ENRESA'S RESPONSES TO NWMO'S QUESTIONNAIRE.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER : DESIGNING THE PROCESS FOR SELECTING A SITE

Q1: Does the framework of objectives, ethical principles and requirements provide a sound foundation for designing the process for selecting a site?

Yes. The whole of objectives, principles and requirements is comprehensive and covers all those items which the present "state-of-the art" considers necessary to go through a fair and successful siting process.

Q2: How can we ensure that the process for selecting a site is fair?

The set of items approached in Q1 is sufficient to provide a fair process. Nevertheless, some of them have a outstanding relevance in fairness: attachment to the conditions legally set by the Canadian Government and strict observance of the principles of voluntariness, community's veto power, transparency and inclusiveness.

Q3: From what models and experience should we draw in designing the process?

Choosing a certain model is highly influenced by the social and cultural patterns of each country. During the last years a lot of experiences have come out inside OECD countries on how to adjust national decision-making programs to particular characteristics of different communities. Relevant among them are the cases of Belgium, UK, Finland and Sweden where considerable advances are being reported.

Q4: Who should be involved in the process for selecting a site and what should be their role?

Siting a national repository affects the whole of the country so every Canadian individual, organisation or affected group should have the possibility of participating in the definition of the process at its early stages. Later steps in the siting process should include a more reduced group of people, community being the central actor of any participative action. Since community comprises a wide range of local actors more or less affected by the siting of facility, clear rules need to be adopted to exactly define who are designated to make decision at a given set of process milestones: e.g. when organising information and discussion groups, partnerships, veto considerations, etc.

Q5: What information and tools do you think would facilitate your participation?

ENRESA is not able to give a precise response to this question. There is a lot of means to provide information and facilitate participation which have been boosted by the extraordinary development of information technologies (IT). ENRESA feels that a more precise answer would require knowledge in depth of the characteristics and social habitudes of the Canadian population.

Q6: What else needs to be considered?

It is ENRESA's opinion that the way NWMO is striving to implement a selection process for the Canadian repository is sound and will likely address a robust and responsible participation of the Canadian people. For the benefit of the process, and congratulating NWMO for the high level of the document, ENRESA would like to highlight the importance of two points not extensively dealt with in the text:

- The setting of a clear mechanism or committee for reviewing, advising and resolving potential conflicts all along the siting process.

- A clearer indication of possible means and tools to foster the well-being of the candidate community.

Note - I agree to this submission being posted on NWMO website.