

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: September 13, 2010 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 13, 2010.

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Fred Gilbert
Eva Ligeti
Dougal McCreath
Derek Lister
Donald Obonsawin

Regrets:

Rudyard Griffiths

Guests:

Michel Rhéaume
Suzanne Barrett Writer for Advisory Council

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash President & CEO
Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection
Gillian Morris Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Steve Cavan CFO
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Anda Kalvins Director, Environment
Pat Patton Director, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations
Jamie Robinson Director, Communications
Sean Russell Director, Repository Engineering
Frank King VP and Chief Engineer
Peter Simmons Director, Municipal Engagement

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The Agenda was reviewed and approved.

David Crombie welcomed Michel Rhéaume. Pending approval at the Board of Director's September 23 meeting, Mr. Rhéaume will be Hydro-Quebec's Advisory Council member appointment to succeed Daniel Rozon who passed away earlier in 2010.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the previous meeting, convened on May 27, 2010.

UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. President's Report

The President reported on recent activities in NWMO's work programs:

- Reporting on APM site selection, it was noted that some communities had requested initial screenings as part of the early opportunities to learn more about the project. Engaging local Aboriginal groups is an important part of this early phase, to ensure inclusiveness as the siting process moves forward.
- Work is progressing well in the APM technical program. Work is progressing according to schedule on the two reference designs and associated cost estimating work. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff are preparing to review NWMO's submissions next year.
- Mr. Nash provided an update on international developments. He noted that a delegation from China visited with NWMO to learn more about its waste management program.
- NWMO continues to work collaboratively with waste owners for possible areas of cooperation. Recent discussion includes a possible study of the feasibility of co-locating long-lived intermediate waste in a used fuel repository.
- Council discussed the status of AECL and waste legacy question at Chalk River and potential to impact the work of NWMO.
- The regulatory submission for the OPG Low and Intermediate Level Waste (L&ILW) Deep Geological Repository (DGR) is being prepared and is on schedule. NWMO will be further developing its governance structure for the work on OPG's L&ILW DGR by a Board Committee to directly oversee this area of work; and
- NWMO's 2011-2015 business plan is nearing completion with no major changes from the existing plan.

Ms. Shaver updated the Council on recent engagement activities. The report noted ongoing engagement at municipal and provincial levels and with Aboriginal organizations. She reported on the Elders Forum convened in July, noting the participation of four Advisory Council members.

In the discussion ensuing, Council members asked about a range of industry projects and activities. Members discussed the July Elders Forum. It was noted that the Elders were in the process of preparing a report on their work for the last few years. Council members expressed interest in receiving the report when complete. Council also requested a copy of a paper that was submitted to NWMO on Aboriginal Well-Being under the Learn More Program.

4. Update on Site Selection Process

Ms. Shaver reported on the APM site selection process.

She reviewed the NWMO-led awareness-building activities conducted since the initiation of the siting process in May, and reported on briefing requests received from communities wishing to learn more about APM and the siting project. As part of the Learn More program, it was noted that requests for initial screenings had been received by Ear Falls and Ignace in Ontario, and Pinehouse in Saskatchewan. The intent of these high-level screenings is to provide early feedback to communities as to whether there are known technical features that would exclude the area from future consideration for the used fuel repository. Requests for these screenings do not commit the community to continuing its interest in the APM project. A relationship manager has been assigned to work with each community involved in a “learn more” screening.

Council members asked questions about the profile and economic base of the communities engaged to date. In response to Council questions, NWMO confirmed that local First Nations are advised as screenings are requested by communities.

Staff noted that work is underway to develop the community-well being framework for the site selection process. NWMO commits to foster the long-term well-being and quality of life of the future host community and region through the project implementation. Council comments and suggestions were invited on principles and possible approaches to ensuring community well-being. Council provided suggestions in the following areas:

- communicating the nature of economic benefits to a community and region, flowing as a result of the project;
- identifying and communicating the range of downside impacts and pressures on a host community and region that NWMO will need to address. For example, disruption in the community from the influx of workers, strain on resources and infrastructure, responsibilities associated with involvement with NWMO in a partnership agreement;
- NWMO should identify the potential impacts, pressures and costs to the community of participation in the process and the project. As with other large projects, such impacts should be addressed through NWMO's delivery of the project. The APM project is not unique in this regard;
- transparency and consistent application in NWMO's approach to community well-being and managing community impacts is essential;
- Council felt a strong point of NWMO's approach was its commitment to transparency and proposed consistent, equitable application of addressing

impacts in communities that may be realized in each phase of the project implementation. NWMO should commit to address community-well being, without exception.

