

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: May 8, 2020 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 via Videoconference,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EDT On May 8, 2020

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Council Chair
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair
Monica Gattinger
Sue Hartwig
Derek Lister
Dougal McCreath
Linda Thompson
Diane Kelly (Items 3-12)
Joseph Cavalancia
Dean Jacobs

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-12)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection (items 1-12)
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-11)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-11)
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-11)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-12)
Monica Kumar Dhoat	Assistant Board Secretary (1-12)
Sarah Hirschorn	Director, Geoscience (items 1-11)
Jamie Matear	Director, Municipal Engagement (items 1-11)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-11)
Christina Vechsler	Senior Counsel (items 1-11)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations (items 1-11)
Allan Webster	Director of Regulatory Affairs and Environmental Assessment (items 1-11)

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

The Chair provided an Indigenous territory acknowledgement. The Chair welcomed all to the first Advisory Council videoconference and suggested some best practices to ensure the meeting runs efficiently.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members as written. The actions list and a summary of funding programs were also provided.

3. President's Report

The President began her report by providing an extensive update on NWMO's COVID-19 pandemic response. Ms. Swami began by recognizing the challenging times everyone is facing and the need to be patient and careful with each other. Ms. Swami reported on the following items:

- NWMO's team has adjusted very well during the pandemic, continuing much of NWMO's work remotely with all staff working from home since March 15;
- The four phases NWMO is expecting during the pandemic;
 - NWMO's immediate response to the pandemic (complete);
 - Sustainability of working from home (current);
 - Planning for relaxation of social distancing (when appropriate);
 - NWMO's new normal.
- The NWMO teams set up to deal with working from home sustainability and recovery;
- The extensive plan undertaken by management to ensure employee health, safety and well-being;
- The NWMO work programs and areas where work has been delayed due to COVID-19 and the work areas that continue to progress;
- How NWMO is supporting the siting communities and regions through a donation program to support them manage the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- An international Gold Quill award recently received by NWMO from the International Association of Business Communicators for its work on reconciliation and communications around that program.

A Council member recognized the responsible measures NWMO has taken in its response to the pandemic and asked about layoffs at NWMO. Ms. Swami stated that there are currently no plans for layoffs.

A Council member asked about NWMO's potential time frame for resuming physical interactions in NWMO's siting communities. Ms. Swami reported that resuming field activities would have to be carefully planned through dialogue with the communities. NWMO would be very mindful and respectful of their needs and priorities.

A Council member asked about the impact of COVID-19 on NWMO's timelines for site selection. Ms. Swami suggested that impact is not fully known as of yet and it would depend on the length of the pandemic.

A question was asked about whether NWMO had considered if the pandemic might shift the public's attitudes and opinions towards energy and climate change. Ms. Swami suggested that NWMO will monitor this but expects there will be a strong focus on economic recovery issues in the short term.

4. Update on APM Site Selection

The Council received updates from staff on NWMO's site selection engagement activities and site assessment work. The report included highlights for the reporting period from December 2019 through March 2020. The key initiatives during this period included:

- The siting process narrowed its focus to two potential siting areas: one in Northwestern Ontario, and one in Southern Ontario. The North of Superior region is no longer considered a potential host area.
- NWMO signed land access agreements with landowners in South Bruce. As a result, the Township of Huron-Kinloss is no longer being considered as a potential host community though will remain a key neighbouring community.
- Implementation of the partnership roadmap is progressing. Project Visioning workshops were completed in February in South Bruce and are being planned for the Ignace area.
- Community awareness surveys were completed in all three siting regions.

The Council held an in-camera discussion.

5. Establishment of a Third Party Review Group

Management updated the Council on the work being done to establish a Stocktaking Review Group (SRG). Management reviewed the purpose of the SRG which is to review and provide advice on the approach, methods and criteria used by the NWMO for the final narrowing down decision and selection of a preferred site. This will help ensure that NWMO processes and siting decision-making are thorough and robust.

Dr. Ben Belfadhel reviewed the possible candidates for membership in this group including individuals with experience in Indigenous Knowledge. NWMO is expecting to have the group in place later in 2020.

6. Update on Borehole Drilling / Integration Report – BH1

Management and staff reported on progress of the borehole drilling and testing in the Ignace/Wabigoon and South Bruce areas.

Staff reported on the status of preparations for borehole drilling in southern Ontario (South Bruce) noting that the drilling contract had been awarded and technical quality document preparation was underway. In the Ignace/Wabigoon area it was reported that drilling and on-site testing of boreholes 1-3 was completed and drilling on borehole 4 was underway at the time of the report. While the drilling was completed, all other testing work has been delayed by COVID-19.

A Council member asked for a copy of the borehole 1 integration report once it was complete. (*) Council member asked about the agility of the contractor to re-start drilling once the appropriate time comes and is agreed by the community. Staff reported that NWMO is in regular communication with the vendor and believes re-starting drilling could be done in a safe and timely way. A Council member asked about the drilling on borehole 4 and the involvement of Indigenous

Knowledge in relation to borehole drilling. Management reported that NWMO's Indigenous relations team is looking at joining a Nuclear Energy Agency working group on long-term data management as well as an international collaboration effort around copper corrosion. It was also reported that NWMO has an internal group that discusses opportunities to apply Indigenous Knowledge to communications related to water and rock fractures.

7. Update on Partnership Discussions and Site Selection (In Camera)

The Council was updated on how NWMO is advancing along the partnership roadmap in collaboration with the communities.

The Council discussed its response to a letter received by a concerned citizen in South Bruce.

8. Draft Transportation Planning Framework

Bob Watts provided some reflections from the Indigenous community on considerations for a new normal following the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council Chair noted appreciation for Mr. Watts reflections and suggested the foundation that NWMO has built with its values and ethics should continue to work well for NWMO as it moves into a new future.

Management provided the Council with the initial working version of the *Draft Transportation Planning Framework*. Mr. Watts encouraged the Council to provide its comments so they may be incorporated to the document for final review in June before it is published.

Council members discussed the document providing a number of comments.

It was agreed, that in the interest of time, any further comments should be sent to the Board Secretary for consideration.

9. APM Risk Assessment (In Camera)

The Council reviewed NWMO's corporate business risks in camera.

10. Results of Community Surveys

Staff reported on the progress in publishing and distribution of findings from the recently completed community surveys and discussed the next steps.

Council members were struck by the high proportion of respondents who had an understanding and awareness of NWMO and APM, but also noted that the response rate seemed low (although compared to traditional survey response rates would be considered statistically high).

11. Standing Reports

Updates were provided to Council members related to: Council of Elders and Youth; the external landscape; technical matters; transportation engagement; youth engagement; media analysis; land access and reconciliation.

12. Finalization of 2019 AC Tracking Matrix and Triennial Report New Recommendations *(In Camera)*

Council reviewed and finalized the tracking matrix for 2019 and agreed, in the interests of time to re-visit the other tracking matrices at the next meeting.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 12:20 pm.

Dated the 8th day of June, 2020

David Cameron
Advisory Council Chair