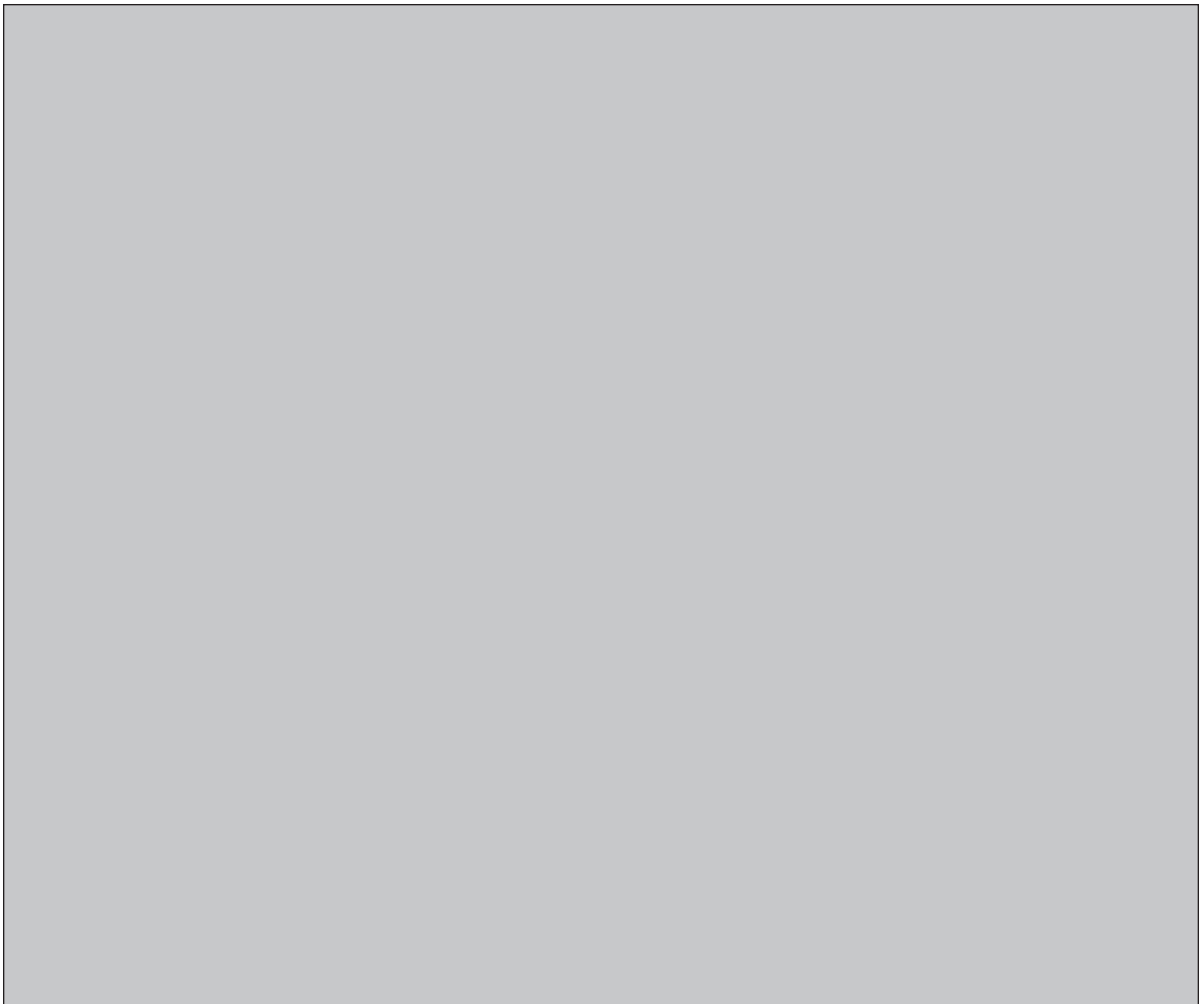


NWMO BACKGROUND PAPERS
8. WORKSHOP REPORTS

8-4 COMMUNITY DIALOGUE: A PLANNING WORKSHOP

Glenn Sigurdson, CSE Consulting Inc. & Barry Stuart



Disclaimer

This report does not necessarily reflect the views or position of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization, its directors, officers, employees and agents (the "NWMO") and unless otherwise specifically stated, is made available to the public by the NWMO for information only. The contents of this report reflect the views of the author(s) who are solely responsible for the text and its conclusions as well as the accuracy of any data used in its creation. The NWMO does not make any warranty, express or implied, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information disclosed, or represent that the use of any information would not infringe privately owned rights. Any reference to a specific commercial product, process or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or preference by NWMO.

**Community Dialogue: A Planning Workshop
Summary Notes
October 7 & 8, 2003**

- A. Introductory Remarks**
- B. Principles of Participation**
- C. Introductions**
- D. Building on Experience: Identifying Key Factors**
- E. The Questions to Which we Must Turn Our Minds**
- F. “Who” Should be Engaged?**
- G. “When” Should Engagement Take Place?**
- H. How Should Engagement Take Place?**
- I. Key Challenges Identified for Consideration**
- J. Content of First NWMO Discussion Document # 1**
- K. Community Based Suggestions for a Locally Based Process**
- L. Next Turn Our Minds Steps**

Appendix 1 List of Participants

Appendix 2 The Questions to Which We Must Turn Our Minds

A. Introductory Remarks

1. This workshop is about developing effective ways to respond to these challenges:

- How do you inform and talk with each other?*
- How do we inform and talk with you?*

The Workshop is intended to provide an opportunity to share and explore ideas as to what it will take to ensure that effective participation between and among the communities and the NWMO is more than a promise.

2. Reflections by Elizabeth Dowdeswell:

(a) What the legislation requires us to do

- The NWMO mandate flows out of federal legislation which requires the organization to recommend a long-term management plan for spent nuclear fuel in Canada to the federal cabinet by November 15, 2005.
- A minimum of three options must be considered- Geological disposal, extending storage at the present sites, and centralized storage.
- The assessment must consider not only technical and economic factors, but also social and ethical issues. It must look at risks and costs, opportunities and benefits. Included within each option must be an implementation plan.
