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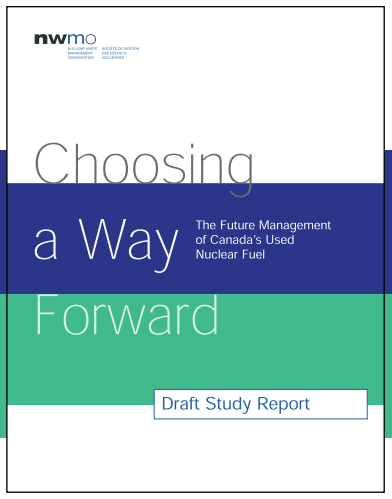
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

July 2005

Summary Report

Report on Findings from Discussion Groups on the Draft Recommendations

Navigator



Draft Study Report: Choosing a Way Forward

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 the Draft Study Report. Reports on these activities will be posted on the NWMO website. Your comment is invited and appreciated.

Report on Findings from Discussion Groups on the Draft Recommendations

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

JULY 2005

Report on Findings from Discussion Groups on the Draft Recommendations

In the Summer of 2005, the NWMO asked Navigator to conduct discussion groups with randomly selected Canadians in order to receive their feedback on the NWMO's draft recommendation of a management approach for the long-term storage of Canada's used nuclear fuel. This is the fourth round of qualitative research that Navigator has provided to the NWMO since the organization was created in 2002. Navigator's ongoing exposure to the NWMO's work and the views of regular Canadians has provided the researchers with a substantial base of understanding of the public's views on the issues of Canada's nuclear waste and unique perspective on how the NWMO's work has evolved in response to the public's views and interests. Navigator is pleased to provide this report on our most recent findings.

CONTEXT

In May of 2005, the NWMO released its draft recommendations on what should be done with Canada's used nuclear fuel. The report, *Choosing a Way Forward*, outlines the work the NWMO has accomplished to date and how this examination has brought the NWMO to the point where it was prepared to make a draft recommendation. In the fall of this year, the NWMO will make a final report to the Minister of Natural Resources.

In the interim, the NWMO began to engage Canadians to obtain their reaction to the draft recommendations. Navigator's part of that engagement was to introduce regular Canadians to the NWMO's work and to engage them in a discussion on the appropriateness of the draft recommendations.

Choosing a Way Forward is the NWMO's third major report. *Choosing a Way Forward* provides the background on the work the NWMO has done over its first two and a half years and how it has drawn conclusions through synthesizing the ethical and social views and aspirations of people and organizations with the expert technical advice of scientists and engineers. Along with the background information it provides, the NWMO believes that this 304-page document "proposes a responsible path forward that intends to assure rigorous standards of safety and security for people and the environment." [*Choosing a Way Forward*, p.7]

The NWMO has reached the preliminary conclusion that a management approach it calls an Adaptive Phased Management approach is the most appropriate for Canada, representing the best approach for taking responsible action today to deal with Canada's used nuclear fuel. It is now spending the final few months before it makes its final recommendation this November, engaging interested citizens and organizations in a final discussion of the draft recommendations, seeking advice and appropriate refinements.

The Executive Summary of *Choosing a Way Forward*, as well as the full report, are available to the public in both English and French on the NWMO's website.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The research was designed to explore the following key questions:

1. Do Canadians see the Adaptive Phased Management approach as an appropriate, reasonable and responsible plan for dealing with Canada's nuclear waste?
2. What feedback do they offer on the various design characteristics of the approach?
3. Do participants think the NWMO's implementation plan is reasonable and are there any additions that would increase their belief that the plan is appropriate?
4. Is there any evidence of regionality?

