment process and possible implications to APM. A question was asked about the government being "bound by precedence" in the new legislation. Ms. Frizzell noted that the government has committed to publish its rationale for decisions under the new legislation which would build a case study library for transparency and illustrate how different factors are considered.

13. Transportation Engagement Update

The Council was provided with an update on the work underway in transportation engagement.

14. APM Technical Program Update

Council members were provided with an update on the work underway in NWMO's technical program.

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

Mr. Wilson explained to the Advisory Council that, with the delays in the regulatory process and delays in decision timelines for OPG's Low and Intermediate Level Waste

(L&ILW) DGR, NWMO would have a reduced role in providing support on OPG's work. He discussed NWMO's plan for transition of work to OPG.

Council members asked that they be kept informed on any developments on the work relating to OPG's DGR and any impacts developments on that project would have on NWMO. Management agreed to include this information in its reporting.

16. Next Meeting of the Advisory Council

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on June 25, 2018.

17. In Camera Session

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

Termination of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:30 pm.

Dated the 25th day of June, 2018

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair