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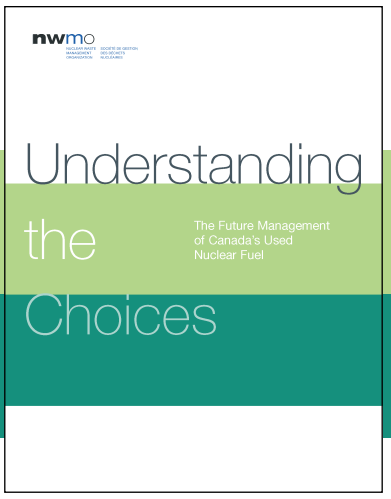
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

February 2005

Final Report

Community Dialogue Workshop

Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited (HSAL)



Discussion Document 2: Understanding the Choices

The NWMO has committed to using a variety of methods to dialogue with Canadians in order to ensure that the study of nuclear waste management approaches reflects the values, concerns and expectations of Canadians at each step along the way.

A number of dialogue activities have been planned to learn from Canadians whether the elements they expect to be addressed in the study have been appropriately reflected and considered in Discussion Document 2. Reports on these activities will be posted on the NWMO website. Your comment is invited and appreciated.

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HARDY STEVENSON AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED FINAL REPORT
FEBRUARY 2005

Dialogue

Community Dialogue Workshop

Regarding NWMO – Discussion Document #2
Understanding the Choices: The Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel

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1.0 Introduction

In 2002 the Government of Canada passed the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act.* This Act required owners of used nuclear fuel to create an organization to study the options and recommend an approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. As a result, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was created. In fulfilling its mandate, the NWMO is committed to the "develop collaboratively with Canadians a management approach for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel that is socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible and economically feasible". To achieve this, the NWMO is conducting a comprehensive three year study (from 2002 to 2005) aimed at engaging Canadians in an open and transparent manner, in an effort to bring the most inclusive and socially reflective recommendations to the Government of Canada on approaches for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

In November 2003 the NWMO launched its first Discussion Document, *Asking the Right Questions?* This document asked Canadians whether or not the NWMO was effectively capturing the key questions which should be asked and answered in the study of potential methods of long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Following the introduction of the first Discussion Document *"Asking the Right Questions"* and the 10 key questions that reflected the concerns, priorities and values of Canadians, the NWMO continued to build on the analytical framework through a series of research activities, and solicited comment with the public and industry experts through a variety of means, including web-based submissions, public opinion and face-to-face dialogue. Through the information gathering process and analysis of these conversations the NWMO confirmed that the organization's comparative analysis would continue to focus on three of the initial 14 potential methods for managing used nuclear fuel. These three options include:

- Storage at nuclear reactor sites;
- Centralized storage above or below ground;
- Deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield.

Understanding the Choices: The Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel is the NWMO's second Discussion Document and an important step in the iterative approach to engaging Canadians in the Study to recommend an approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. *Asking the Right Questions?* invited Canadians to focus on the complex issues involved in comprehending the various approaches to long-term management of used nuclear fuel and helped to frame the questions that would be answered in the Study. *Understanding the Choices*, released in September 2004, describes the three management approaches under study, reports on the direction the NWMO has received from citizens and its research activities, presents an assessment framework and preliminary assessment for discussion and identifies how the NWMO will move forward to achieve the next phase of its study.

Understanding the Choices also established an Assessment Framework based on citizen values and ethical considerations and eight objectives developed by the NWMO Assessment Team as reported in June 2004 in "*Assessing the Options: Future Management of Used Nuclear Fuel in Canada."* According to the NWMO, the Assessment Team, an independent, multi-disciplinary team of policy experts, was assembled in early

2004 in order to: "1) translate the 10 questions presented in the first discussion document into an assessment framework, taking into account the public and expert comment on those questions; and 2) conduct a preliminary assessment of alternative approaches." The Assessment Team was charged with conducting a holistic assessment, integrating social and ethical dimensions with technical, economic, financial and environmental considerations.

The Assessment Framework has eight specific objectives developed in order to guide the NWMO's work in identifying a preferred approach to the management of used nuclear fuel. In this regard, the Assessment Framework assisted in providing an understanding of what would be the most socially responsible course of action. The objectives are:

- **Fairness** – There must be fairness, in substance and process, in the distribution of costs, benefits, risks and responsibilities now and in the future.

- **Public Health and Safety** – Implementation of the preferred management approach must ensure there is no public health threat involved in the management or transportation of hazardous materials.

- **Worker Health and Safety** – While all work-related tasks associated with managing used nuclear fuel can be hazardous, the chosen approach should not create undue or large risks to those employed in implementing the recommended approach.

- **Community Well-Being** – Consideration of the implications and concerns of those communities with an interest in the preferred approach, including the host community, those in the surrounding region, those in the transportation corridor, and those which feel they are affected. This includes considerations of economic, environmental, social and cultural concerns.

- **Security** – The security of facilities, materials and infrastructure must be maintained.

- **Environmental Integrity** – Environmental integrity must be maintained on a long-term basis.

- **Economic Viability** – The implemented management approach must be economically viable, as well as contributing positively to the local economy.

- **Adaptability** – The preferred approach must be adaptable to changing knowledge and conditions over time, including being modified to fit new or unforeseen circumstances.

In order to complete the next phase of its study, the NWMO invited Canadians to contribute their opinions and views on the content of *Understanding the Choices*, asking specifically:

- Is the assessment framework comprehensive and balanced? Are there gaps, and if so, what do we need to add?

- What are your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each of the three management approaches?

- Are there specific elements that you feel must be built into an implementation plan? What are your thoughts on what a phased approach must include?

As part of this process, the NWMO held a Community Dialogue Workshop with representatives of the perspectives of citizens living in the vicinity of reactor site communities. The Community Dialogue Workshop is the subject of this report.

2.0 The Community Dialogue Process

The Community Dialogue Workshop offered individuals living in the vicinity of the seven nuclear reactor sites in Canada the opportunity to contribute their observations and experiences based on the presence of used nuclear fuel in their community. It also gave them the opportunity to express their opinions on the long-term management of used nuclear fuel and on NWMO Discussion Document #2 *Understanding the Choices: The Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel.*

Through the dialogue sessions, participants were given the opportunity to:

- Learn about NWMO's milestones to date;
- Obtain a better understanding of the three management approaches;
- Learn about the Assessment Framework and the "Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis" method;
- Directly experience the Assessment methodology using the Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis as a decision aid using the objective of "community well-being" as an illustration;
- Discuss the advantages and limitations of each management approach;
- Discuss elements of implementation.

2.1 Who were the Participants?

With the assistance of local municipalities, the NWMO identified and recruited a number of individuals from within the communities in the vicinity of the seven nuclear reactor sites in Canada: Point Lepreau, Gentilly, Darlington, Pickering, Bruce, Chalk River and Whiteshell. Participants were not speaking directly on behalf of local municipalities but were invited to represent the perspectives that are reflected in their communities.

The NWMO engaged participants for the Community Dialogue Workshop by telephone. Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited was asked to assist with organizing and facilitating the Dialogue Workshop.

For a complete list of dialogue participants, refer to Appendix 1: Participants.

2.2 The Dialogue Process

Many of the participants in the Community Dialogue Workshop have kept abreast of the work of the NWMO over the previous two years of the study and were provided with a variety of background materials prior to the sessions if required. These materials included Discussion Document #2 – *Understanding the Choices* (to be used as the foundation for the dialogue), a copy of the session agenda, and a copy of *"Assessing the Options: Future Management of Used Nuclear Fuel in Canada."* At the dialogue session each participant was also given the NWMO Community Dialogue Workbook, which was designed to

facilitate discussion and exercise sessions, and which included NWMO fact sheets on each of the three management approaches.

The session took place over two consecutive days; February 14 and 15, 2005. The agenda included:

- A review of the purposes of each session.
- A review of the session agenda.
- An overview presentation of NWMO's milestones and the management approaches.
- A presentation outlining the Assessment Framework methodology.
- Instructions for the community well-being exercise. These included an individual task; a small group discussion; and a large group sharing exercise.
- A discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the targeted approaches, and a review of the dialogue so far.
- A discussion of considerations for the implementation of the management approaches.

Participants were also provided with Principles for Participation. The principles used in the Community Dialogue Workshop were intended to facilitate the most open, fair and inclusive dialogue as possible, these included:

- An understanding that the process is not seeking consensus.
- Materials provided in both French and English.
- An understanding that comments will not be attributed when preparing notes on the workshops.

2.3 Dialogue Content

The dialogue session included the following exercises:

- Community well-being exercise.
- Advantages and limitations of each management approach.
- Implementation considerations for each management approach.

Community Well-being Exercise

The intent of this exercise was to have participants conduct one of the steps in the multi-attribute utility analysis in order to understand the scoring process in analyzing the individual objectives. Using the Colour Scale exercise, participants assessed the extent to which, from the participant's point of view, each of the three management approaches, deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield, centralized extended storage above or below ground and storage at nuclear reactor sites promote "Community Well-being." They were asked to colour each contributing element, or "influence", to reflect their assessment of the particular management approach. Participants were asked to assign an overall colour to this objective for

each management approach. The notion of community well-being was defined by the Assessment Team as described below and consists of numerous "influences" related to each other.

According to the idea of community well-being, the management approach "…that is selected and the way it is implemented will determine the specific communities that are impacted and the nature of those impacts. For example, towns near the facilities required by the approach may be affected economically through impacts on jobs and property values. Differing attitudes within a community can lead to polarization that can severely degrade the social fabric. Nearby communities are not the only ones, however, that may be implicated. Many groups may feel that their shared interests are affected regardless of whether they live physically close to used nuclear fuel management facilities. Depending on the sites that are eventually proposed for consideration, Canada's Aboriginal peoples may have a particularly significant stake.

The organizational system and the technologies selected for management of used nuclear fuel should be such that the nearby communities and all those in the region that could be involved in, or affected by, the construction, filling, maintenance or monitoring of the used nuclear fuel management facility, or by the transportation, manufacture of containers or other related industrial activities, will not be adversely affected through chemical contamination or other environmental disruption. Instead, they will benefit as much as possible from the economic activity; and at the same time not be handicapped socially or culturally by virtue of being host to the used nuclear fuel which other parts of the country do not want. Implications for the well-being of all communities with a shared interest are to be considered in the selection and implementation of the management system and related infrastructure."[1]

The colour scale was based on the following determinants:

Colour Scale

Green	GOOD. Not a significant issue or problem; essentially no impact or effect; about as good as could be expected; in the top one per cent of possibilities.
Blue	PRETTY GOOD. A small or minimal issue; very low impact or effect; the factor cannot or ought not to be ignored, but it is not as important as it is in other contexts or alternatives; it is at the more favourable (25 per cent) range of possibilities.
Yellow	MIDDLE. A moderate or moderately important issue; the factor represents a magnitude or level of importance in the middle (50 per cent) of possibilities; although it may be of a magnitude to raise concerns, the factor is a bigger or more important concern in other alternatives or contexts.
Orange	POOR. A relatively high or adverse magnitude; within the higher, more adverse (75 per cent) range of possibilities, but not necessarily extreme or unacceptable in and of itself.
Red	VERY POOR. Very high or among the most extreme (top 99 per cent) of possibilities or alternatives. Deserving of significant attention. Depending on related or interacting considerations, possibly unacceptable.
	Information insufficient for assessment or for differentiating the alternatives; or, not formally assessed.

[1] NWMO Discussion Document 2: *"Understanding the Choices"* page 62

For each management approach, participants were encouraged to discuss whether or not their overall ratings of community well-being were the same or different, and for what reasons. They were also asked to discuss whether or not their views about the contributing elements to community-well being were the same or different, and for what reasons. Finally, they were asked to consider which influences and relationships should be added or changed and why.

Advantages and Limitations of Management Approaches

Participants were engaged in an exploration of the advantages and limitations of each management approach as well as what will help to achieve the most appropriate choice among the management approaches.

Participants were then encouraged to focus on the overarching question of "what is the most socially responsible, most appropriate management approach for Canada?" They were invited to share their views about the advantages and limitations of each management approach with their group, the meaning of those advantages and limitations, and an in-depth discussion of those advantages and limitations, based on their experiences living in communities in the vicinity of nuclear reactor sites.

Following group discussions of the advantages and limitations of each management approach, participants were led through a structured sharing with the group, and were reminded of the eight principles upon which the Assessment Framework is based. They were charged with discussing:

- What influences of the objectives help to achieve the most appropriate management approach, and why?
- What choices will have to be made about each management approach to best achieve all the objectives?
- What do these advantages and limitations mean for determining the most socially responsible, most appropriate management approach?
- Given your knowledge and experience of living in the vicinity of the nuclear reactor, what particular advantages and limitations would be apparent to you for each management approach?

Emerging Implementation Considerations

In order to discuss implementation, participants considered the following questions:

- What elements of an implementation plan must NWMO consider in the chosen approach? Why?
- Considering the perspective of current reactor site communities, what are the elements of an implementation plan for each management approach?
- Given the need to take action now, but also maintain adaptability, what are the requirements of a staged approach? Why?
- Do you have any advice for any future host community?
- If the answer doesn't lie among the management approaches under study, where would it lie?

3. 0 Report on the Community Dialogue Workshop

The Community Dialogue Workshop occurred on February 14 and 15, 2005 in Toronto, with 13 participants attending. Participants lived in communities in the vicinity of the seven nuclear reactor sites in Canada: Point Lepreau, Gentilly, Darlington, Pickering, Bruce, Chalk River and Whiteshell. The objective of the Community Dialogue Workshop was to learn more about and experience the Assessment Team's evaluation of the management approaches as presented in the report "*Assessing the Options: Future Management of Used Nuclear Fuel in Canada"*, to discuss the advantages and limitations of the management approaches and the implementation considerations for the future management of used nuclear fuel. The unique perspective of the site representatives' experience as nuclear reactor host communities was also of interest to the NWMO.

As expected, Community Dialogue Workshop participants had an excellent understanding of nuclear energy, how used fuel is currently managed in their community, how used fuel and nuclear waste is currently transported and the three management approaches being considered by NWMO. Several of the political representatives, municipal officials and others had also traveled to operating radioactive waste storage sites. They commented on how the three management approaches performed with respect to the objectives of fairness, public health and safety, worker health and safety, community well-being, security, environmental integrity, economic viability and adaptability. They also advised the NWMO on what an implementation process and plan for the recommended management approach should consider.

3. 1 Overview Comments

Participants were pleased with the information presented at the workshop and felt that there had been a full discussion of the issues. In preparation for dialogue, they heard two presentations. The first presentation, given by Pat Patton of the NWMO, was a backgrounder on used nuclear fuel and what the NWMO has heard to date. Pat outlined the assessment framework centred on citizen values, ethical principles and the eight objectives, as well as the advantages and limitations identified by the Assessment Team. She also presented the implementation considerations that the NWMO has heard to date. The second presentation, given by Dr. William Leiss of the NWMO Assessment Team, addressed the Multi-Attribute Utility Analysis decision-making method and the preliminary conclusions drawn by the Assessment Team.

Dr. Leiss provided an overview of the "Community Well-being" objective and the influences identified by the Assessment Team to assess the management approaches against this objective. He instructed participants on how to complete their own assessment of the management approaches from the perspective of community well-being. Participants received a workbook providing all information that would support dialogue. It was clear to participants that the exercise was of an individual nature and that the NWMO was not looking for a consensus opinion. Furthermore, they acknowledged that while they lived in communities in the vicinity of nuclear reactor sites, it was understood that they were not speaking for those communities in an official capacity.

Several unique themes emerged from the dialogue with Community Dialogue participants. First, there are similarities and differences in terms of how each reactor site community views issues related to the long-term management approaches. Participants acknowledged that they are more knowledgeable about used fuel management than citizens living in non-reactor site communities. However, if asked to be a long-term host of used nuclear fuel, it was clear that reactor site communities will have concerns similar to other communities in Canada. These concerns are outlined in the section on implementation plan considerations in this report.

In terms of differences, several participants stated that their community would not accept the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Other participants observed that there might be an open door for dialogue on the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Second, participants stated that economics is important. They asked, in this generation, can we realistically set aside enough money to provide for a management approach that requires active maintenance or monitoring over hundreds or thousands of years as described in the centralized storage above or below ground or storage at nuclear reactor sites as defined by the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*? Can we financially support a management approach that requires several stages? They also pointed to inherent difficulties in estimating accurate costs for large, multi-generation projects. And they observed that if there is a decline in the current nuclear energy program, money to address the need for many years of learning and adaptability may be difficult to obtain. Storage at nuclear reactor sites and centralized storage above or below ground were associated with compound economic uncertainties due to the necessity to repackage the used fuel repeatedly over the long term and the ongoing maintenance of these approaches.

Third, participants expressed concerns that decisions about a future used fuel management approach cannot be separated from choices about continued nuclear energy production at reactor sites. Over the next 30 years, there is a possibility that nuclear energy production will cease or be reduced and the nuclear facilities will be decommissioned. As a consequence, over time there may no longer be the underlying factors supporting community acceptance of nuclear waste at the reactor sites. Then they will be no different than any other community in Canada, except, after having to address job losses due to plant closure, and economic decline after decommissioning; they would be left with the stigma of hosting nuclear waste. Some participants added that two used fuel management sites would be in Canada's most populated area which they felt have less than ideal environmental conditions, and there will be pressure for redevelopment and the need for active security.

3.2 The Assessment Framework

Participants were then asked to consider whether or not the Assessment Framework was comprehensive and balanced. They were also asked if they believed there were gaps in the model, and if so what does the NWMO need to add.

In general, participants found it difficult to understand the assessment process in the time available at the workshop. But as Community Dialogue Workshop participants became more familiar with the objectives and influences, most felt that the process was sound. Some participants felt that the Assessment Framework could help a local community make choices. One participant called it ingenious. Even so, there were several suggestions for improvement and adaptation.

On the issue of community well-being, participants observed that tourism was important to most of their communities and should be included as an influence. Furthermore, the rating for the community well-being objective could change depending on the location of the community. They felt that it may have been helpful to have the Assessment Team add the influence of "transportation" along with storage at nuclear reactor sites, centralized storage and deep geological disposal. Other suggested adjustments to the influences include: the *business growth* and *income to community* influences should be combined, and the *development growth rate* influence should have direct influence (arrow) on *effect on impacted community economic health* as well as *effect on impacted community social quality*. From a public communications perspective, it will be helpful for the NWMO to clarify how the influences are defined and relied upon.

3.3 Strengths and Limitations of Each Management Approach

The strengths and limitations of each management approach were first discussed based on community well-being and then based on all of the objectives. Community Dialogue Workshop participants gave considerably stronger support to deep geological disposal than the other management approaches. A variation of deep geological disposal was offered. This is discussed later.

Participants stated that their communities did not expect to host nuclear waste over the long term, and several stated they would be happy to have the waste removed. Others saw continuing economic benefits from hosting a used fuel facility. Most had confidence that used fuel can be safely managed over several generations. However, they suggested that new people moving into their communities may not be as likely to embrace the ongoing storage of used fuel over the long term.

Deep Geological Disposal in the Canadian Shield

Overall, deep geological disposal in the Canadian Shield was seen to perform best in relation to environmental and economic objectives. Participants also felt that the scientific evidence best supports this management approach for the long term. Participants pointed to ongoing international research on deep geological disposal and suggested there was no equivalent research program for long-term centralized storage or long-term reactor site storage. They felt that the ability to monitor the waste was about the same as for other options.

Participants accepted that deep geological disposal would have an impact for Aboriginal peoples. However, they felt that with proper support Aboriginal peoples may wish to negotiate acceptable circumstances for this management approach. Most of the participants were familiar with current used fuel and nuclear waste transportation in Canada, and several had detailed and accurate information on truck routes and handling practices. They suggested that the transportation issue, while important, is more a matter of perception for communities along the routes and that with proper education and information communities will be capable of making informed choices.

Participants shared information on how a skilled nuclear energy and waste management workforce was originally attracted to Pinawa, Manitoba, and how a new community was developed to address nuclear research. They suggested that the "new community" concept should not be duplicated for long-term used fuel management. Yet, participants were confident that knowledgeable workers would relocate to existing communities in the vicinity of a deep geological disposal facility in Canada.

Centralized Storage Above or Below Ground

While centralized storage above or below ground is seen to be a less desirable option for long-term management, it was also seen to have several benefits. The facility could be engineered to minimize impacts, and the site could be selected so as to maximize environmental integrity, community well-being, and public health and safety objectives. For example, a centralized site could be situated to have less impact on a large number of communities. Assuming that the facility would have multiple safety barriers and protocols for protecting worker health and safety, they felt that centralized storage would reduce multiple risks associated with reactor site storage. On the other hand, a centralized storage site may create a new nuclear community or region.

Participants noted that people in the vicinity of the centralized storage site may experience stigma. Participants felt that the perception of a centralized storage facility would improve if the owners of the waste could combine storage with economic development activities. They cited the creation of a new industry for packaging or a facility for research on recycling and retrievability as opportunities to ensure that any nearby community would receive maximum long-term economic and social stability. Others felt that the jobs would be short term, with long-term monitoring requiring minimal jobs. Participants also felt that the concept of surface storage in this approach would be less secure. As with deep geologic disposal,

participants acknowledged the associated transportation risks, but felt that the issue was one of public perception.

As a summation, participants noted that deep geological disposal presented less costs and technical problems than centralized storage.

Storage at Nuclear Reactor Sites

In the short term, participants felt that storage at reactor sites performed well in terms of public health and safety, community well-being and security objectives. They pointed out that the storage facilities at the reactor sites are currently licensed and secure. They acknowledged that economic integrity objectives are met, as it is more economical to store used fuel on-site for the short term. As long as the site is well designed and functional, it will minimize community concerns.

Over the long term, participants felt that storage at nuclear reactor sites had distinct disadvantages. Most of the current reactor sites have the multiple environmental integrity risks of being near water, potentially unsuitable geology and near sensitive populations. From a land-use perspective, several of the sites are on prime waterfront property. Participants felt that there will be more security risks in having multiple sites for used nuclear fuel management.

As with other possible host communities, long-term storage of used fuel at reactor site communities will require new licences, approvals and acceptance by the community. Many participants expected that community support would not necessarily be forthcoming, and noted that it will be difficult for the NWMO to successfully negotiate and gain acceptance from all site communities. They also stated that any future movement of the used fuel should be closely co-ordinated with reactor site decommissioning, and that community pressures will increase for the removal of the used fuel in the reactor post-decommissioning phase. Participants expected that the short- and long-term storage of used fuel at reactor site locations will require additional municipal compensation and impact management agreement negotiations.

Participants suggested that cost issues would be significantly higher for reactor site storage with the need for monitoring at seven sites. In particular, they asked why we would want to pay for storage facility administration and maintenance costs for 10,000 years or longer.

In contrast, some reactor site participants suggested that their sites have already satisfactorily addressed community well-being, worker health and safety, public health and safety and security objectives for many years, and that the door should be left open for ongoing discussions.

3. 4 Implementation Considerations

Participants accepted that an implementation plan would involve site selection, environmental approvals and licensing. Also, there would need to be some form of multi-stakeholder involvement process. The following are the major themes and unique ideas related to an implementation plan.

Overall, participants were confident that some communities will accept the long-term management of the used fuel. Several participants felt that their communities may be willing to assist future host communities in understanding how to interact with the NWMO. Current communities have learned how to be hosts over many years of trial and error, and have learned to help their public to sort out the facts from fiction regarding used fuel management. However, to successfully implement a management approach, the NWMO must understand the experience of current reactor site communities and build this into ongoing dialogue with future communities. With this in mind, participants had the following suggestions:

- Caution needs to be exercised for fear of overplaying the economic development potential of a long-term management approach. They warned that the location of a facility in a given economic

region could just as well have negative effects due to stigma, depressed property values or negative effects on tourism.

- It should be up to a future region or local community to decide how it will accept a management approach. The role of the NWMO in this regard will be to facilitate dialogue and community understanding. Also, it will be unlikely that there would be a single host community that will accept a management approach; it is more likely that a facility will affect a region of many communities and counties. A siting process should be built into the recommendation. Before engaging communities, the NWMO should identify questions that may be asked by communities and prepare well thought through responses. Building a new community in a remote location would be a mistake because infrastructure and housing would be already available in local communities, which are typically trying to attract new highly skilled and well-educated residents.

- Communities should be supported by an expert peer review team and enter into community impact agreement discussions. Future host communities should negotiate with the NWMO for compensation, road upgrading and other benefits. Part of the negotiations will involve safety assurances. Furthermore, there should be liaison between host and existing communities to build on current knowledge and expertise. Participants stated that a proponent has one chance to make a first impression. They agreed that there is a need to move forward with a good package.

- Ongoing consultation and education will be needed over a very long time frame between the time the community is identified and the final decision. This may be done over generations. They stressed that transparency will be important in the process. A proponent would need to identify and engage key people in the community right away, but both supporters and opponents will need to be empowered.

- Communities would need to be assured that there would not be a final point when effective management ceases. There would need to be ongoing review and improvements over time. Communities will also need assurances that advances in technology will be implemented.

- Aboriginal peoples would need to be involved, starting with the translation of materials into appropriate languages. An implementation program will need to recognize how those communities communicate amongst their own people.

- There would need to be ongoing consultations with local and provincial politicians. Participants pointed out that there will be many successive Municipal Councils and Provincial Legislatures before some of the first steps are taken by an implementing organization (the NWMO).

Participants also addressed the implementation issue of adaptability and flexibility in terms of deep geological disposal. While details were not provided, they suggested that a hybrid option of centralized storage at a deep geological disposal facility could be considered. However, there was no clear direction as to whether the deep geological disposal facility should be sealed early or remain open and allow future generations to make the decision on the final closure date. Most agreed that future generations could make that decision. One participant observed that the decision to seal is logically linked to a decision to stop monitoring in-situ (although post-closure monitoring is still feasible), asking "Why would you monitor the environmental effects of the used fuel if it was prohibitively expensive to do anything about it if there was a problem?" Another participant suggested that the decision to seal may be a simple matter of cost, and asked "How long will future generations want to pay to leave a deep geological disposal site open in the hope that there will be future uses for the used fuel or the expectations of better management technology becoming available?"

4.0 Other Participant Comments

The following are a range of comments provided by individual participants:

- The NWMO needs to provide more information on capital and operating and maintenance costs.
- Returning the used fuel to a community with an existing mine site with suitable geological media should continue to be discussed.
- The current owners of the used fuel will need to make a business case for when it would be appropriate to transport the used fuel to a recommended management option.

APPENDIX 1: Participants

NWMO Community Dialogue Workshop

Monday Feb. 14 and Tuesday Feb. 15, 2005
Valhalla Inn
1 Valhalla Inn Road, Toronto

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Norman Annettes	Kincardine resident
Louis Charest	Municipal Waste Management, Bécancour
Glenn Doncaster	Town of Deep River
Gary Hanna	Town of Pinawa
Mark Kraemer	Town of Saugeen Shores
Mario Lupien	Hydro-Quebec Production
Lloyd Murray	Region of Durham Works Department
Keith Nuttal	Pinawa resident, Waste Technologies, AECL (retired)
Pat O'Brien	Pickering resident, formerly Ontario Power Generation
Wayne Pollock	Musquash Fire Department
Howard Ribey	Municipality of Kincardine Community Impact Advisory Committee
Janice Szwarz	Municipality of Clarington
Glendon Tait	Saint John Fire Department, retired, Councillor, City of Saint John