METHODOLOGY

Research was conducted according to the following program:

- Discussion groups held in each of the Saskatchewan communities of Saskatoon (July 5, 2005) and Regina (July 6, 2005), the Ontario communities of London (June 11, 2005), Clarington (June 13, 2005), Toronto (June 14, 2005), Kenora (July 7, 2005), Sudbury (July 13, 2005) and Kingston (July 23, 2005), the Quebec communities of Montreal (July 18, 2005) and Trois Rivières (July 21, 2005), as well as the New Brunswick communities of Saint John (July 19, 2005) and Fredericton (July 20, 2005);
- Locations were selected solely to solicit a broad diversity of views from a variety of regions;
- 2 groups per location;
- 8 to 10 adults per group, for a total of 233 participants;
- Participants were recruited through calls to their homes using phone numbers selected through random digit dialling;
- Participants were screened into two groups: one group of those who identify themselves as active on various community or political measures; and a second group of those who do not identify themselves as particularly active, but regularly watch or read the news;
- Each group lasted for 2 hours; and
- Participants were initially introduced to the challenges and hazards of nuclear waste, a brief history of its generation, and the creation and mandate of the NWMO. They were then asked to read the 8-page Executive Summary of *Choosing the Way Forward*.

FINDINGS

1. SUMMARY: ADAPTIVE PHASED MANAGEMENT APPROACH SEEN AS APPROPRIATE

Upon introduction to the challenge, and having had a chance to see the elements of the Adaptive Phased Management approach, participants in the groups overwhelmingly agreed that it is an appropriate approach for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel.

There were few who felt the approach was a perfect solution, with most participants wishing for a solution that involves neutralization or recycling of the waste. Nonetheless, almost all participants suggested that the approach was a step in the right direction for a problem that has been left unresolved for too long.

The Adaptive Phased Management approach contains a number of particular design elements that provided the participants with the comfort they needed to accept it as an appropriate approach:

- That it represents action toward a solution;
- That the approach takes advantage of future scientific advancements (impacting the treatment of the waste and, to a lesser extent, its method of storage);
- That the waste will be monitored;
- That the waste continues to be retrievable long into the future;
- That the waste will be centrally located and isolated from contact with people and the environment; and
- That the lack of certainty and "guaranteed" safety of many design elements are balanced with a prudent approach characterized by flexibility, interim decision making, and ongoing public involvement.

While, by the end of the groups, most participants felt that the Adaptive Phased Management approach is appropriate for Canada, most did not immediately arrive at this conclusion. On the topic of nuclear waste, most participants expressed their anxiety and lack of knowledge by demanding additional information beyond what was in the Executive Summary. This was not a criticism of the information presented or the answers they received, but rather an expression of their feeling that it is important to be quizzical and critical when presented with such an important subject.

As participants spent more time learning about the APM approach, they became more comfortable with the various design elements that the NWMO has integrated. But the approach does not lend itself to easy communication. A surface explanation results in a surface reaction characterized by anxiety and suspicion. The apparent success of

the Adaptive Phased Management approach in meeting the participant's threshold of rigour, prudence and care is only achieved with them spending some time with the recommendation. The participants' reaction to a short explanation of the approach, characterized by their initial reaction, provides an unrealistic measure of the extent to which the approach's design sufficiently responds to many or all of their concerns.

2. INITIAL ANXIETY, DISAPPOINTMENT AND SUSPICION

The participants knew nothing about nuclear waste. What they do know is that it is very bad. Once introduced to the fact that Canada has, over the past 30 years, created a certain volume of waste for which it has no long-term management solution, participant reaction was invariably a combination of anxiety about the existence of this hazard, disappointment with the fact that no permanent solution has yet been implemented, and suspicion of the government and industry whom they hold responsible.

Throughout discussions, it was clear that there is extensive suspicion and cynicism directed particularly at government. Participants did not trust that the government will always operate in their best interests or that decision-making will be preceded by appropriate public information and transparency. This public attitude had a significant impact on how participants viewed the recommendations. They were very reluctant to express any confidence in institutional decision-making and questioned the plan because it is perceived to come from an institutional source. They wanted to know that the recommendations were being made at arms length from the government and the industry and characterized by significant, ongoing public involvement.

In learning about the context, every group wanted to know more information about what the NWMO had done to collaborate with the international community. When pressed, it became clear that this is not because they really thought the NWMO will have failed to do so. Rather, this request for information was a manifestation of the desire to fill their own admitted lack of expertise with something from a credible authority outside of the government or the NWMO itself. Participants felt much better knowing if Canada is in line with, and taking advantage of, "what the rest of the world is doing."

Most participants believed the NWMO has been working hard and with rigour, but most still claimed to want to see the technical elements for themselves. For most participants, this desire was an expression of uncertainty on a subject they know is important but they have little ability to comment on with authority. The way they commented on the technical information that was provided is evidence that they were not really interested in the technical information per se (e.g. How will the waste be transported? How do we know the rock is safe? What will the waste be stored in?), but rather an attempt to find certainty on a subject that scares them.

In many cases, at the same time participants were requesting information on the micro level they failed to read or understand the more macro information they have been

given in the Executive Summary. This is evidence that they were not really interested in the technical information, but were looking for assurance that all the details have been considered in making the recommendation. Most could not meaningfully evaluate the sufficiency of the technical aspects, so they compensated by seeking other evidence of rigour such as a large volume of information on a wide breadth of topics. One participant went so far as to admit that though she wanted more information, she would certainly not read any of it if it were sent to her.

In lieu of an expanse of technical information, and the ability to pass judgement on it, participants took great comfort in many of the "process" elements that were part of the APM. As they began to understand the approach, continuous learning, flexibility, and the ability to monitor and retrieve the waste were elements that participants embraced as essential design elements. Participants saw these as providing necessary comfort that safety will be protected in a situation where they did not otherwise have the assurance they sought.

3. UNIVERSAL AGREEMENT WITH FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES OF SAFE AND FAIR

Participants widely agreed that the NWMO's framework comparison – that the recommended management approach be both safe and fair – were appropriate.

Safety to people, the environment, communities and workers was accepted without question or much discussion. Fairness elicited somewhat more discussion as participants sought to understand the various nuances of fairness, particularly of fairness to future generations. There was universal agreement that our generation should take action now, be responsible for the cost and allow future generations to take advantage of scientific advancements. The way in which the APM approach delivered fairness to future generations received frequent mention throughout the discussion. There was some lack of faith that future generations would make good choices, but it was agreed that fairness required that we do as much as we can to provide a solution, and then let them choose how to act on that solution.

A very small minority of participants suggested that cost should be an objective along with safety and fairness. Invariably, others disagreed, suggesting that cost was secondary to safety and should never be an excuse to cut corners.

4. PROCESS ELEMENTS

The Adaptive Phased Management approach contains some process elements that were fundamental to participants' belief that the approach is appropriate and reasonable for Canada. While they lacked the information and expertise to assess whether the technical elements are sufficient to provide long-term safe storage, they were reassured of the adequacy of the overall approach because of the following process elements:

Adaptive

Almost universal among participants was their strong faith in future science to discover a better way to manage the used fuel than disposing of it underground. This hope was very strong among many participants, leading them to believe that the NWMO may never be required to implement Phase 3 of the APM approach. The fact that the approach allows for adaptation long into the future was a very strongly supported design element.

The small number of participants who had less faith in future science to achieve a neutralization or recycling solution tended to be, ironically, the scientists and engineers within the groups. Most of these individuals tended to embrace the use of a deep geological repository and were less concerned whether adaptation was possible.

Flexible

There were two interpretations of the "flexibility" elements of the Adaptive Phased Management approach. Many participants interpreted flexibility as a sign of prudence, caution and evidence that the NWMO was not putting all its eggs in one basket, but was prepared to continue to look for and integrate improvements while reacting to the unexpected. Many highlighted flexibility as one of the recommended features of the approach that helped them have confidence in the approach. These people tended to support the "flexibility in the…manner of implementation" [*Executive Summary*, Our Recommendation].

There were also a significant number of participants for whom "flexibility" was an indication of indecision, the potential for delay and a license for future decision makers to allow for incomplete implementation. These participants primarily took issue with the "flexibility in the pace…of implementation" [*Executive Summary*, Our Recommendation]. These individuals wanted to be assured that the phrase "…through a phased decision-making process" meant that there would still be clear timelines that would see this project through. This was especially true for those who were cynical of government and institutions.

Frequently, there was some debate among those who took each interpretation of flexibility.

Phased

There was little direct discussion about the fact that the approach was phased. Instead discussion tended to focus on the specific elements of the phases themselves. Some participants embraced the phased character as a sign of clear milestones and evidence that there was a deliberate schedule that would be followed. Participants also identified that each phase ended with clear decision points, leaving future generations with appropriate choices of how and when to proceed.

Timeline

In the same way that many participants had trouble imagining a problem – and solution – that would last thousands and thousands of years, many had trouble imagining a solution that would take 300 years to implement. Few picked up on the fact that the solution was fully implemented by year 90, with the remaining years in the timeline filled by ongoing monitoring and accessibility.

Many felt that a protracted timeline should be possible. This included those who felt that a site could be chosen and built more quickly, as well as those who recommended doing away with Phase Two. These tended to be individuals who were more ready to accept the deep underground storage of the used fuel as safe and secure. The desire of some of these individuals for a condensed timeline was clearly driven by their fear that a long timeline is a license for inaction (by government and the industry) and further delay (by interest groups and the industry).

There are significant numbers of individuals for whom the design features of flexibility, continuous learning and adaptability are sources of comfort and important drivers of their belief that the Adaptive Phased Management Approach is appropriate. Though seldom expressed, we would expect that many of these individuals would be troubled by a reduced timeline, as it would diminish the opportunities to take advantage of these features. Many agreed that finding a willing community, if even achievable, would take a significant amount of time.

There was no one for whom the timeline was too short, except in so far as some participants hoped that no future generation would ever choose to close and seal the deep repository.

As with all the design features of the solution, there were some who were willing to concede the appropriate timeline to the discretion of the experts. As one gentleman said, "the timeline is less important than having a goal that is being moved toward."

5. TECHNICAL ELEMENTS

The overwhelming reaction to the Adaptive Phased Management approach ranges from those who describe it as "a good first step" to those who were quite confident that deep underground burial is the way to go. Notwithstanding that every group discussed possible alternatives to the Adaptive Phased Management approach (e.g. disposal in space or the sun) there were some participants who lamented that there was "no other option." All participants wished there was a better technical solution that involved recycling, destroying or neutralizing the waste, but admitted that in the absence of the perfect solution, the APM represented "a good start."

It is notable that while almost all participants came to the unprompted conclusion that there is "no other option," they needed to go through a process of hypothesizing alternatives before they reach this conclusion. They did not take for granted that all other options have been rigorously conceived, assessed and rejected. This is a subject

that was not covered in the Executive Summary (apart from the mandated approaches listed in Section Five).

Centralization

The vast majority of participants embraced the suggestion that the used nuclear fuel should be dealt with in one single location. There were some participants who suggested that greater security would be achievable if the waste was stored in multiple locations, but these participants tended to hold this view only weakly when challenged by fellow participants.

Transportation to a Central Location

Every group wanted to discuss the technical elements of how the waste might be transported to a central location. This is something that was not covered in the Executive Summary.

Transportation is a subject that participants were eager to discuss and understand as it was seen as the technical element that has the potential to affect the greatest number of people, including themselves; this issue has the potential to make every community a NIMBY community. Like all other elements of the recommended approach, they were seeking assurance that public safety will be protected and a primary way they sought this assurance is to ask for more technical information.

In the absence of a technical explanation in the Executive Summary, the research could not measure the effect a technical answer would have on their anxiety. Nonetheless, three things are clear:

- A specific explanation of waste transportation will be one of the most sought-after elements of an explanation of the Adaptive Phased Management approach;

- Participants will demand transparency and rigorous, concrete detail – knowing when, where and how the waste will be moved from the reactor sites to a central location; and

- Participants are open to accepting that the waste can be transported safely, but will require adequate reassurance. This does not mean they will demand a guarantee. Some participants claimed that such guarantees are impossible. What they will seek is assurance that the combination of technical and precautionary elements will provide the absolute highest achievable standard of safety.

It is important to note that the imperative process elements (continuous learning, adaptive, flexible, monitored) that provide needed assurance of the appropriateness of the deep geologic repository are less likely to apply to transportation. Transportation was seen as imminent and short term and therefore enjoys less of the abstract future

benefits provided by the process elements. On the question of transportation, the public will seek firm and detailed information.

It is also important to note that transportation gives every community the potential to have a NIMBY reaction.

Phase Two – The Shallow Rock Cavern

Of all the technical elements of the Adaptive Phased Management approach, the shallow rock cavern envisioned for Phase Two received the greatest amount of questioning. At least half of the participants questioned the purpose and necessity of this phase.

Given the limited detail inherent in an Executive Summary, information on this phase was limited. Even with a brief explanation, about half of participants questioned whether the phase was necessary citing reasons of cost, the potential for time delay and the fear that this may become the (insufficient) final option in an effort to cut corners at a later stage.

Those who questioned Phase Two, tended to be the same participants who took issue with the "flexibility in the pace of implementation." They also tended to be the individuals who thought Phase One could be accelerated and were more ready to accept deep underground storage as an appropriate management option. Some held this view strongly, while others admitted that they may not have imagined all of the reasons for Phase Two and that they would defer to the advice of experts.

In previous research it was clear that participants did not trust a direct move of the used nuclear fuel into a deep geological repository. In this research of the Adaptive Phased Management approach, the distrust and uncertainty around the deep geological component in Phase Three was much less acute. It is believed that this observed difference is attributable to the design elements of Phase Three that ensure the waste is monitored, retrievable and available to benefit from continuous learning. These design additions provided the necessary reassurance to allow many participants to be content to proceed to deep geological burial.

Some others felt that the "go slow" approach represented by Phase Two was appropriate and added to their sense of comfort with the NWMO's proposed recommendation. These tended to be the individuals for whom the process elements of flexibility in the manner of implementation, continuous learning and adaptability were especially important. For them, Phase Two represented additional evidence of careful decision making, monitoring of the waste and containment facilities and a prolonged period in which to seek better solutions.

When pressed, almost all participants agreed that they did not have sufficient information to be able to evaluate the merits and benefits of this stage in the way experts would. It is believed that some of the observed negative reaction directed at Phase Two was a reaction to the unknown by individuals who were feeling uneasy

and uninformed about what they were being asked to comment on. They feel that in order to be helpful, they needed to express criticism and were therefore seeking something to criticize.

The evidence for this belief is found in how weakly individuals held their critical opinions of this stage. These individuals were clearly anxious about the existence of the waste and were eager to see a solution achieved sooner rather than later. This fear, and the desire to be helpful, were manifest in criticism of a phase that was less fully understood and appeared to delay their chief objective, that is, the speedy disposal of the waste.

Phase III – Deep Geological Repository

The vast majority of participants felt that the deep geologic repository was an appropriate end goal to be working toward as a long-term storage solution for Canada's nuclear waste. The feeling that this was a reasonable end point was qualified by the strong feeling that this solution was not ideal (as compared to a neutralization or recycling solution) and by the assurance that it would only be arrived at with the inclusion of the carefully implemented set of process elements. Particularly important were the assurances that the waste would be monitored and retrievable, and that continuous learning could be applied on an ongoing basis.

There were individuals from Northern Ontario who, because of their location on the Canadian Shield, perceived their communities as likely targets for the waste. These individuals did not object to a deep geologic repository solution on technical grounds, but rather because they did not want the waste near their community.

There is a very small minority who will never accept deep geological storage because they object to the use of nuclear power. These individuals fear that any long-term storage solution will make it easier for proponents of nuclear power to justify an ongoing nuclear power generation program. Not all opponents of nuclear power take this view. Many individuals who would like to see an end to nuclear power generation also found the Adaptive Phased Management approach to be reasonable and appropriate for the waste that currently exists. Many agreed that the debate on the future on nuclear power, cited in Section Seven of the Executive Summary, is an important debate for Canadians to have.

There was also a small minority who feared that "out of sight" would mean "out of mind." These individuals tended to be the most optimistic that science will achieve a neutralization of recycling solution, but feared that the necessary effort to achieve that solution will not be made when a storage option exists. There were a very few individuals who were afraid that "out of sight" could result in less rigorous application of safety and monitoring of the waste.

There were a small number of Aboriginal People among the group participants. Most of these appeared to hold views similar to other participants. There were a couple of Aboriginal participants who had very strong objections to a deep geological

repository on the grounds that building and storing waste in such a repository would be a particularly offensive violation of Mother Earth.

Retrievable

The technical design features that allow the waste to be retrievable were important to all participants and a fundamental source of assurance that the waste would be appropriately handled through the Adaptive Phased Management approach.

6. CHOOSING A LOCATION AND THE NIMBY FACTOR

The Executive Summary's only stipulation on site selection is that the site should be in the Canadian Shield or Ordovician sedimentary rock and that a site be sought in one of the waste producing provinces of Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec or New Brunswick. Notwithstanding this limited stipulation, most participants assumed that the waste would be placed at some remote location on the Canadian Shield in Ontario. Others thought a central site could potentially be located in their province, but most thought that this was less appropriate than a site in Ontario since that province is the source of most of the waste.

It is difficult to separate participants' assessments of the general appropriateness of the Adaptive Phased Management from their assumptions on the likely location. Residents of Northern Ontario were clearly less likely to feel the Adaptive Phased Management approach was appropriate and reasonable because they felt like targets. It is equally fair to assume that some measure of the "appropriate" characterization applied by participants from other regions is coloured by the fact that they do not see their communities as likely locations for the centralized waste.

The fact that residents of the Northern Ontario communities of Kenora and Sudbury saw themselves as likely targets drove their reaction to all other elements of the NWMO's Executive Summary and proposed recommendation. They were more likely to be critical of the mandate and cynical about the work the NWMO has done to date and the public consultation that has been conducted. Relative to other regions, there were fewer participants from Northern Ontario who felt the Adaptive Phased Management approach was appropriate.

Participants from Quebec also expressed a strong belief that a long-term storage site for the used nuclear fuel should be found somewhere in Ontario. There was a recognition that their province was cited as containing suitable geological formations, and among the waste-producing provinces that would be appropriate for finding a location. They did not see their province as a potential site to the degree of participants from Northern Ontario and their desire not to have the waste permanently located in their community did not appear to impact their overall view of the Adaptive Phased Management approach. This could be a combination of the belief that the waste would *most likely* go to Ontario and the fact that the communities we visited were not in Northern Quebec.

All participants thought that it would be very difficult to find a willing community, but believed that trying to find such a community was the right approach. Some felt it would be impossible, others believed that the attraction of jobs and funding may make it possible to find some willing community.

Some participants took issue with the word "community" that is used to describe the eventual location of the used nuclear fuel. "Community" was interpreted to mean an area where people lived, worked and regularly congregated, while most participants assumed the site would not be in any particular community, but rather that a remote site would be found.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

One of the points that was made with great frequency throughout the groups was that action must be taken on this issue and that it is not acceptable to continue to stockpile waste with no long-term solution. This was seen as unsafe and unfair over the medium to long term. There was a widespread desire to see action *now*.

From time to time, throughout the discussions, participants would question who would oversee the implementation of the project and ask how Canadians could be assured that it was being done safely. There was a desire to know about how the governance would be applied. There was little negative reaction to the suggestion that the NWMO would become the implementing agency and that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission would ensure all applicable regulatory standards and requirements for safety, security and protection of the public would be met.

There was concern expressed by a number of participants that the Government should not be left to manage the implementation. There were numerous suggestions that this work was too important to be subject to the risk that comes with changes in political leadership or subject to the politics and fortunes of political parties. At the same time, it was often argued that some level of ultimate accountability must lie with the government.

Similarly, it was clear that participants did not want the implementation to be managed by the nuclear producers. There was concern that management by the producers would lead to a tendency to seek ways to cut costs to the detriment of safety. Some participants were also concerned that the power companies could eventually be privatized, further weakening the extent to which implementation is applied with the public's best interest in mind.

There was general agreement that the waste producers should fund the cost of implementation. Participants in both Quebec and New Brunswick picked up on the fact that the vast majority of the reactors are in Ontario and felt strongly that the cost of implementation should be borne in proportion to the amount of waste produced in each province.

As indicated in Section Six of this report, there was general agreement that a willing community should be sought to host the waste. There was a universal expectation that any region or community that accepted the waste would receive incentives in the form of jobs and financial compensation, but that finding a willing host would be very challenging. There was very little discussion about what to do if no willing community could be found. There was some belief that an area could be found that is sufficiently remote that it was in not in anyone's community.

There was a widespread desire to maintain transparency and citizen engagement throughout the implementation in order to ensure proper accountability. Citizen engagement was seen as a check and balance to ensure that the waste is not "out of mind" and that appropriate decisions are made throughout. It was felt that rigorous timelines and proper safety were more likely to be achieved when citizens remain engaged.

Some participants felt that it was not enough to be responsive to advances in technology, but that implementation should also include ongoing funding of advanced research to seek a recycling, reuse or neutralization solution that would make deep geologic storage unnecessary. For these participants, it is an issue of priority. They want assurance that, even to the extent the Adaptive Phased Management approach represents responsible action today, a search for a better solution will continue to be a priority.

There was a small minority of participants who suggested that all of the money that would be used to fund the implementation of the Adaptive Phased Management approach should be instead channeled into such research. Others disputed these suggestions, arguing that this would be irresponsible and potentially unfair to future generations if no long-term solution were ever found.

It was widely expected that technical experts will continue to be available and will work on the project and at the central location. Many believed that this would involve flying individuals into the remote locations. In Saint John, this was likened to flying into an offshore oil platform.

Finally, participants regularly made the point that they did not want to see Canada become the dumping ground of nuclear waste from other countries. They wanted some assurance that just because Canada comes up with a very good solution, it will not mean that our governments would be willing to provide a North American or global repository.

8. REGIONALITY

Many of the themes and reactions discussed above were observed across all the regions visited. For the most part, most Canadians appear to share the same view of this issue and the NWMO's proposed Adaptive Phased Management approach. There were a few exceptions. While the research made no attempt to test any region's

threshold for accepting waste into their region, the reactions and assumptions of individual regions to the issue of the eventual location of a long-term storage site are noted here for the relevance they may have to other assessments and attitudes.

Saskatchewan

Participants from Saskatchewan tended to demonstrate generally low intensity on the issue of nuclear waste and the NWMO's proposed recommendation. There appeared to be some acceptance of the fact that the waste could one day be located in the north of their province.

Northern Ontario

As indicated in Section Six, there was a very strong "not in my backyard" sentiment expressed in the Northern Ontario communities where discussion groups were held. This sentiment drove these participants' reaction to many of the issues and proposals discussed. There was little specific criticism of the Adaptive Phased Management approach, but significant criticism of its eventual outcome of a deep underground repository in the Canadian Shield. They did appear to give much credence to the suggestion that the waste could also go into a repository within Ordovician sedimentary rock.

Southern Ontario

Participants from Southern Ontario tended to show relatively low intensity around the entire subject and demonstrated a widespread belief that the NWMO's proposed recommendation was appropriate for Canada. Participants from Clarington tended to be somewhat more inclined than the average community to see the waste moved sooner, rather than later. There was no particular intensity around this view.

Quebec

Most participants in Quebec felt strongly that the waste site should be located in Ontario, arguing that most of the waste is produced there.

Quebec participants tended to be more critical than the residents of other provinces of nuclear power as an energy source and were more eager to see a national, or provincial, debate on its future use.

Quebec participants, particularly in Montreal, expressed a higher level of cynicism toward government and politicians, suggesting they were irresponsible and not to be trusted. There were numerous references to various high-profile political "scandals" that were contributing to their cynicism. This led some participants to suggest that they did not trust they were getting the full story on nuclear waste and the NWMO's project.

An above average number of participants from Quebec felt that the timeline could be accelerated. It is believed that this sentiment was driven not by a reaction to the

technical and social elements of the NWMO's proposed recommendation, but rather by a desire to get the waste out of their province sooner. There was not a lot of intensity around this sentiment.

New Brunswick

Participants from Fredericton and Saint John tended to assume that the waste would go into the Canadian Shield, and most likely in Ontario. They almost universally found the Adaptive Phased Management approach to be appropriate for Canada and demonstrated relatively low intensity around the issue (similar to Saskatchewan and Southern Ontario).

New Brunswick participants tended to want the solution to be implemented more quickly than that expressed in the NWMO's draft timeline. Within these groups there were frequent references to the belief that the closing of Point Lepreau may be imminent. It is believed that this potential closing of the plant lead residents to more acutely feel a desire to have the waste removed from their community sooner, rather than later. For the same reason, these participants were more likely to express concern that "flexibility in the pace of implementation" may mean not holding to a rigorous schedule.

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