

**NWMO Workshop on
The Nature of the Hazard
What Needs to be Managed, For How Long and Why
February 10, 2005**

Workshop Objectives

- To assist the NWMO to describe what types of hazard need to be managed, for how long, and why – in terms which can be understood by the public and decision-makers
- To identify implications of this description to NWMO recommendations on the management approach

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introduction** - Elizabeth Dowdeswell 8:45 – 9:00
2. **Describing the Hazard** 9:00 – 12:00

Main Hazards

- external radiation
- radio-toxicity
- chemical toxicity

Impacts

- human health and safety
- environmental integrity
- security

Longevity

- how long does it remain a hazard
- on what basis

Discussion points for each element:

- What is known?
- How have other jurisdictions characterized this?
- Where are there differences of views?
- Where are the uncertainties?

Refreshments 10:30 – 10:45

Lunch (working lunch) 12:00 - 13:00

3. Testing an NWMO Statement

13:00 – 15:00

The main hazards from waste nuclear fuel are from exposure to its radiation and from its chemical toxicity.

The material is a hazard to human health and the environment for a period of approximately one million years.

Used nuclear fuel also poses a security risk in that it contains plutonium and other materials.

The NWMO recognizes that there are differing views and expert opinion on the questions of longevity and risk to human health and the environment.

Any approach that NWMO recommends will need to provide confidence that it will perform in a way which:

- *Meets regulatory standards for public exposure (e.g. 1 mSv/year) and environmental quality (e.g. drinking water guidelines)*
- *Meets ethical standards e.g. returning the material to background levels, natural uranium ore, other*
- *Meets or exceeds relevant management standards adopted by other jurisdictions with long-term management plans for waste nuclear fuel.*

Coffee

15:00 – 15:15

4. Determining the implications for NWMO recommendations on the management approach and any plan for implementation of that approach

15:15 – 16:15

5. Wrap up

16:15 – 16:30

Workshop Report

A facilitator's report, presenting a synthesis of the discussion, on a non-attributed basis.

- What participants have agreed on
- The range of views/expert opinion
- Areas of uncertainty/need for further work during implementation
- Implications of the characterization for NWMO recommendation on management approach and any plan for implementation of that approach.