- The process of developing these recommendations must involve the engagement of Canadians across the country with the explicit reference to the involvement of aboriginal interests. This process of engagement began with Conversations about Expectations with a wide range and number of people that explored the question as to how Canadians and communities felt they wished to be involved in the work of the NWMO.

(b) Why we want to engage with the communities

- Engaging in a very specific and special way with communities where reactors were currently located has become an early priority for the NWMO. This is so because these communities have worked and lived with a nuclear presence for a long time and can bring a special and experienced perspective. As well, in polls taken of Canadians they have sent the clear message that giving such special attention to these communities is consistent with their expectations.

(c) This Workshop is one Way of Starting our Interactions

- This specific workshop was born out of the conversations about expectations in which some of the reactor site communities made it known that they had already developed linkages with each other through the offices of the mayors of each

community and that they would welcome an opportunity to pull together their wisdom by meeting together with the NWMO.

- The NWMO has a deep and genuine interest to understand the communities' perspectives and to enter into a dialogue with them in a spirit of flexibility. There are no restraints on what and how communities might want to express their views in a workshop of this nature and that they should feel entirely comfortable in approaching these discussions in a spirit of openness.

B. Principles of Participation

1. The Principles of Participation - Below are listed ten guidelines that provided a draft basis for participation in the Workshop. These guidelines were discussed at the beginning of the workshop and were opened for discussion for changes and additional comments and perspectives.

Our intent is:

1. To explore, not negotiate;
2. To share, not to decide;
3. To inform and when requested, to advise;
4. To understand the diversity of perspectives and build relationships;
5. To consider how to widen the network of connections with which NWMO will need to build relationships and linkages;
6. To help guide the flow of the discussions in such a way that areas of common ground and of differences are identified along with the underlying reasons; and
7. To respect that participation and contributions are not to be seen as an endorsement by any participant of the NWMO project (or any specific outcome of it).

Attribution of comments:

8. No specific attribution of any comment made by any participant(s) will be referenced in any notes unless specifically requested by the participant(s).

Notes

9. Notes will be prepared from the activity (meeting, workshop) and shared, either with a representative group if identified at the activity or the full group prior to finalization. Notes shall typically be of a summary nature and will include a list of participants.
10. Any notes prepared should include at the beginning, this "Basis for Participation" which shall have been discussed with participants at the beginning of the activity.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. At the workshop participants made the following specific suggestions for additional guidelines:
 - Material should also be available in French
 - “Balance” must always be kept in mind – gender, age, etc
 - Representation should be broadly based and balanced
2. Discussion Reminders
 - a. First Nations Representation (invitation had been extended, with subsequent regrets)
 - b. Local input/local knowledge is always important
 - c. Role of media must be considered
 - d. Discussions based on principles
 - e. Think horizontally and vertically – both within and between decision making structures
 - f. Short and long range concerns should be included in discussions
 - g. Equal opportunity to participate
 - h. When appropriate, authority of participants to commit to group discussions should be made clear at the beginning
3. Participants List – attached as Appendix 1
4. Organization and facilitation – Glenn Sigurdson and Barry Stuart

C. Introductions

1. *The participants shared backgrounds and then introduced each other. In the course of doing so, each was asked to address this question: “In your experience, what is the most essential feature that makes a community process fair?”*

2. *Ideas shared as to what fairness involved included:*

- a. Ability to influence outcomes
- b. Effective involvement in process not just consultation
- c. Early warning of matters requiring involvement
- d. Broadly based and representative participation
- e. Open and transparent process of decision making
- f. Realistic expectations
- g. Respect for all interests
- h. Commitment to outcome
- i. Honesty in what you say/willingness to listen to others
- j. Communicate at all levels in ways that foster effective involvement
- k. Responsive to all other interests
- l. Time to explore for common interests
- m. Create a common language accessible to all participants
- n. Face making tough decisions
- o. 'Experts' as participants with an equal voice
- p. Resources

There was broad support for the possibility of working with these ideas to develop the basis for a set of guiding principles.

D. Building on Experience: Identifying Key Factors

1. *Break-out groups were invited to discuss this question: "Share an experience in a community based process (whether a success or a failure) and a key factor that led to that outcome."*
2. *The outcomes were de-briefed from each of the break-out sessions, and following synthesis of the key points which had emerged was developed and reviewed.*

Laying the Foundation

- a. Ensure Expectations are clear -Goals, mandate, roles set out at the front end
- b. Finding the “Public Pulse”/Different Strokes for Different Folks
Involvement requires different techniques to produce equal opportunities for everyone to participate
- c. The Context: the Big Picture
 - Respect for local knowledge and finding ways to tap into it
 - Beware of decisions taken outside brought inside
- d. Respect is a key component of success – which is often reflected in the language we use with each other and how we treat each other

Key Stakeholders

Who – Specify time up front to ensure all interests affected are invited to participate. Thoughts on comprehensive inclusion

- Intergenerational/global/local/gender/vested interests
- f. Decision Making: Decision Makers
 - Independence & perceptions of independence are critical
 - Opportunities for direct participation
 - “Folks talking for other folks” add a big layer of complexity

Communication

- g. Recognize Role of the Media
 - Media can have the positive effect of providing a vehicle through which to communicate and generating the basis for involvement
 - But, it can also have the negative effect of intimidating a local community by putting it under the glare of a spotlight
 - Meet and explore with media how to work constructively with media
- h. Drawing lessons & insights from “examples”, and several specific illustrations out of the communities were given with this message:
 - Look for ways to create “value in both directions”
 - Effective ways to educate and communicate
 - Caution: examples need to be assessed against the ‘apple/orange’ factor, i.e. make sure that the examples used to compare, say risk, are appropriate

- i. Earlier is Better
 - Starting sooner rather than later widens the range of choices and options
 - And reduces the possibility of surprises

Participation

- j. Informed Participation
 - Disclosure of information and documents to all participants
 - Written in “understandable language”
 - Impartial expertise which identify both pros and cons.
 - “KISS” i.e. Keep It Simple etc.
 - Information takes \$ to create equal access to information
- k. Resourcing takes:
 - \$ to access basic resources to participate
 - readily accessible and understandable information

Some Big Picture Considerations to Keep in Mind

- l. Signposts to watch for:
 - ?: Public acceptance- what does “acceptance” mean?
 - ?: The “prize”/the “price”- when we talk of one, we should talk of the other
 - ?: “The big picture” must always be kept in mind and particularly when many similar things are happening at the same time, which could lead to confusion.
- m. Think outside the box
 - The ‘problem’ may not be what you think it is and can be solved in ways you had not initially thought of
 - Create opportunities for non-adversarial brain storming to review problem from many different perspectives to produce a rich range of possible outcomes

E. The Questions to Which We Must Turn Our Minds

1. The Questions derived from conversations leading up to the workshop with the participants had been shared prior to the workshop. More questions were raised during the Workshop. The essential elements of these questions can be sorted into five key questions:
 - a. Who (inclusivity)

- b. How (process to fit the problem; funding, equal opportunity; preparation)
- c. Where (independence and ability of local interests to participate comfortably)
- d. When (must be timely)
- e. Why (e.g. goals/authority, value finds value)

See Appendix 2

F. “Who” Should be “Engaged”?

A simple word but one which raises very complicated questions with many dimensions:

1. Geographically:
 - a. Identifying the “community” is a challenge, for the implications of a high level nuclear waste site extend over a much wider zone than the immediately adjacent town or city.
 - b. Geographic representation was identified as a key factor in the constituency of any group
 - c. The geographic scope of interest, and the numbers of people involved should be expected to expand as the project proceeds and more attention becomes drawn to the issue as outcomes start to emerge.
 - d. The suggestion was made that we might speak in terms of a “community of interest” (although this term is also used in relation to interest based perspectives such as environmental, labour, business) to embrace a wider area.
2. Interest based involves:
 - a. A portfolio of different perspectives- The potential to work from the foundation of existing organizational entities in the community from church to business groups was raised.
 - b. One specifically mentioned but often forgotten was the “work force” (labour) who are at the front lines both in their jobs at the site and the communities in which they live.
 - c. Youth was also mentioned as a perspective that is too often overlooked.
3. Intergenerational considerations:

- a. The challenge of managing nuclear waste will be with us for a very long time so intergenerational considerations must always find a way into deliberations in the present. How might that be accomplished? Might we need a “future generation’s ombudsman”?
 - b. Youth participants to be meaningfully engaged need financial support and access to relevant information (more than one youth?)
4. Additional challenging dimensions arising from the discussions:
- a. The presence of an adjacent water body e.g. a river or a lake have implications in terms of widening out the possible scope of impact and the “community of interest” in the geographic sense.
 - b. Transportation as an additional factor in the analysis adds many other layers of complexity as a result of the multiple communities through which the transportation arteries will pass as the waste is transported.
 - c. The use of the term “economic region” in the legislation- What is intended by an economic region? What implications should that have in relation to community based activities?
 - d. How do we define/describe a “community”, or a “host community”?
 - e. Credibility of any group dealing with this issue must recognize and respect the importance of independence from the utility. This will be achieved in different ways in different places.

G. “When” Should Engagement Take Place?

A similarly wide-ranging set of discussions was raised by this question:

1. One suggestion was made that we should be coming quickly to a fundamental question in the community to narrow the challenges associated with “who needs to be involved”. One suggestion was to ask this question early: “Are you interested in having a nuclear waste site in your community?” The answer to that it was suggested would drive focus at many levels.

A clear voice of caution was added to this suggestion. If that question were to be asked too soon, that is before people in the communities are in a position to have the information they need to thoughtfully respond. You will be inviting a range of potentially uninformed responses. The real challenge is to build an information and consultation platform that enabled the community to come to that question with a greater degree of preparation.

2. Time in this context has a further challenge given the generation of future waste that must be taken into account. What is the community being asked to consider- is it waste to a fixed capped amount, or some on-going, continued commitment to accept ongoing waste?

H. How Should Engagement Take Place?

The following were identified as key components:

1. Terms of reference:

The NWMO purpose should be clear to the community, and interactions with the community should be based on specific questions, expectations, directions, timelines, administrative and related support and funding. Specifically, expectations will need to clear about whether the goal is a clearinghouse for information, reviewing documents, making decisions, etc.

2. Ideas which should be kept front and centre:
 - a. Use a community's energy to tackle specific challenges so that the questions being asked and the responses expected are clearly expressed.
 - b. The challenge should be capable of being responded to in a demonstrable way which is clear and visible.
 - c. Networking - evolving a foundation based upon one on one contacts and personal connections. Peer groups are important vehicles of engagement whose impact should not be underestimated.
 - c. Clear and specific questions (as opposed to general "What are your concerns?") clearly responded to will be central to achieving credibility
 - d. The credibility of the process will be key to the credibility of the outcomes.
3. Priorities applicable across the entire country - informational activity should proceed on a high priority basis across the country with respect to:
 - a. Basic information package with possible elements such as nuclear waste 101, other countries and their experiences and other similar Canadian initiatives of a non-nuclear kind.
 - b. NWMO raising awareness across the country about nuclear waste is important.

4. An organizational structure within each community will need to be built that:
 - a. Has local credibility and acceptability.
 - b. Can be tasked to do liaison/coordination work needed to maximize effectiveness and community input.
 - c. Has resourcing from NWMO.
 - d. Has broad, diverse and balanced representation.
 - e. Operates within NWMO legislative mandate in providing public input to NWMO.

Note:

1. Such a liaison group may also take on the challenge of engaging directly on the substantive issues raised and provide information and input both to the community and to NWMO.
2. A key element necessary for the effectiveness of any such group is that the participants bring to it a “sense of buy-in”, that they are there to make a difference and that they see a real opportunity to do so.
3. Information will need to be developed that is responsive to the community’s sense of concern and opportunities. A multi-faceted communication strategy will be required.

I. Key challenges identified for consideration:

1. The different dimensions of these challenges included:

- a. Local government relationship to the activity- at a minimum local government must be connected to the organizational activity and the discharge of the mandate but the liaison group may or may not be an arm of local government. The connection may be as small as “kept in the know and informed” to being the appointing body or itself the liaison group.
- b. Straddling the line between NWMO leadership and mandate to the work of the group and local government will inevitably be responded to in different ways in different communities.
- c. The presence of a proponent- without a driving agent i.e. a proponent, it is difficult to bring focus to the activity. Who is the proponent is a question that needs to be further considered.

- d. Deciding on the representative “slices of the pie” and bringing balance to the composition of any group will always be a challenge. Representative perspectives identified include business, local government, environmental rate payers, nuclear industry, workforce and many other sectors of activity.
- e. Coordination between and among the organizational structures created in each community – perhaps such coordination could take place within individual communities, and/or it could be built from the existing and relatively informal association that the mayors have created from the communities which meets annually. An important caveat noted was that not all communities have mayors (e.g. Lepreau)
- f. The possibility may exist of building the local liaison group from or out of an existing group or organization in the community, but any such liaison group to be created should be separate and distinct from an existing group and be seen to be working within an NWMO terms of reference.
- g. Finding ways through which to connect into the broader community so as to give expression to both a top down and a bottom up driven world with real participation possible at both ends and in the middle will be an added element in achieving credibility.
- h. Representatives must be able to answer positively the “what’s in it for me question” clearly and comfortably if they are expected to have a commitment to the activity. The fight against cynicism is an upstream battle for there are a lot of folks out there in a lot of places asking “Where does my voice go? How and when does it get counted? Why should I bother? This will just be a waste of my time and energy...”

Seeing tangible reports? to input is one way to earn confidence in the face of cynicism. Seeing ‘upfront’ the face of the commitment, to do so is another element.

- i. A key choice point is whether or not those on any such a group are there to bring a perspective or to represent an organization or group in a more formal way. It may be that different people will answer this differently but it is a question that is central to make explicit and discuss so that there are clear expectations about the status attached to the person and the obligations that may come with that status.
- j. Addressing the idea that community acceptance of nuclear waste management is as important as ensuring that the final solution is technically and environmentally sound.

J. Content of First NWMO Discussion Document #1:

A brief overview was given of the first NWMO Discussion Document that would be released publicly before the end of the year:

1. Description of the Current Situation/the Problem – and the question raised will be:
 - “have we (the NWMO) got it right?”
2. Setting out a Range of Options that are out there in the world. And the question will be:
 - “have we got them captured?”
3. Setting out the Nature of the Thinking we are doing around Decision-Making to respond to the problem in light of the options, and identifying the questions we are asking. And the Question will be:
 - “have we got the framework for analysis right? Are we asking the right questions?”

K. Community Based Suggestions for a Locally Based Process

The following are Community Specific Design Suggestions based upon the representatives from each community at the workshop having an opportunity to caucus as a group:

a. Durham Region

- The NWMO should develop a specific Terms of Reference for the committee that would address such matters as expectations, issues to be addressed, expected life of the committee, and budget.
- The NWMO would provide technical support to the committee, in the form of an administrator/facilitator, who would also be the primary liaison between the committee and the NWMO. This person would also provide administrative support services.
- Members would be solicited by a "general call for applications" in local newspapers, etc. Specific groups could be asked to nominate people.
- There would be one Council representative each on the Committee from Clarington and Pickering.
- Selection of the membership would be left to the NWMO with input from the Regional, Clarington and Pickering Councils. The members selected would be endorsed by these three Councils. There would be 10 citizen members.

- The chair of the committee would be selected by the committee.
- The committee would be independent of the Councils and would submit its comments directly to the NWMO - they would also provide copies of their comments to the 3 Councils. However, the Councils would submit their own comments on various matters to the NWMO.

b. New Brunswick Power/Hydro Quebec

NBP:

- NWMO sets guidance/expectations
- Suggestions from the station important
- Balance/representation of any group is critical
- Geographic draw – 30 KM radius approx, 1500 homes; 40 KM – 50,000 people including St. John (n.b. will be affected by transportation)

HQ:

- New committee set up by NWMO (n.b. existing committee hand picked by station)
- Ownership issue – regionally specific flavor
- Membership – top down and bottom up; approach FN; women; youth, etc, all seats at the table
- Also door-to-door solicitation to raise interest and harvest broadly based involvement
- Issue – rep. organizations or perspectives? (n.b. G2 existing committee, different rep. with a mandate from each organization, now, aboriginal people channel all commentary through that)

c. Bruce

- Impact Advisory Committee (IAC) would spearhead co-ordination of a committee – who makes the choices, how large? IAC could make these decisions
- Independently facilitated + NWMO resource person needed to ensure effective role of Community Group

- To determine role of community group need to see the document, see what it says, make decisions from there
- Committee should review the document before it is released publicly
- N.b. need to be aware of LLW disposal project – may be confusion between the two

d. **Pinawa**

- LGD office – central point of contact
- Primary contact between NWMO and the community
- Some one from the NWMO come and kick it off; explain the need; charge (us/them) with the process
- Then the community would gauge interest and provide criteria/perspectives
- Want to keep it unbiased
- Look at RM and Village of Lac du Bonnet
- Already a regional committee??
- Don't forget the Concerned Citizen's of Manitoba
- Need balanced representation
- Committee would act in a facilitating role, to seek opinion
- Solicit opinions, perhaps in small group format

e. **Deep River**

- As of January 2004, only responsible group will be the Deep River Council
- They may have a public meeting
- They might want to make a link between CRL operations and ability to continue hosting the waste
- If the NWMO wishes to proceed with a CLG, will really have to consider – time is very tight

- Proposed terms, work plan, budget etc. – all are important considerations
- Won't probably object
- May wish to seek a Joint CLG with neighbouring communities
- regionally –based small committee is possible

L. Next Steps

There was a broadly based consensus as to the following:

- a. The subsequent community activities involving the NWMO should be coordinated through a community-based group that would take a somewhat different form in each of the communities, but would be guided by a consistent set of broad objectives and approaches.
- b. Group should work within terms of reference established by NWMO mandate and with resourcing from the NWMO.
- c. This group should be connected with and in some way relate to the local governance bodies in different ways within each community.
- d. The potential for overall coordination of the various community groups through the Mayor's group or some adaptation of it should be further explored
- e. Consideration should be given by the NWMO as to the overall framework within which the local community based processes should go forward and specifically the terms of reference that would apply
- f. Selection of participants while difficult, is an important challenge that must be addressed based on principles of balance, fairness and broad representation.
- g. The overall sense of the group was that the dialogue planning session had been a very effective way of bringing people from the communities together and developing ideas and recommendations for engagement and consideration should be given to the possibility of bringing the same group together again as the NWMO engagement process evolves.
- h. Much more required to raise profile of NWMO, especially about its mandate.
- i. More general public awareness required of choices/benefits/costs of nuclear energy to promote informed public debate.

APPENDIX 1

NWMO – Community Dialogue: A Planning Workshop
October 7 & 8, 2003 - Toronto
Workshop Participants

Mayor John Murphy
Mayor Len Simpson
Mayor Mark Kraemer
Howard Ribey
Norman Annettes
Pat O'Brien
Dave Martin
Suzanne Elston
Janice Szwarc
Brian Devitt
Louis Charest
Charles Hickman
Wayne Pollock
Michel Rheaume
Dave Thompson
Mary Maccafferty
Carol Edwards
Dorothy Rosenberg
Terry Bryan
George Bereznai
Keith Nuttall
Donna Pawlowski
Barry Stuart
Glenn Sigurdson

APPENDIX 2

The Questions to Which We Must Turn Our Minds

Questions had been evolved over the course of conversations leading up to the workshop with the participants and prospective participants and these had been shared prior to the workshop. More questions were raised during the workshop. Essential elements of these questions can be sorted into five key questions:

- *Who (inclusivity)*
- *How (process to fit the problem; funding, equal opportunity; preparation)*
- *Where independence and ability of local interests to participate comfortably)*
- *When – must be timely*
- *Why (e.g. goals/authority, value finds value)*

The Questions Raised Before and During Workshop

Overarching Thoughts

- How to provide continuing opportunities for input and involvement?
- How may what is going to take place in this process tie in with these other activities, whether completed, underway, or planned?
- Are their differences between communities in the way they will expect to be involved which need to be understood and respected?

Information Sharing

- How might communities best receive and give information – e.g. printed material, videos, open houses? And what is the geographic area for this purpose?
- Are open houses effective anymore? How many people turnout? Why do those who come do so? And those who do not -why? Does it matter,- as long as they had the opportunity? What about younger people- do they ever come to them?
- Does the turnout and the effectiveness of open houses or any other “event” relate to the amount of informal prior discussion with prospective participants that takes place, and follow-up discussions with those who attend?

- What are the most effective ways in which to communicate within the community. How do you get peoples attention? In different places? Different ages? (e.g. a notice before a movie!!)
- Will the Website be useful, and in what way;

Who

- What are the key constituencies within the communities who have interests and perspectives regarding the storage of waste
- Are there people that are giving visible and identifiable leadership around these issues in each community?
- Won't it be possible to identify people who have taken a direct interest and become involved through different activities in the past, such as environmental assessments, local government activities, regulatory hearings, task forces etc?
- What about the newspapers? Local community newspapers? And the major press? What else in what way? Should there be media representatives invited to the workshop to ensure this perspective is included?
- What about the schools? Isn't the best way to ensure that the community is aware and energized through the kids? And isn't this really an issues about future generations, and they should be part of it now, not just in the future? How do we ensure that the long term perspective is brought into play?
- Where do the employees fit into all of this? There are a lot of people in a lot of communities who are active in their communities and know a lot of people? Is there a role for them?
- What are the key sectors?
- Tourism is a sector that will touch most directly on perception issues
- Without a "proponent" who has something to actively propose how will these issues be given focus and energy? Is not the discussion more in the realm of the hypothetical, i.e. academic? And will that be a disincentive for motivating people to be involved? And given the past history of procrastination in making a final decision even when the basis to do so has been laid going to be a further disincentive?
- What are other communities that may have a unique and special set of attributes that would make it appropriate for them to be more directly involved in engagement activities and what criteria and process should be used to identify them?

- Who might have special insights and experience that could help inform downstream dialogues?
- “Who speaks for whom” in the communities”? And does this depend on the issue? And at different times in different ways, e.g. informing or deciding? And where does the mandate come from- to speak? To negotiate? To decide?

Specific Engagement Activities

- In other engagement and consultation experiences in which you have been involved, what has “worked”? Why? What has “not worked”? Why?
- Might some of the engagement take place through smaller groups which are inclusive by bringing together representative viewpoints where the outcomes are then shared with the wider community for their reaction and input?
- If one were to have dialogues of this nature, will it be important to have them structured with clear objectives, facilitated, and outcome focused – so that people come with a clear sense of purpose?
- Might one set of dialogues of this nature be, for example, focused on “what will it take if the wastes are to stay in the community” and “what will be involved in moving them out?” Who would come to such dialogues? Reps from all the communities?
- In what way might the community best engage in a dialogue e.g. a policy forum? A community workshop? An open house? All of these in different ways at different times?
- When questionnaires and surveys are used, isn’t the way things are worded the most critical thing? Who should decide how to word these questions and surveys? How?
- Are there ways that the work of the NWMO in this engagement set of activities can also be of help to the communities? A “two-way street” where the communities own interests can also be considered in the design of the process so that they can use the outcomes from it for their own purposes?
- What other things may be “ongoing or about” that are distinct but related and which could affect people’s reactions and responses to an initiative of this nature? Positively or negatively?
- Partnerships – will we need to take a close look at them? Specifically what works? What does not?
- How important is it to distinguish between ‘low level waste’ and ‘high level waste’ and what implications does this have in terms of the engagement design?

Other Issues/Considerations

- What are the nature of the issues that will be on people's minds? And won't it be necessary to discuss not only concerns but also potential opportunities (i.e. offsets and benefits)?
- Won't people be cynical about spending time and energy in relation to the work of the NWMO, as they have already been engaged and consulted in different ways in different places, and often many times, on these matters over the past 25 years? And each time, the Federal Government just delayed and deflected the decision to some other process?
- When areas are surveyed, or referendums are proposed or held, how is the geographic scope of who is asked or can vote decided? By whom?
- What about timelines, budgets, costs, and other practical and logistical matters for these future engagement activities? Will they get talked about at the workshop?
- To what extent will (or should) the various communities be empowered to make decisions that will directly affect them?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of community empowerment, for both the NWMO and the communities?
- Given the expected lifetime of any long term storage/disposal facility for high level nuclear waste and the on-going requirement for institutional control, it is not unrealistic to expect that changing government priorities could result in the responsibility for maintaining these facilities (wherever they are located) being shifted (whether deliberately or by default) to the community. As such, how can existing or potential host communities participate in the current process without knowing what they may be committing future residents of their communities to?
- Will the communities not always face a "waste challenge" because some nuclear waste will need to remain at the facility site for up to 10 years before being transported to a storage or disposal site? And how will the question be raised as to whether further nuclear electricity generation should be held in abeyance, and more reliance built on supplying green electricity, until a safe disposal method is found?