Council encouraged NWMO to consider if scholarships and portable skills training could be included to build capacity in communities engaged in siting process - to enhance their capacities to work on the project, wherever it is ultimately located.

Dougal McCreath noted that he had been contacted by a private firm, Securad that has interests in repository developments.

NWMO FIVE-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET

5. 2011-2015 Business Plan and Budget

Council was invited to review, and provide comment on, NWMO's 2011-2015 Draft Business Plan and Budget and draft APM Implementation Plan.

As context, Mr. Nash reviewed the business planning process within NWMO. Anda Kalvins reviewed the elements of the five-year APM implementation plan, which addresses planned work priorities against key strategic directions for the planning period. The Implementation Plan will be issued in draft for a period of public review and comment, before finalized. The Plan will be embedded in NWMO's Triennial Report submitted to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada in March 2011. Steve Cavan reviewed key elements of the supporting NWMO five-year budget and business plan.

Extensive discussion followed as members sought clarification and offered comment in a number of areas.

- Council members sought clarification on reference planning assumptions around different stages of the site selection process that had been adopted to guide the budget forecasting process. Members asked about the experience of Sweden and other countries in regards to the multiple years involved in site selection;
- In response to Council's question, staff confirmed that a date had not been set for the closing of expressions of interest in learning about the APM site selection process;
- Council discussed the number of more detailed site characterizations that might be conducted and what criteria would be utilized. Members sought clarification on the latter stages of the siting process that would narrow candidate sites down to one to two sites for detailed site characterization, and the basis for making this selection. A Council member suggested it would be important to maintain engagement of multiple communities;
- Council emphasized the importance of communicating the selection criteria clearly to communities at the outset of the process, to ensure an understanding of the basis for future site selection and not build up expectations. Council emphasized the importance of having clear communication materials on the selection criteria and considerations that will guide future decision-making;
- Members discussed the importance of a community demonstrating that it has strong local governance and leadership; and
- Council discussed the budgetary provisions forecast to support certain technical aspects of the APM program.

Council discussed the organizational growth planned at NWMO over the five-year planning period:

- Council underscored the importance of planning for senior staff to support community engagement through the site selection process. Members cautioned that although the NWMO is planning new hires to support communities in the siting process, new staff may not have the experience to handle these relationships. NWMO will need to ensure sufficient senior staff involvement;
- Members encouraged NWMO to consider opportunities for hiring of Aboriginal people as new positions become available;
- Council suggested an internship program would be helpful for continuing the recruitment of young people;
- Council noted the long planning timelines for the repository should be utilized to support local skills training, with possible support of scholarships in key areas; and
- Council members also provided some specific editorial feedback on the business plan and implementation plan.

Council provided editorial comments and refinements for the Draft Implementation Plan.

BRIEFINGS REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

6. Technical Briefing: APM Repository Design, Safety Case, Pre-Licensing Reviews

Further to Council's request, management delivered a briefing on the APM repository design work, development of the safety case and pre-licensing reviews of the deep geological repository.

Council questions and discussion addressed:

- how NWMO reviews its work on the placement method - does it cross check its research to work previously conducted?;
- the safety assessment reference case which uses a 10 million year time frame in order to capture peak doses;
- nature of transport casks for different modes of transport;
- the schedule for CNSC pre-licensing reviews; and
- the safety of the canisters over time.

7. Technical Briefing: Financial Surety

The Council was provided with a review of NWMO's actions and plans in support of the cost estimates and maintenance of the funding formula. The Council discussed the following aspects of the presentation:

- NWMO's building of two cost scenarios with assumptions of 3.6 million and 7.2 million fuel bundles respectively. The 7.2 million bundle scenario was explained to relate to a scenario which assumes additional fuel bundles from new build facilities;

- the rates of return assumptions on the trust funds and their impact of the changing economic environment over time which could have the most impact on changing the trust fund contribution requirements; and
- the process for regular review of the underlying assumptions.

IN CAMERA SESSION

8. Triennial Report Preparation

The Council met *in camera* with its writer to discuss a first draft of its comments for the Triennial Report.

9. Upcoming Meetings

Meeting #4 – Special Triennial Report Meeting

Wednesday, September 29, 2010
9:00 am – 4:00 pm EDT

Meeting # 5 - Special Triennial Report Meeting

Monday, November 1, 2010
9:00 am – 1:00 pm (Either a conference call or in-person meeting – TBD)

Meeting #6 – Wednesday, December 1

9:00 am – 4:00 pm EST

Evening of Wednesday, December 1 – Dinner with Board of Directors

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 3:00 pm.

Dated the 13th day of September, 2010

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection