Métis National Council
Nuclear Fuel Waste Initiative

Final Technical Report

For the Period
2003 – 2005

THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS

Submitted to:
The
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Friday, July 29, 2005

Executive Summary

In September 2002, the Métis people adopted a national definition of Métis for citizenship within the Métis Nation:

> *Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.*

Today, the Métis Nation is represented through democratically-elected, province-wide governance structures from Ontario westward; namely, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S), the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC).

The Métis National Council (MNC) was engaged to identify and facilitate a culturally appropriate process of information sharing and dialogue within the Métis Nation concerning the long-term management of Used Nuclear Fuel in Canada. This document should simply be viewed as a "position paper" and not the results of a proper consultation with Métis Peoples of Canada.

This is MNC's largest environmental project, funded by the industry-based Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). Letters of agreement signed with the Governing Members provided flow-through funding to facilitate and report on Métis Nation dialogues regarding long-term storage options of used nuclear fuel.

Used nuclear fuel workshops were held across the Métis Nation involving four of the five Governing Members (GMs) of the MNC. All workshops had similar formats: a brief introduction to the topic followed by the video, "Understanding the Choices," and a discussion/ questions period where participants could voice their opinions. In most of the workshops, the participants filled out and submitted a questionnaire, which was meant to stimulate discussion and gauge opinions.

Information for this report was obtained via the above mentioned workshops, focus group sessions and the questionnaire. The survey questionnaire was also sent to various newsletters and Aboriginal newspapers and appeared on our website. The results of the dialogue process can be found in Section 4: Results.

In conclusion, based on our research across the Métis Nation, we strongly recommend the phasing out of nuclear energy, which includes not building new reactors or expanding existing reactors.

We understand that Canada needs to manage existing nuclear fuel and used fuel that will be generated from operational reactors, but we do not support an increase in the amount of nuclear waste that might be produced from new or expanded reactor sites. Most

participants suggested that further research should be conducted on alternative energy and would like to see an alternative energy source replace nuclear energy. We feel that it is time, especially with climate change, increased smog and other environment issues, to move forward and chose sustainable, non-polluting energy, paired with energy conservation.

The Métis are interested in remaining involved in the dialogue processes and are pleased to be consulted on these issues. However we seek a greater role, including options for education initiatives as an important first step towards meaningful and informed input. We look forward to continuing the dialogue process as we consider it an important matter for the Métis Nation, our future and the future of Canada as a whole.

Our recommendations focus on the following:

1. Phasing Out Nuclear Energy
2. Supporting Research on New and Improved Alternative Energy Sources
3. Using Alternative Energy and Promoting Conservation
4. Examining the Full Life Cycle of Nuclear Fuel
5. Providing Culture Specific Education on Nuclear Fuel Waste Disposal
6. Conducting Further Consultations
7. Discussing other Storage Options
8. Guaranteeing that Non-nuclear Provinces Remain Nuclear Free
9. Conducting Further Research on Nuclear Waste
10. Providing Education that Could Lead to Employment
11. Increasing Involvement in Decision Making

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1. Introduction

1.1. The Métis Nation

The Métis people constitute a distinct Aboriginal nation largely based in western Canada. The Métis Nation grounds its assertion of Aboriginal nationhood on well-recognized international principles. It has a shared history, a common culture (song, dance, dress, national symbols, etc.), a unique language (Michif, with various regional dialects), extensive kinship connections from Ontario westward, a distinct way of life, a traditional territory and a collective consciousness.

1.2. The Métis Nation Homeland

The Métis Nation's Homeland is based on the traditional territory, within west central North America, on which the Métis people have historically lived and relied. This traditional territory roughly includes the three Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan), and extends into Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States.

1.3. Emergence of the Métis Nation

Prior to Canada's crystallization as a nation, the Métis people emerged out of relations between Indian women and European men. The initial offspring of these Indian and European unions were individuals who possessed mixed ancestry. Subsequent intermarriage between Métis women and Métis men resulted in the genesis of a new Aboriginal people with a distinct culture - the Métis. Gradually Métis communities that were distinct from Indian and European communities emerged.

Distinct Métis communities emerged, as an outgrowth of the fur trade, along some parts of the freighting waterways and Great Lakes of Ontario, throughout the Northwest and as far north as the McKenzie River. The Métis people and their communities were connected through the highly mobile fur trade network, seasonal rounds, extensive kinship connections and a collective identity (i.e. common culture, language, way of life, etc.).

There is often a misconception that by the end of the 1800s within Canada, Métis communities within Canada were destroyed, dispersed or assimilated. While the effects of the Battle of Batoche, the hanging of Louis Riel and persecution of other Métis leaders, the fraudulent scrip land grant system, negative public opinion and shameful government policy vis a vis Aboriginal peoples dampened the Métis Nation's public resilience and pride, the Métis as a people continued to do whatever they could to keep their culture, families and communities together. Based on its extensive research, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples aptly concluded:

> *Some Canadians think that the Métis Nation's history ended on the Batoche battlefield or the Regina gallows. The bitterness of those experiences did cause the Métis to avoid the spotlight for many years, but*

> *they continued to practise and preserve their culture and to do everything that was possible to pass it on to future generations.*[1]

Even in the face of this adversity, some Métis continued to gather within their communities throughout the Métis Nation Homeland. For example, the Union Nationale Métisse de Saint-Joseph was created on July 17, 1887 at St. Vital, Manitoba to write the Métis record on the events that took place in 1870 and 1885.[2] The Manitoba Métis Federation was created in 1967 as a federation made up in part by local Union Nationale councils.

As well, in the 1920s, visible Métis political movements emerged to once again assert the rights and existence of the Métis Nation. In 1928, a small group of Métis in the Cold Lake area began to meet. This group led by Charles Delorme, created L'Association des Métis Alberta et Les Territories du Nord-Ouest. This association evolved into the Métis Association of Alberta (now the Métis Nation of Alberta), which was formed in 1932. Similarly, the Métis Society of Saskatchewan (now the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan) was formed in 1938. These political movements, along with others throughout the Homeland, led to a revitalization of the Métis Nation and its communities. As well, these political movements and their structural manifestations formed the initial frameworks for the community, provincial and national governance structures of the Métis Nation in place today.

In addition to this Métis revitalization, a new Aboriginal political awareness began to develop within Canada in as early as the 1950s. The deplorable socio-economic conditions facing Aboriginal peoples was a national embarrassment, as well, Aboriginal individuals and communities began to seek justice through the Canadian judiciary. Similar to the Aboriginal and settler confrontations of the 1800s, the Métis were in the forefront of this new agenda — pushing to have their rights and needs addressed.

In order to move forward on this political agenda, the Métis Nation joined with non-status Indians and other Aboriginal peoples in forming regional/provincial political organizations and structures to draw attention to the disgraceful socio-economic conditions facing Aboriginal peoples living both on and off reserves throughout Canada. These newly formed regional and provincial associations/organizations were brought together under a national organization, the Native Council of Canada. However, even within these pan-Aboriginal organizations the Métis Nation's distinct and identifiable existence persevered. The Métis, as a distinct Aboriginal people, fundamentally shaped Canada's expansion westward through their on-going assertion of their collective identity and rights. From the Red River Resistance to the Battle of Batoche, and other notable collective actions undertaken throughout the Métis Nation Homeland, the history and identity of the Métis people will forever be a part of Canada's existence.

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[1] Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, "Métis Perspectives" in *Looking Forward, Looking Back: Aboriginal Perspectives* (Ottawa: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1997) Vol. 1, at 227.

[2] The following were the original founders of the Union Nationale: Elzear Lagimodiere, Martin Jerome, Jean-Baptiste Plouffe, Francois Marion, Abraham Guay, Joseph St. Germain, August Harrison, Francois Poitras, Joseph Riel, Joseph McMullen, Alfred Nault, Pierre St. Germain, Benjamin Nault, Pierre Lavallee, Pierre Delorme.

Aligned with this national direction, the Métis people and their communities, which were then also a part of regional pan-Aboriginal organizations, began to separate from those organizations to return to their own Métis-specific governance structures. These Métis-specific governance structures (the MNC and its Governing Members[3]) now represent the contemporary manifestation of the Métis Nation's existence, as an Aboriginal people within Canada. Through individual and collective action, these political representative structures continue to push forward on the Métis Nation's struggle for the implementation of its inherent right to self-government, while continuing to evolve as governance structures for the Métis Nation.

1.4. The Métis Population in Canada

In September 2002, the Métis people adopted a national definition of Métis for citizenship within the Métis Nation.

> *Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.*

The Métis Nation also adopted the following defined terms with respect to the new national definition of Métis:

> *"Historic Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people then known as Métis or Half-Breeds who resided in the Historic Métis Nation Homeland;*
>
> *"Historic Métis Nation Homeland" means the area of land in west central North America used and occupied as the traditional territory of the Métis or Half-Breeds as they were then known;*
>
> *"Métis Nation" means the Aboriginal people descended from the Historic Métis Nation, which is now comprised of all Métis Nation citizens and is one of the "aboriginal peoples of Canada" within s.35 of the Constitution Act 1982;*
>
> *"Distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples" means distinct for cultural and nationhood purposes.*

Based on this definition, it is estimated that there are 350,000 to 400,000 Métis Nation citizens in Canada. The Métis Nation is now in the process of uniformly implementing this definition across the Homeland, as well as, developing a consistent acceptance process.

[3] The 5 MNC Governing Members: The Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Manitoba Métis Federation and Métis Nation of Ontario.

Although the Canadian Census has never accurately reflected the Métis Nation's population, in 2001, the Métis population, as set out in the Census, from Ontario westward was 262,785. Based on these statistics, the Métis now represent 26% of the total Aboriginal population in Canada. The 2001 Census further reports that one third of the Métis population is under the age of fourteen and two thirds of the Métis population lives in urban centers.

1.5. The Métis National Council

Today, the Métis Nation is represented through democratically-elected, province-wide governance structures from Ontario westward; namely, the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Manitoba Métis Federation, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation of Alberta and the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia. These Métis governance structures are the contemporary expression of the centuries-old struggle of the Métis Nation to be self-determining within the Canadian federation.

The Métis people mandate these governance structures through province-wide ballot box elections held at regular intervals for regional and provincial leadership. Further, Métis citizens and their communities are represented and participate in these Métis governance structures by way of elected Locals or Community Councils, as well as, provincial assemblies held annually.

A detailed overview of the mandates, structures and activities of these governance structures is available in a document entitled, *Snapshot of the Nation: An Overview of the Governance Structures and Institutions of the Métis Nation*. This document is available through the Métis National Council or via its website at www.Métisnation.ca

The MNC is governed by a six person Board of Governors, which consists of the respective President of each Governing Member along with a national president that is elected by the MNC's General Assembly every two to three years. Collectively, the MNC Board of Governors is responsible to ensure the mandates and direction of the MNC General Assembly are undertaken, as well as, represent and govern the affairs of the Métis Nation at a national level in between MNC assemblies.

The MNC President is the principal spokesperson for the Métis Nation within Canada at the national and international levels. The MNC President also calls and chairs meetings of the MNC Board of Governors. The MNC President acts as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the MNC Secretariat Inc., which is established as the administrative arm of the MNC. In his or her capacity as CEO of the Secretariat, the MNC President is responsible for the management and affairs of the corporate body.

The MNC does not directly deliver programs and services to Métis people, but represents and defends the Métis Nation's rights and interests nationally and internationally based on the mandates received from the MNC General Assembly and MNC Board of Governors. As well, the MNC acts as an advocate and liaison for the Métis Nation with the Government of Canada and collaboratively works on the development of national policies for the furtherance of the Métis Nation's self-government aspirations through the

Governing Members and their communities (i.e. devolution of programs and services, best practices, etc.).

To accomplish these goals, the MNC has established a national secretariat, which provides a visible and active presence in Ottawa. The MNC Secretariat is charged with carrying out the MNC's administrative directives, workplans and activities, while the elected leadership of the MNC maintains the authority of politically representing the interests of the Métis Nation. Specific activities of the Secretariat include:

- Advancing the Métis Nation's rights-based agenda through national advocacy, litigation and facilitating political interventions;

- Representing the Métis Nation at a technical level within national and international forum;

- Representing Métis interests at a technical level in national policy/program development;

- Developing national social, cultural and economic policies for the approval and implementation of the Métis Nation;

- Providing a communication link between Governing Members, other governments (including Aboriginal governments) and the general public; and,

- Providing technical support, where possible and requested, to the Governing Members.

The structure of the MNC Secretariat consists of Core Operations and Sectors. Core Operations provide administrative, financial, legal and communications support to the various sectors established within the MNC. Sectors support the mandates of the Ministries established within the Métis Nation Cabinet. These sectors include: Social Development; Economic Development; Health; Environment; Culture and Heritage; Métis Rights (which includes the three sub-sectors of the Métis Nation Agenda, Governance and International Affairs); Youth; and Women's Issues.

Overall, the MNC is mandated to secure a healthy space for the Métis Nation's on-going existence within the Canadian federation. The MNC's main goal, as the representative body of the Métis people within Canada, is to move forward on implementing the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-government at a community, regional, national and international level. The MNC pushes forward on a rights-based agenda to achieve this aspiration through pursuing political relationships (i.e. advocating for negotiations with the federal government on Métis rights and self-government), litigation and strengthening Métis governance.

1.6. Environment

Over the past few years, those working in the environment sector have been active in a number of initiatives with the federal government. The Métis National Council Environment Committee consists of the Minister of Environment for the Métis National Council, and/or a designated Chairperson, MNC officials, and a political and technical representative from each of the Governing Members. This committee's mandate is:

- To give advice to the Minister;
- Consider potential environment directions for the Métis Nation;
- Coordinate activities and initiatives; and,
- Discuss environmental issues of common concern across the Métis Nation.

The Métis National Council has been provided funds from Natural Resources Canada and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to hold dialogues among members of each governing council on the long-term Nuclear Fuel Waste storage options for Canada. These dialogues were organized and directed by the members of MNC Environment Committee.

1.7. Métis Environmental Values

As Métis people, our origins are steeped in a close bond with the natural world. Our cultural heritage taught us values and behaviors respectful of the gifts of the earth. Born of First Nation's mothers and European fathers, our mixed-blood ancestors learned the teachings of two very different cultures and blended them into a unique Métis culture. The polarity of values of our maternal teachings and our paternal resource demands meant that our ancestors had no choice but to adapt to the rapidly changing environment around them if they were to survive. Drawn together with common histories, needs and aspirations, our Métis ancestors worked as guides for the fur traders, interpreters, provisioners, freighters and domestic laborers. Our Métis ancestors built a lifestyle that required hard work, skill and tenacity as well as knowledge of multiple languages, diverse cultural practices and an ability to forge good relationships with people. Our Métis ancestors utilized their traditional environmental values to ensure sustainable use of the land to support them and their families, while being actively involved in the commercial activities, which emerged during and after the peak of the fur trade. From those early beginnings, through the fur trade, the formation of Canada as a country, and into the present day, we have continued to be a people fiercely proud of our Métis history, culture and identity. Métis traditional environmental values arose from ancient knowledge, practical use and a sense of responsibility for future generations.

> *"Traditional Knowledge speaks to the land, the environment, and the history. We must always take into consideration the knowledge of our Elders and learn from our history so that we may implement the good and not repeat our mistakes."*

1.8. Long-term Management of Used Nuclear Fuel Initiative

In 2003, the Métis National Council was engaged to identify and facilitate a culturally appropriate process of information sharing and dialogue with the Métis Nation concerning the long-term management of used nuclear fuel in Canada. Due to the manner in which this project was executed, this document should simply be viewed as a "position paper" and not a proper consultation of the Métis peoples in Canada.

In the 2004-05 fiscal year, the focus of the workplan in this three-year (2003-2006) funding agreement is to conduct dialogue with Métis Nation including:

- Informing Métis of current used nuclear fuel issues;
- Discussing long-term storage options; and,
- Bringing forward the Nation's views, including the use of Métis Traditional Knowledge.

This is MNC's largest environment project, which is funded by the industry-based Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and Natural Resources Canada. Letters of agreement were signed with the Governing Members to provide flow-through funding to facilitate and report on Métis Nation dialogues regarding long-term storage options of used nuclear fuel. MNC's main roles are:

- Providing coordination; and,
- Providing interim and final project reporting.

2. Methodology

All workshops that were conducted had similar formats: the workshops commenced with a brief introduction to the topic; the video, "Understanding the Choices," was shown; there was a discussion/ question period for participants; and in most workshops, the participants filled out and submitted a questionnaire meant to stimulate discussion and be used as a tool to gauge opinions.

Information for the reports was obtained via the above mentioned workshops, focus groups and the questionnaire. In addition, the survey questionnaire was sent to various newsletters and aboriginal newspapers and appeared on our website. The results of the dialogue process are found in Section 4: "Results and Discussion."

3. Activities

3.1. Homeland Consultation

In December 2004, the MNC Environment Committee held a training session to ensure a common information base and allow Governing Members to discuss information dissemination, collection, and the dialogue process. March 21-22, 2005, the MNC Environment Committee met in Calgary, AB to discuss their progress regarding the used nuclear fuel dialogues.

MNC activities included:

- Compiling a comprehensive background and reference document on the used nuclear fuel initiative, related law, the long-term options and other materials provided by and available through the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO);
- Introducing materials to MNC's Environmental Committee;
- Entering into Letters of Agreement with the Governing Members so that funding can flow for planning and implementation of their Métis dialogues; and,
- Ensuring Governing Members in BC, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba develop plans to conduct their used nuclear fuel dialogue.
- Meeting with NRCan officials to discuss:
    - Contribution Agreement details;
    - Project status; and,
    - Anticipated reporting timeframes.

Used nuclear fuel workshops were held across the Métis Nation involving four of the five Governing Members of the MNC.[4] Métis Nation – Saskatchewan was not able to initiate their workplan due to unforeseen circumstances.

3.2. Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC)

The MPCBC conducted two workshops:

1. Kelowna, B.C, April 2-3, 2005, 9 participants; and,

[4] The five MNC Governing Members are: The Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Manitoba Métis Federation and Métis Nation of Ontario.

2. Northern B.C., March 29-31, 2005, 15 participants.

3.3. Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA)

A workshop was held on March 23rd and 24th, 2005 in Edmonton, Alberta, that was attended by 60 delegates from all 6 regions.

3.4. Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MNS)

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan was unable to conduct community dialogues.

3.5. Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF)

In Manitoba, three regional workshops were held in locations that are part of the Canadian Shield, have mining operations and could be possible locations for future deep geological disposal. These include:

- Flin Flon, April 16th, 2005, 19 participants;
- Thompson, April 17th, 2005, 15 participants; and,
- Lac du Bonnet, April 21st, 2005, 18 participants.

Focus groups were held in Winnipeg with participants from all 7 regions in Manitoba:

- Elders, April 22nd, 2005, 21 participants;
- Youth, April 22nd, 2005, 21 participants; and,
- Women, April 22nd, 2005, 21 participants.

3.6. Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO):

During the months of January and February 2005, discussions were held in 6 community venues in Ontario:

- Midland, January 14th, 77 participants;
- Hamilton, January 22nd, 43 participants;
- Ft. Frances, January 30th, 38 participants;
- Timmins, February 5th, 67 participants;
- Sudbury, February 11th, 86 participants; and,
- Thunder Bay, February 18-19th, 30 participants.

Table 1. Governing Member's Workshop Data.

Governing Members	Workshop Location	Participants	Workshop Dates	Number of Participants
MPCBC	Kelowna, B.C.	Captains of Natural Resources	April 2-3, 2005	9
	Northeastern B.C.	Elders	March 29-31, 2005	15
MNA	Edmonton, AB	Regional	March 23-24, 2005	60
MMF's Regional Meetings	Flin Flon, MB	Regional	April 16, 2005	19
	Thompson, MB	Regional	April 17, 2005	15
	Lac Du Bonnet, MB	Regional	April 21, 2005	18
MMF's Focus Groups	Winnipeg	Elders	April 22, 2005	21
	Winnipeg	Women	April 22, 2005	21
	Winnipeg	Youth	April 22, 2005	21
MNO	Midland, ON	Regional	January 14, 2005	77
	Hamilton, ON	Regional	January 22, 2005	43
	Ft. Francis, ON	Regional	January 30, 2005	38
	Timmins, ON	Regional	February 5, 2005	67
	Sudbury, ON	Regional	February 11, 2005	86
	Thunder Bay, ON	30 Community Council President's Meeting	February 18 – 19, 2005	30
MNC	Newspapers and On-line	Citizens at large	January – June, 2005	7
Total Participants				**547**

4. Results and Discussion

The Results and Discussion section of this document is comprised of comments that highlight recurring themes throughout the workshops held by the Governing Members of the MNC. It should be noted that the themes are organized alphabetically, not in order of importance. The following 15 sections deal with:

1. Alternatives to nuclear energy
2. Economics and Employment
3. Environmental Impact
4. Future considerations
5. Health and Safety Risks
6. Impact of creating a nuclear fuel site
7. International Responsibilities
8. Lessons Learnt
9. Location Discussion
10. Métis Involvement
11. More Information Needed
12. Other Options
13. Social justice issues
14. Storage Methods
    a. Centralized Storage
    b. Deep Geological Repository
    c. Storage at Reactor Sites
15. Traditional Knowledge

4.1. Alternatives to Nuclear Energy

There was a consensus among the participants across the Métis Nation that Canada should seek alternative, environmentally friendly sources of energy and discontinue nuclear energy. Participants suggested that further research is needed on alternative sustainable and renewable energy sources. According to one participant:

> *"I think the only solution to the nuclear waste problem is to stop producing nuclear energy, there are other forms of energy out there and we need to start exploring these options."*

Many participants were concerned about replacing coal energy with nuclear energy, as suggested by the Ontario Government. The question arose, why should we replace one unsustainable energy source with another. According to one Elder:

> *"Why do we need nuclear energy when the Creator has supplied us with natural sources with no by-product, things like solar, wind and water?"*

Participants questioned why some provinces sell their hydro energy to the United States when Eastern Canada must rely on nuclear energy. It was suggested that we discontinue selling energy to the United States and establish an east-west power grid to sell our hydroelectric energy to nuclear reliant provinces instead.

Participants felt that provinces that rely on nuclear energy should bear the full cost of nuclear energy without subsidies, and have it reflected in their energy bills. If consumers are required to pay the real cost of energy, alternative energy and conservation would be more desirable.

Métis participants across the Métis Nation frequently suggested conservation, as a solution for meeting escalating energy needs. Current energy consumption rates are not sustainable; instead of creating new nuclear power plants, we should strive to reduce our energy consumption.

To complement energy conservation, it was repeatedly suggested that Eastern Canada should use alternative energy sources including wind turbines and hydroelectric. One participant stated:

> *"The problem of nuclear waste disposal is never ending. The process has already begun. Canada should be looking at taking care of the well being of Canadians and begin looking at other sources of energy."*

4.2. Economics and Employment

Across the Métis Nation, participants shared their economic and employment concerns regarding the construction of a used nuclear fuel storage site and the level of economic spin-offs relating to such a project. Participants inquired about long-term employment at the site. One participant stated, *"I don't think it would generate long-term employment*

for very many people". Without significant economic spin-offs and compensation, participants questioned whether any community would want the site.

One participant answered:

> *"No, because there is no amount of money that anyone can offer that will make me feel good about having it here or anywhere that will affect me and my kids health."*

Another participant commented:

> *"In other words - would I put my life, my children's life and my grandson's life potentially in harms way for the all mighty dollar? Definitely not."*

Many participants commented that their environment, health and safety are more important than economic benefits from nuclear waste. According to one participant, *"Environment, health, and future generations are far more important. Economic benefits can be gained in other areas."* Another participant stated, *"I place a higher value on life and well being of the community, rather than the value of the economy"*. Participants felt that economic benefits need to be balanced with the potential for environmental and security problems.

4.3. Environmental Impact

Métis participants were extremely concerned with potential environmental impact of all three used nuclear fuel management options as well as uranium mining. According to one participant, "*they had great concerns around 'injecting poison into the heart of our planet"*, but also stated "*leaving it on the surface will eventually poison the water, which is the blood of the earth anyways*."

Participants questioned the environmental impact of mining uranium. Participants across the Métis Nation questioned why the impact of uranium mining was not discussed. One participant found it offensive that the government was impacting the environment and health of Northern Saskatchewan Métis and others with uranium mining, while exploring the possibility of asking them to repatriate and store the used nuclear fuel waste:

> *"You wouldn't allow your neighbor to slop their mess in your yard. Saskatchewan has already gone through it and now they are being asked to store it."*

Many participants questioned the security of transporting used nuclear fuel to the "Deep Geological Repository" and centralized storage. Many participants mentioned the impact of a recent polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) spill in Ontario and the possible impacts of a similar accident involving nuclear waste. The environmental impact of the three storage options are further discussed section 4.14 "Storage Methods."

4.4. Future Considerations

Many participants across the Métis Nation were concerned that research on long-term storage of nuclear fuel waste has only been underway for only thirty or so years. For a project that could have significant negative impact on our environment for thousands of years into the future, thirty years is not enough time to come up with a good solution, particularly when the current solution is nothing more than "sophisticated burial."

4.5. Health and Safety Risks

Across the Métis Nation, there is a fear of nuclear energy and the potential impact of storing used nuclear fuel on their health and safety. Participants fear that if this impact is not felt by the current generation it may impact future generations. They do not want their children and grandchildren to suffer from their shortsightedness when it comes to the storage of used nuclear fuel. Short-term economic gain from a compensation fund is not worth the long-term risk. One participant commented:

> *"Money will not compensate future generations; their lives will be terrible. The people that currently produce nuclear energy will never have to see the damage."*

Another participant stated, "*Money can't buy everything, especially when it comes to our health and safety"*. Participants also questioned whether there would be health risks for employees at the disposal site.

4.6. Impact of Creating a Nuclear Fuel Site

Many participants questioned whether constructing a used nuclear fuel site would indirectly result in increased nuclear energy production. In other words, the concept of "if you build it, they will come." A participant commented, *"If you build a place to dispose of it, they (the government and industry) will have an excuse to make more and won't look for alternatives."*

4.7. International Responsibilities

Many participants expressed concern regarding the global problem of nuclear waste disposal: specifically how other countries are managing their nuclear waste. They questioned whether nuclear waste presents more of a risk outside of our borders than within. There were a number of comments and questions regarding the disposition of nuclear materials from the former Soviet Union and the United States and a sense of worry regarding the emerging Nuclear powers in the Asia and the Middle East (North Korea, Iran respectively). How can we be assured that their waste is being handled properly? Although participants were concerned, they did not express a desire to have it imported to Canada.

Participants also questioned whether there are options or common international approaches to manage used nuclear fuel? One participant stated:

> "*Information and discussion did not provide concrete examples of what the rest of the world is currently doing to deal with their storage of nuclear waste".*

According to one participant, *"I feel that the 'what ifs' could be included. What are other countries doing about their nuclear waste?"*

Another participant questioned:

> *"If Canada says no to storing the waste for other countries: what safeguards does the rest of the world have that these countries are responsible in their storage?*

Participants commented that this information would have been beneficial when discussing the options during the workshops.

Another concern raised by participants was, does Canada has an international responsibility to dispose of the nuclear waste produced by our CANDU reactors? Participants repeatedly mentioned that they do not want Canada to store foreign nuclear fuel waste, but what about fuel that comes from Canada. A participant stated:

> *"I think Canada needs to take responsibility for what we have produced but we don't want to accept international waste".*

4.8. Lessons Learnt

Lessons learnt during the dialogue process include the following:

1. A questionnaire was developed whereby the answers were not easy to analyze, showing a need for capacity building in questionnaire and database development;

2. There should have been expert consultations into the development of the questionnaire and it should have been pre-tested on a sample audience prior to distribution;

3. Employing a researcher to standardize the dialogue methodology across the Métis Nation would have made data collection and report writing easier; and,

4. There should have been an attempt to provide education sessions and learning materials before the dialogues took place so that participants would have time to discuss their comments and consider opinions before voicing them.

Although, the 4th lesson learnt would have been the ideal approach, MNC was too constrained by funding and time to use this methodology.

4.9. Location Discussion

Most participants felt that waste resulting from nuclear power generation should remain where it is produced or go back to where it was mined. According to one participant, *"the province that produces the waste material should be ready to store it and not dump it on another province."* One participant's comments exemplified a concern expressed by most of the participants, *"I feel that the provinces that benefit from the product should have the responsibility of disposing of the waste."*

According to a participant:

> *"No amount of money would make me comfortable living with such a risk to the environment and our health. It is not only the 'here and now' that we must consider, but we must be responsible on our choices so we could leave the earth in the best shape for our future."*

According to one participant, they would only accept nuclear waste:

> *"If all other security and environmental procedures were met and surpassed and no other options were available."*

A few participants stated they would accept nuclear waste only if there was significant economic and employment opportunities in their communities for now and generations to come. One participant stated:

> *"I feel that this waste should be deposited in the province that uses it whether it be Deep Geological Disposal or Storage at the reactor site. But, if forced there should be large economic compensation. Production of this product should be stopped now."*

4.10. Métis Involvement

Participants commented that Métis perspectives and insights would be invaluable to the development of any chosen management approach. Consultations with the Métis Nation are important as Traditional Knowledge can assist the government concerning land use and environmental protection. Many participants shared a willingness to work with the Federal government on this important topic. Participants indicated the importance and desire to be fully involved in dialogue with government, as well as in the decision making process.

Most of the Métis participants stated that Aboriginal perspectives and insights were not included in the development of the three management approaches. Many participants were concerned that they were not involved when the three options were first selected. It would have been good to know how these were selected among all the possible choices.

When asked whether Métis Traditional Knowledge could play an important part in the recommendations or decision-making process, one participant stated, *"Please protect our future generations and don't be so eager to make a dime."*

Many participants also shared concerns that the general Canadian public needs to be better informed about the used nuclear fuel management, not just those people interested enough in the topic to seek information.

4.11. More Information Needed

Most participants felt they needed more information about the used nuclear fuel management options including specific risks, costs and scenarios associated with each storage method. Many of the participants had little or no prior information about nuclear waste. According to one participant, *"People should be educated more on exact financial cost, project forecasts, health risks, and change in global shifting"*. Another participant stated:

> *"Not enough information on the pros and cons of each option. Would need more facts in terms of the scientific aspect. What studies have been conducted? Results? What option is the industry pushing? What do the scientists say (pros and cons) about these options?"*

Many participants thought "what if" scenarios would assist in the Nuclear Used Fuel discussion. Participants wanted to know what would happen with each nuclear management option if there were a terrorist attack or groundwater leaching. According to one participant:

> *"I think that there should be more info on what would happen if there was a leakage, or if there was an explosion, and what would be the long term overall effect."*

Another participant stated, the information is *"Not telling the whole story. Possible scenarios on what could happen should have been part of the information."*

Most participants appreciated attending the meetings and would like to participate in future meetings, but would like more information regarding used nuclear fuel. According to one participant, *"I appreciate the fact that we have been included in some form to give our opinion on nuclear waste management."* Another participant stated, *"we need more meetings. Thoughts should be put together; not requested instantly on the spot."*

A number of the participants spent time discussing the educational gap that exists on this issue. Specifically, questions were raised regarding the adequacy of the information provided as being too dense for the layperson. It would require further work to find a more meaningful way to present the information to the public. The obvious follow-up to this question was whether there was a government willingness to identify additional resources for greater involvement.

The need for further education about used nuclear fuel is evident by comments made by a few participants. Please note: the comments made by these participants do not represent the overall views of the MNC or the governing members. These comments

include: “Nuclear waste should be stored in a volcano,” and “Send it out of our atmosphere and if something happens up there then they can figure out what to do then.”

4.12. Other Storage Options

Participants questioned why they were not involved in the used nuclear fuel consultation before the selection was narrowed to three options. Participants wondered if Métis would have been able to participate in the selection of the three options, would they have selected different options or would they have felt differently about the three that were presented? Participants thought that the scope of the project, with the three options, might have been narrowed too soon without proper citizen involvement.

4.13. Social Justice Issues

Participants commented on three significant social justice concerns:

1. Why should marginalized communities be asked to store used nuclear fuel when they are not benefiting from the use of nuclear energy?

2. Northern Canadians have already faced the consequences of development for the profit of the South; why should they allow a used nuclear fuel site as well?

3. Why should rural Canadians be given the responsibility for disposing used nuclear fuel created by urban centers?

Many participants were upset with the possibility of having more waste from the South and the East to deal with. A participant commented:

> *“They want us to store their nuclear fuel waste and dam our rivers. It is beyond unreasonable. They want us to store their garbage and ruin our environment. This is ridiculous.”*

Marginalized people, especially in the North, often have to face undesirable development for the benefit of the South. One Elder stated:

> *“If the city people are using the energy from these nuclear devices, then store it in their backyard.”*

Northern Canadians, especially the Métis, have already been highly impacted by hydroelectric dams, mining and other developments and many are not willing to risk more detrimental projects for the benefit of the South without significant compensation and economic spin-offs.

Many urban Canadians would like to see the used nuclear fuel stored in a remote area but Métis still use huge areas of land, including land that many Canadians would consider as remote, for traditional uses. According to a participant:

"Certain Elders felt that some of the wording used appears to minimize the impact for urban people but seems to forget that 'we as Aboriginal peoples still use and live off the lands, mostly the remote areas'."

Therefore,

"This is going to impact us the most."

Métis participants also commented that they felt they would be in negotiation with "guns to their heads." Participants from marginalized areas felt elected representatives, such as mayors and councils, may volunteer to store the used nuclear fuel for economic gain without considering the long-term potential impact of such a decision. Areas that have lost their main industries, such as closed mines, may be eager to accept the used nuclear fuel in exchange for economic and employment benefits without consideration of the consequences. How about communities along the transport route, will they be part of the decision making process when selecting a site?

4.14. Storage Methods

NWMO has identified 3 management options for storage of used nuclear fuel: at-reactor site (above and below ground), deep geological disposal, and centralized storage (above and below ground). The participants converged in opinion that all three options for the management of used nuclear fuel have serious risks. Participants acknowledged that in the past, many costly mistakes had been made in the handling of industrial waste. To prevent this from reoccurring, participants believe that:

- It is a necessity to conduct comprehensive baseline studies;
- Impact assessments should be made available to the public (in plain language); and,
- It is essential that provision be made for continuous monitoring of the used nuclear fuel well into the future.

4.14.1. Centralized Storage

Participants identified a few strengths for Centralized Storage. Identified strengths include:

- Ease in monitoring and controlling at one central location; and,
- Accessible, if other purposes are found for its use.

Comments from participants include: *"At least the fallout is containable to one area instead of several different sites"*; *"It could always be monitored at all times"* and *"One place, little chance of total destruction"*.

Participants were concerned about terrorism if the used nuclear fuel is stored above ground in one central location. Another major concern is transportation to the central location and emergency provisions along the route in case of an accident. In addition, participants were concerned about selecting a location to store all of our used nuclear fuel. Which community would accept all the used nuclear fuel?

4.14.2. Deep Geological Repository

Identified strengths of the Deep Geological Repository include:

1. Increased safety from terrorist attacks; and,

2. Increased environmental security;

Many participants felt that used nuclear fuel would be safer from potential terrorism attacks in the Deep Geological Repository. Participant comments include: *"Probably the safest storage;" "Storage underground is not as susceptible to terrorism;"* and, *"It will be less accessible and harmless if it is buried and secured properly."*

Participants also felt the Deep Geological Repository would be more environmentally secure. Comments from participants include: *"Environmentally secure"* and "*if it doesn't leak it may be good"*.

Although these two strengths were identified by many of the participants, many participants also mentioned that significant research should be conducted to ensure that the waste is secure and cannot leak into the environment. This includes research on monitoring techniques. According to a participant, *"Deep Geological Disposal would be my option if there is an absolute guarantee that it is safe for disposal."* Another participant stated, *"Deep Geological Disposal would be my option providing that all the homework is done and the method is planned to perfection"*.

Identified Deep Geological Repository weaknesses include:

1. Groundwater contamination from leaching;

2. Geological changes and earthquakes;

3. Desertion threat similar to abandoned mines;

4. Difficulty with monitoring; and,

5. Transportation.

Many participants were fearful about the used nuclear fuel leaching and contaminating groundwater. According to one participant, *"How will we know if this is not leaking under ground into our water systems?"* Participants across the Nation mentioned flooding, as some mines will eventually flood. It was questioned what measures would

be taken to ensure that the Deep Geological Repository never floods and what would be the consequences if it did flood?

Participants were concerned with earthquakes and the shifting of rocks. One participant stated, *"the grounds are constantly shifting and to make an estimate of 300 yrs is a little far fetched without the proof."* Besides, we are looking at a much greater time scale than 300 years

Participants mentioned that we do not know what geological changes will occur over the next thousand years. According to a participant,

> *"Do we know what will happen in the next thousand years? The Deep Geological Repository seems like an attempt at an easy solution for a difficult problem."*

Participants living in Northern mining communities shared their experiences with 'orphaned' and abandoned mines that were deserted by companies and ignored by government; they fear the same could happen with the Deep Geological Repository. It was feared that used nuclear fuel stored underground would be ignored after construction, or if there were social and economic changes that hinder continued monitoring and maintenance. Participants commented that it would be *"out of sight, out of mind"*. Another participant stated, *"Out of sight, out of mind. What a concept."* Over time people forget and records disappear; what would prevent such a site from being lost only to be rediscovered by an unknowing population in the future?

Participants were concerned about monitoring a Deep Geological Repository. A participant stated the Deep Geological Repository would be, *"unable to monitor reliably. Also, possible geological shifting, allowing ground water or runoff to pass through fissures or cracks could pose a 'silent' problem ."* Another participant wrote:

> *"We cannot monitor as easily below ground as above ground. It could leak into water systems. If something did happen, it would be more difficult to fix the problem.*"

Another participant stated that they *"do not like Deep Geological Disposal, not even as far as 10 feet"*.

4.14.3. Storage at Reactor Sites

Participants identified the strengths of storage at reactor sites as:

1. No transportation required;

2. Visibility, accessibility and ease of monitoring;

3. Knowledgeable personnel on site with experience; and,

4. Less environmental justice issues.

Many participants felt that storage at reactor sites is the safest, as it does not require transportation. According to a participant:

> *"I would say storage at reactor sites. They produced it, and it is already stored there. We would not have to worry about transportation and it can be well monitored."*

Many participants viewed the increased visibility and ease of monitoring of used nuclear fuel at reactor sites as a strength. One participant commented, *"Nuclear waste is already stored there. Therefore we will not need to build new facilities elsewhere. Monitoring will be easy."* Another participant stated, *"Designs are already in place for maintenance and monitoring. The waste should stay where it was created"*. Participants thought nuclear fuel waste should be accessible so that if a technology is developed for recycling or reusing it, it would be available where it would be used. A participant stated, *"I think it should be stored above ground so that if it could be easily accessed and recycled."*

Participants mentioned that knowledgeable staff on site at the reactor site (with nuclear waste experience) would be beneficial for ensuring the safety of the site. One participant commented that the nuclear waste currently stored at the reactor site, *"is at least taken care of there by professionals who know how to clean it up or fix the problem in case of an accident."*

Another strength in locating used nuclear fuel at a reactor site is that other provinces would not be responsible for disposing waste generated in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. One participant stated:

> *"Nuclear waste storage should occur near where the reactor is located. As always, it becomes an environmental justice issue where they want to store waste near where marginalized people live."*

Another participant stated, *"You made it; you keep it safe from the environment and all the security issues that go with it"*.

Participants identified the weaknesses of storage at reactor sites as:

1. The threat of terrorism (too easily targeted);

2. The difficulty of monitoring and maintaining numerous sites that might not have enough space; and,

3. The possibility of radioactive waste getting into the cooling water and thus contaminating the environment.

Many participants were concerned about the threat of terrorism if the used nuclear fuel is stored at the reactor sites. Participants were also concerned that it will be difficult to monitor and maintain numerous sites that will eventually run out of storage space.

4.15. Traditional Knowledge

In the survey, participants were asked to state whether they thought Métis Traditional Knowledge could play an important part in the recommendation or decision-making process for a preferred management approach. Almost all of the participants wrote that Métis Traditional Knowledge could play an important role in both the recommendations and the decision-making process. One participant's comments exemplify why Traditional Knowledge is essential:

> *"Traditional Knowledge speaks to the land, the environment, and the history. We must always take into consideration the knowledge of our Elders and learn from our history so that we may implement the good and not repeat our mistakes."*

Métis participants believe they have valuable knowledge as they practice their culture on the land. One participant states, *"As a Métis person, we have very good options to bring to the table since we live across the homeland"*.

5. Conclusion

Based on this research, conducted across the Métis Nation, we strongly recommend phasing out nuclear energy, which means not building any new reactors or expanding existing reactors. The reason for this recommendation is that research into the use and reuse of used nuclear fuel has not significantly progressed, leaving above or below ground storage and deep geological burial as the only options for the disposal of this highly dangerous material. If not properly contained nuclear waste will pose a threat to health and wellbeing of future generations. However, it cannot be said with certainty that containment, as proposed by NWMO, will be effective so far into the future. As it is impossible to predict changes that may occur in the earth's crust thousands of years from now, it is makes sense to limit the production of this waste and the expansion of this mode of energy production until such time as science can develop methods that render the waste safe, or the disposal method foolproof.

For this reason the participants of our consultation recommend further research on alternative energy and would like to see another friendlier energy source gradually replace the nuclear option. We feel that the time is now, especially with climate change imminent, increased smog and other environmental issues in the daily news, to move forward and chose sustainable, renewable energy, paired with energy conservation. Perhaps some of the funds available to NWMO could be used to support this research, as is done by some of the oil companies.

As we are obliged to deal with a current nuclear fuel waste problem, we believe that the Métis Nation should be included in the decision making process when it comes to implementation. We also believe that more education is needed to fully understand the issues, especially among the youth and those not educated in science and engineering. We therefore would like an opportunity to reach more of our people through an expanded dialogue process taking into account the lessons learnt (see section 4.8).

The Métis are interested in remaining involved in discussion processes and are pleased to be consulted on these issues; however, we seek a greater role in decision making, including the introduction of educational initiatives for the youth and those interested in possibilities of employment in the electricity generation industry, all of which are important steps towards meaningful and informed engagement. We look forward to continuing the dialogue process on a subject considered important to the Métis Nation and offer the following as our recommendations to the Government of Canada.

6. Recommendations

6.1. Phasing Out Nuclear Energy

We recommended phasing out nuclear energy, meaning existing reactors will continue for their designed life span, but there would be no construction of new nuclear reactors or expansion of existing reactors. The tradeoff of less carbon emissions, for a long-term waste disposal problem, is not worth the risk.

6.2. Supporting Research on New and Improved Alternative Energy Sources

Further research needs to be conducted on other alternative, sustainable and non-polluting energy sources like wind and solar power. This includes identifying new sources of energy, improving technologies to access these sources, as well as making existing sources and technologies more affordable and available.

We recommend that NWMO match their investment for managing used nuclear fuel by providing funds earmarked for researching new and improved sources of energy.

6.3. Using Alternative Energy and Promoting Conservation

There needs to be economic incentives for using alternative energy and consideration given to constructing and refurbishing micro-hydro plants and neighborhood power generators. Nevertheless, energy conservation is the best long-term solution for meeting escalating energy needs. Current energy consumption rates are not sustainable, therefore instead of creating new nuclear reactor sites, and saying this is clean energy, we should strive to reduce our energy consumption.

We recommend an East-West power grid: instead of selling our energy to the United States we should be selling it to nuclear reliant provinces.

We also recommend that provinces that rely on nuclear energy should reflect the full cost of that service in their energy bills without providing subsidies. If their energy bills were more expensive, alternative energy and conservation would become more desirable. Canadians need to know the full cost of using nuclear energy.

6.4. Examining the Full Life Cycle of Nuclear Fuel

We recommend examining the full life cycle of nuclear fuel. Many participants questioned why uranium mining and the hazards associated with the extraction and processing of uranium were not discussed in the consultation. Obviously there is waste associated with the mining and processing of Uranium. What happens to that waste? How about radioactive medical waste?

6.5. Providing Culture Specific Education on Nuclear Fuel Waste Disposal

We recommend that more education regarding used nuclear fuel should be provided for Métis citizens as well as the Canadian public. Preparing documents and videos in plain language would make discussion more accessible to the general public. A wide range of learning materials should be developed; i.e. materials that can be easily understood by all

age ranges and educational levels. There should also be a school curriculum developed that focuses on the issues, taught at different levels in the public schools. Also, we recommend that brochures and other documents of interest be translated in Michif, the Métis language.

6.6. Conducting Further Consultations

This process should be viewed as a dialogue with the Métis Nation and not a proper consultation with the Métis People of Canada. Having gained experience in conducting a project such as this, we take this opportunity to list the basic components of what we believe to be an appropriate consultation process:

1. Discussions and consensus to develop a process of consultation and accommodation;

2. An effort to obtain information from a cross-section of the Métis Nation by ensuring that a proper selection of elders, trappers, hunters and fishermen, leaders, youth and women are represented at dialogues; and, an opportunity to repeat these dialogues so that those who missed the first round may have an opportunity to participate at another session.

3. Full funding for the consultation and accommodation process, including the development and testing of any survey instruments and culture specific learning materials;

4. Thorough investigation and study into lands and resource use, economy, culture, and way of life of the Métis people, which may necessitate special purpose studies by independent experts;

5. Analysis and review by all parties of the studies generated in #4 with a view to understanding how impacts will affect Métis culture, economy, way of life, land and resource use (both now and into the future); and,

6. A consensus with respect to protection and accommodation, which may include emergency response (in the event of an accident), mitigation and compensation measures.

6.7. Discussing Other Storage Options

Across the Métis Nation, there were varying opinions about which management option should be used for storing the used nuclear fuel. Upon reviewing the various methods of nuclear fuel waste storage, the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) Captains indicated that *"Deep Geological Storage"* seemed to be the best alternative.

In Manitoba, the participants were evenly split between deep geological storage and storage at the nuclear site. In the focus groups, the Elders and men thought that Deep Geological Storage would be the best option while women and youth stated that reactor

site storage would be the best option. However, it was agreed by all the participants that none of the proposed methods should be considered foolproof or guaranteed.

In Alberta, participants discussed some of the options that are being presented as viable; however, there was no consensus from this group on any particular method.

It was the general opinion that the pros and cons of all options should have been presented. In other words, what were the reasons for selecting the three options under consideration?

6.8. Guaranteeing that Non-nuclear Provinces Remain Nuclear Free

Participants across the Métis Nation stated that non-nuclear provinces should not accept or be asked to accept used nuclear fuel. We recommend that used nuclear fuel should remain in the provinces that are currently part of the nuclear cycle. Provinces, and especially marginalized communities, that do not use or produce nuclear energy should not be asked to bare the burden of used nuclear fuel disposal unless acceptable consultation, mitigation and accommodation occur. The question remains, what guarantees can be put in place that insures that non-nuclear provinces and territories will remain non-nuclear?

6.9. Conducting Further Research on Nuclear Waste

We recommend that funding should be made available to the three aboriginal governments to initiate a third-party, non-biased team consisting of both scientific personnel and Traditional Knowledge holders. This could even be a collaborative approach between all the Aboriginal peoples of Canada (AFN, MNC and the ITK). This team would continue to review the data as it is made available and would have the authority to commission studies or further research. Research topics might focus on social, cultural and economic issues as well as the use and reuse of nuclear fuel waste.

6.10. Providing Education that Could Lead to Employment

We recommend that NWMO act as a facilitator for employment opportunities for the companies that provide energy from nuclear reactors. There are a whole host of jobs within the nuclear power generation industry, from electrician to equipment operators to managers and engineers. However, obtaining the training required to access these jobs is a problem. NWMO could assist, thus providing economic opportunities not just to a community that may decide to host the construction, operation and maintenance of a waste disposal facility, but to the Métis population in general. The best way for a population to become involved is to observe the industry from the inside.

6.11. Increasing Involvement in Decision Making

Although the Métis Nation has taken a strong approach against the use of nuclear energy, we still want to be highly involved in the process. We recommend that Métis be involved in all levels of decision making by participating on boards that deal with used nuclear fuel, nuclear waste and nuclear energy. This includes, selecting a disposal site and choosing transportation routes. Specifically, we would like to participate on the NWMO board.

1. Appendices

7.1 Acronyms

AFN – Assembly of First Nations

B.C. – British Columbia

BSMANR - British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

ITK - Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

MMF – Manitoba Métis Federation

MNA – Métis Nation of Alberta

MNC – Métis National Council

MNO – Métis Nation of Ontario

MPCBC – Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia

NWMO – Nuclear Waste Management Organization

PCB – Polychlorinated biphenyls

TK – Traditional Knowledge

7.2 Sample Survey Questionnaire from Grassroots News

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

metisnation.ca

We want to hear from YOU!

Métis across the homeland do you have questions about Nuclear Waste?
Now's the chance to have your voice heard!

MNC & Nuclear Waste Dialogue Questionnaire

Region and Community: the Pas

Participant's Name: _____

1. In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future? - Please check one

☐ yes ☐ agree somewhat ☐ not sure ☑ no

Additional comment: AECL met with alot of opposition to the Pinawa Storage Site. I seen it with my own eyes. It is not Safe

2. How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel waste, either through the media or your own observations? (check one)

☐ Do not know anything on the issue

☐ I know a little about the issue

☑ I am very familiar with the issue

3. Compared with other issues in Canada, how important is the nuclear waste issue of concern to you personally? Please circle.

The health care system	less	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (10 more)
The economy	less	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (10 more)
Fulfillment of Aboriginal and treaty rights	less	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (10 more)
Climate Change	less	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (10 more)
Terrorism	less	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 (10 more)

4. Are you comfortable with the current information being provided by you today (NWMO/MNC) to make some initial comments on the management options: (Check One)

☐ yes ☐ agree somewhat ☐ not sure ☑ no

5. In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion (where do you think it should be stored?); Please comment

the waste should be stored in the house of the owners of the reactor

6. What issues are you most concerned with in relation to nuclear fuel waste once a concept and potential site are chosen? Please number from 1 (most important) to 6 (less important)

1	Security of the site	2	Is it environmentally secure
5	Transportation	4	Who is responsible for the site
3	Human Health	6	Cost efficiency of concept

7. If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region? (Check One)

☐ yes ☐ not sure ☑ no

Comments:

8. If you said yes or agree somewhat to question #4 - what are your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each management approach?

Please provide any initial comments on the proposed concepts that follow:

A. Storage at reactor sites

Strengths → It can be monitored, there are some resources at the site to deal with contamination.

Weaknesses → It is an unsafe idea as many factors could influence it actual "safe storage"

B. Deep Geological Disposal

Strengths None - except out of site, out of mind.

Weaknesses susceptable to siesmic activity.

C. Centralized Storage

Strengths Can be monitored more easily.

Weaknesses A large concentration of waste means high potential for catastrophic incident.

9. To your knowledge, have Aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches identified?

Comments: Absolutely not.

10. Could Métis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a preferred management approach? Comments:

No

11. Is there anything else you want to tell us? Comments:

Spent rods are dangerous, keep them in a safe secure facility, not in our Backyards.

Metis National Council Questionnaire
Nuclear Waste Dialogue

For further information or to fill out this questionnaire on-line, log onto our website: www.metisnation.ca

How will your information be used?
The Métis National Council needs your valuable input to help us assess the issues and properly address them with governments and the Nuclear Industry.

Please return to: Nuclear Fuel Waste Committee, Métis National Council
350 Sparks Street , Suite 201 • Ottawa, ON K1R 7S8

7.3 Governing Members' Reports

- Métis Nation of Alberta
- Manitoba Métis Federation
- Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia
- Métis Nation of Ontario

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

Métis National Council:
Métis Nation of Alberta
Nuclear Waste Dialogue

Consultation Report

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    B. Agenda
    C. List of Participants

Opening Message, President Audrey Poitras,
Métis Nation of Alberta

Good Afternoon,

The Métis National Council has been working with Natural Resources Canada and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to undertake series of community based dialogue that will feed into the formulation of Canada's policy on Nuclear Fuel Waste Management.

These community meetings are being undertaken with each of the Governing members of the MNC. It is important that we all have our input regarding the method of storage of Canadian Nuclear Fuel Waste.

Today, our role is to discuss, First, the long term management of nuclear fuel waste, including a discussion of various options laid our in the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act, as well as other options proposed by the NWMO. We have come together to look at these issues and to provide wisdom that will assist in guiding Canada, and to provide our traditional Métis knowledge to the issues. Canada and NWMO are very interested in hearing our thoughts and where possible to add input and our knowledge.

The Métis National Council, in keeping with its mandate, has founded an environment committee that has been meeting to identify and discuss the broad range of environmental issues that affect our people and our rights. At the conclusion of this meeting and the meetings across the homeland, the MNC will prepare a comprehensive report based on the dialogue and feedback received by our people. The report will be submitted to Natural Resources Canada for review and follow up.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all you who have come in today, we are grateful for your attendance and as always, your valuable input. Also I would like to thank Dale LeClair, CAO, and the MNC for facilitating the session.

Thank you.

2. Overview

"The Government expects that a waste management organization, once it is established, will continue the consultation process with Aboriginal communities. The related activities should be funded by the producers and owners of nuclear fuel waste"

The goal and commitment as stated by the NWMO is to ensure that the organization will continue to recognize:

- The importance of a collaborative arrangement with Métis people
- Métis perspectives & knowledge are reflected in the study
- Guide the direction for Canada
- Provide and receive direction on governance, decision-making, ethics, values, responsibilities
- Ensure that these responsibilities are recognised in our generation and future generations
- Ensure that the role of communities and governments are inclusive, responsible and transparent.
- Ensure knowledge and education are maintained over time

3. Processes

In the discussion regarding the purpose and reasoning behind the consultation processes, a number of participants expressed a several concerns regarding the process itself. While, it is true that Governments are more aware of the requirements to consult with Aboriginal peoples, there was recognition that there are a number of reasons why the consultations are important. Firstly, that the traditional knowledge and wisdom of the Métis can be of assistance to the government regarding land use and more specifically the importance of continued protection of Canadian lands.

As a meaningful start, many participants voiced their desire to remain involved and expressed their wishes that government and its agencies hear the Métis voice. Moreover, that continuing dialogue is an important component for action and policy development. It was clear that an expectation was created and confirmed that this process was the start of a continued presence for the Métis, and a long time coming.

4. Historical Issues/ Lessons Learned

In the course of the presentation and discussion there was a considerable amount of time spent on dealing with environmental issues that have affected the Metis people throughout the decades. Much like the Canadian scientific and government community, participants asked many of the same questions; such as: why do we develop the technologies and processes without knowing, or caring in some cases, what the potential long-term impacts will be on our environment and our health.

A number of participants discussed specific examples, such as the Swan Hills Waste Treatment Facilities in Northern Alberta. A number of people shared anecdotal stories with the group. For example, besides the issue of non-consultation with residents in the region, there is a feeling from many members living near the facility that death rates and health impacts have increased but have not been monitored or studied. Furthermore, when formal Monitoring Agreements were struck with the Treaty 8 reserves in the area, the same was not accorded to the Métis population in the same region.

A specific example of these impacts centered on a toxic release that occurred at the plant in the 1990's. The incident has had a very detrimental impact on the culture and everyday way of life in the area, as many Elders and members are no longer consuming the wild game traditionally hunted in the area. In addition there has been a sharp decline of members spending time in those traditional areas. There is a very important lesson to be learned here which speaks volumes on the need to address traditional losses attributable to modern encroachments.

The theme is therefore best expressed by the need to view these issues from a global perspective, i.e. that we need a commitment by government to continually study and monitor the impacts where these projects are presently located or proposed. One recommendation included a requirement that complete documentation of area impacts be required in order to establish benchmarks both environmentally and culturally. One participant went further and suggested consideration be given to establish mandatory, and ongoing, toxicological study of residents when they pass away to ensure that risks do not overtake the projects intended purpose.

As a result of this discussion, there was a feeling that whenever and wherever these projects take place, that at the very minimum, an inclusive approach is required in the monitoring, and that transparency in reporting and cooperation are made absolute requirements. This should apply equally to existing operations and any planned activities of this nature.

Raw Uranium Transportation

Another point of discussion from the far northern participants to the meeting covered the historical transportation of the raw uranium across the Athabasca. A number of questions arose regarding whether there was ever a record of contamination or a study that dealt with from the transport of the Uranium –via Rail car and on the boats.

A question was asked whether there had been any tests on the lines that were used 40 years ago? What are there risks today considering the half-life - If there was some contamination - Was there reclamation? What was done with the contaminated soils? Where do we go to find this out? What happened to the labor and primary workers - Métis had very extensive involvement in those initial activities. Have there been any exposure studies?

In any case, individual sites need to be documented and cross-referenced to an expanded health and traditional use study of areas to ensure that people are not adversely affected; further that this should be undertaken at historical extraction sites and future storage sites.

5. Emerging Issues – Environment

Concerns Expressed – Global perspectives

Extraction vs. Reclamation – what are the viable options?

A number of questions were raised regarding the operations at Uranium City? Is the old site safe? One participant raised the issue whether the rods could be returned to where the uranium was extracted. Considering the lengthy half-life of processed rods, it confirmed that the options are not that simple and require careful consideration.

A discussion ensued regarding the options that were presented in the video produced by the NWMO. Participants discussed some of the options that are being presented as viable; however there was no consensus from this group on any particular method. Most participants agreed that more education is required to have a full discussion on some of the options presented in the video package.

On a more global note, some participants relayed concerns that Nuclear Waste presents more of a risk outside of our borders than within. There were a number

of comments and questions regarding the disposition of nuclear materials from the former Soviet Union and a sense of worry regarding the emerging Nuclear powers in Asia and the Middle East (North Korea, Iran respectively). Specifically, how can we be assured that their waste is being treated properly, and how can Canada ensure that it will be treated properly (This was not expressed as a desire to have it imported to Canada). Are there options or common approaches globally to deal with these concerns?

6. Education

A number of the participants spent time discussing the educational gap that exists on this issue. Specifically questions were raised regarding the adequacy of the information provided as being too dense for the layperson. It would require further work to find a more meaningful way to present the information to the public. The obvious follow-up to this question was whether there was willingness to identify additional resources for greater involvement. This would be facilitated via direct involvement by creating the capacity to monitor, and be a part of these processes as they move forward.

A very important question was raised regarding quantification of the costs for these storage initiatives long-term. In real terms, is there a process in place to ensure that cost will not impact the long-term stewardship over spent rods and other byproducts? What are the measures in place to protect us from ourselves and this form of energy? These issues were not covered in great depth in the presentation videos. In follow-up this needs to be identified and reported.

Finally, as it stands today we, collectively, have very little in the way of benchmark/baseline data to be able to make comparisons or an informed decision on which way the policy should be implemented. It was concluded that the Métis could move forward on educational activities that involve our people. Thus, the creation of a long-term partnership that would enable the Métis to study and report on these initiatives as they move forward.

7. Recommendations / Next Steps/ Conclusions

Dialogue and Consultation

- In order to provide meaningful input, the Métis need to be involved up front and not after the fact.

- What is missing is inclusion into the entire processes – We need to be included in all stages - from mining to processing to rod storage
- Monitoring and Participation on any waste management issues in Alberta and Nationally is not a dream but a reality
- We need to ensure that the values that we bring to the table translates into impact: stewardship, respect, elders' wisdom, our past and our future.
- There needs to be a sharing of responsibilities between all Canadians
- Our numbers are growing and will have a greater impact in the future - we will be impacted in a greater capacity, and should have increased participation in the same proportions.
- Canada should not be planning to build or restart additional nuclear sites, until all other options are studied, both for Nuclear Waste Management and alternative forms of Energy.

8. Follow-up Questions for NWMO

Are there any long-term impact studies – Are there greater environmental impacts that we are not aware of yet?

What happens with the long-term infrastructure issues - effects on containment?

What are other countries doing on this issue?

Conclusion

Like many Canadian policy makers, we could not provide any specific answers to these questions, however, as Canadians we must collectively continue to work towards answers in a collaborative and inclusive manner. The Métis are interested in remaining involved in the processes and are pleased to be consulted on these issues, however a greater role, including education initiatives are an important first step towards meaningful and informed input.

Appendix A

Overview of Questionnaire Results

Note: not all participants answered each and every question. In case where a rating was involved, no rating was assigned or weight attributed.

1. *In your opinion, are you agreement with nuclear energy providing Ontario or Canada with its energy needs into the future? – Please circle one*

yes - agree somewhat - not sure - no

Yes	Agree somewhat	Not sure	No
1	6	8	13

Total Responses: 28

Additional Comment:

- What about alternative sources of energy generation?
- Only if a viable solution is found to deal with the waste
- No expansions – do not raise the reliance on the source of energy, find alternatives

2. *How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel waste, either through the media or your own observations? (check one)*

- Do not know anything on the issue
- I know a little about the issue
- I am very familiar with the issue

Do not know anything on the issue	I know a little about the issue	I am very familiar with the issue
3	19	7

Total Responses: 29

3. *Compared with other issues in Canada, how important is the nuclear waste issue of concern to you personally? Please circle*

The health care system less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
The economy less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Fulfillment of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Climate Change less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more
Terrorism less 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 more

The health care system	6 5 4 3 9 10 5 6 5 8 8 10 10 10 9 9 10 6 1 1 4 7 6 10 10	Total Responses: 25 Total: 172 Average: 6.88
The economy	5 5 5 3 7 10 4 5 5 9 7 10 10 10 9 9 7 6 5 2 4 2 4 6 9	Total Responses: 25 Total: 158 Average: 6.32
Fulfillment of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights	8 5 5 5 9 10 5 8 1 7 6 8 10 10 10 9 10 4 5 5 2 3 5 10 7	Total Responses: 25 Total: 167 Average: 6.68
Climate Change	9 2 7 4 7 10 4 9 5 10 6 6 10 10 10 9 9 7 8 5 1 5 7 10 10	Total Responses: 25 Total: 180 Average: 7.2
Terrorism	7 9 9 7 8 10 2 910 3 9 10 10 10 9 9 10 9 3 5 1 10 5 10 3	Total Responses: 25 Total: 187 Average: 7.48

Total Response: 25 of 29

4. *Are you comfortable with the current information being provided by you today (NWMO/MNO) to make some initial comments on the management options: (Circle One)*

yes -- agree some what -- not sure - no

Yes	Agree somewhat	Not sure	No	No answer
3	12	7	6	1

Total Responses: 29

Additional comment

- Is this all of the information; is there an alternative view which is not being provided?

5. *If you said yes or agree somewhat - what are your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each management approach? (Space for comments on next page)*

Please provide any initial comments on the proposed concepts that follow

A. Storage at reactor sites	
Advantages	Limitations
▪ Maintenance and testing of cells ▪ No need to transport it ▪ Experts on hand to deal with it ▪ Find a way to harness the waste for useful purposes ▪ Not putting new areas in harms way	▪ Space – is there enough to expand for holding ▪ Are there issues related to site radioactivity ▪ Terrorism is an issue ▪ Human Error?

B. Deep Geological Disposal	
Advantages	Limitations
▪ Less chance of human error – not managed by man	▪ Potential leakage into the water sources underground – without maintenance There are risks that are unknown if containment fails ▪ Potential of further ignorance or long-term effects ▪ Earthquake issues

C. Centralized Storage	
Advantages	**Limitations**
▪ Can deal with the issue in one place ▪ Can be accessed if other purposes are found for its use ▪ Can be safely watched and managed	▪ What is the right location, Is there a right location, environmentally and safety ▪ Must ensure maintenance by future generations which we cannot control ▪ Where?

6. *In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion (where do you think it should be stored?);*

   Comments

   - Health Impacts are not identified in any great detail
   - Greater consultation efforts
   - Are there further reactors in the works?

7. *What issues are you most concerned with in relation to nuclear fuel waste once a concept and potential site are chosen? Please number from 1 (most important) to 6 (less important)*

   Security of the site ____ Is it environmentally secure _____
   Transportation ____ Who is responsible for the site _____
   Human Health ____ Cost efficiency of concept _____

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Security of the site		3	7	4	2	2
Transportation		1	4	2	9	3
Human Health	12	5	1			
Is it environmentally secure	6	5	3	4		
Who is responsible for the site		4		8	6	
Cost efficiency of concept			3		2	13
No response	11					

1.1.1.1.1.1 Total Responses: 29

8. *If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region? (Circle One)*

   (yes) (no) (not sure)

Yes	No	Not Sure
1	26	2

Total Responses: 29

Comments:

- More study must be undertaken to ensure that the environment can handle this task.
- Not in my back yard – certainly not without better study
- Economic benefits cannot outweigh the potential long-term hazards – cost benefit analysis would not wash
- Monet is not as important an health and well being

9. *To your knowledge, have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches identified?*

Comments:

- More study must be undertaken to ensure that we are heard and understood. I.e. importance of responsible stewardship of land and our environment
- Better understanding of an issue - will enable more thought and how wisdom can be applied (next round?)

10. *Could Métis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision-making process for a preferred management approach?*

Comments:

- Honest discussion with clear rules of engagement that respect that we have value to bring to the table, a feeling that we are involved because we are now being recognized by the courts.
- Specific sessions with Métis Elders is advisable to ensure that wisdom, knowledge and concepts work together

11. *Is there anything else you would like to tell us?*

Comments:

- What are other countries doing about this issue – Is there a coordinated Global Approach to address this issue?
- Canada should be exploring all forms of generation to ensure that nuclear issues do not increase the burden on future generations unnecessarily.
- Very pleased that the Government of Canada has finally realized the positive impacts that Aboriginal people can have and this will only lead to a better relationship and more success.
- Communication and transparency need to be addressed as a requirement not as an exception.
- Good first engagement, keep us involved

Appendix B

Métis Nation of Alberta
Consultation on Nuclear Waste Management
West Harvest Inn. Edmonton, Alberta
March 23, 2005
1:00 pm

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer, Francis Dumais

2. Opening Comments, President Audrey Poitras, George Quintal,

3. What do we know?

- Waste Management Generally
- Nuclear Fuel
- Impact On Our Lives

Appendix C

Environment Meeting – In Attendance
March 23 & 24, 2005
Edmonton, Alberta

Head Office/Others

Environment

1 Audrey Poitras, President
2 Trevor Gladue, Vice President
3 Lynda Olson, MNA
4 James Norris, MNA
5 Dale LeClair, MNC
6 Valerie Nicols, MNC
7 Cindy Bertolin, MNA
8 Tracee McFeeters MNA
9 Marilyn Underschultz

Region 1 Delegates

Environment

1 George Quintal, Lac La Biche
2 Rick Boucher, Lac La Biche
3 William Boucher, Lac La Biche
4 Glen Tremblay, Ft. McMurray
5 Pat Beacon, Athabasca
6 Margaret Quintal, Conklin
7 Richard Quintal, Lac La Biche
8 Gerry Gionet, Ft. McMurray
9 Linda Ward, Conklin
10 Conrad Boucher, Lac La Biche
11 Brian Fayant, Ft. McMurray

Region 2 Delegates

Environment

1 Karen Collins, Elizabeth
2 Homer Poitras, Elk Point
3 Roy Dumais, Bonnyville
4 Francis Dumais, Bonnyville
5 Donna Rae Paquette, Bonnyville
6 Annette Ozirny, Bonnyville
7 Robert Cardinal, Bonnyville

8 Wade Cardinal, Bonnyville
9 Marlon Cardinal, Bonnyville
10 Destiny Ozirny, Bonnyville
11 Peter Desjarlais, Elizabeth

Region 3 Delegates

Environment

1 Alice Bissonette, Lethbridge
2 Marlene Lanz, Calgary
3 Ephram Bouvier, Calgary
4 Donna Kennedy, Medicine Hat
5 Arlene Fraser, Calgary
6 Joe Chodzicki, Red Deer
7 Paul Bercier, Calgary
8 Gail Akitt, Pincher Creek
9 Dee Johnston, Rky Mtn House

Region 4 Delegates

Environment

1 Gary Gairdner, St. Albert
2 Brenda Blyan, Edmonton
3 Melanie Omeniho, Edmonton
4 Robert Lee, Edmonton
5 Darrold Dahl, Drayton Valley
6 Al Findlay, Grande Cache
7 Cecil Bellrose, Edmonton
8 Maryann Stepien, Stony Plain
9 Dale Friedel, Wabamun
10

Region 5 Delegates

Environment

1 Esther Auger, High Prairie
2 Elmer Gullion, Trout Lake
3 Lloyd Norris, Slave Lake
4 Herb Anderson, Gift Lake MS
5 Solomon Auger, Slave Lake
6 Peter Campion, Faust
7 Jim & Matilda Thomas, Faust
8 Crystal Chalifoux, McLennan
9 Nora Chapdelaine, Faust

Region 6 Delegates

Environment

1 Louis Bellrose, Peace River
2 Angie Crerar, Grande Prairie
3 Bill Descheneaux, Valleyview
4 Odell Flett, Fort Vermilion
5 Margaret Northey, Grande Prairie
6 Ms. Ursel Flett, Grande Prairie
7 Debbie Langford, Valleyview
8 Shirley Descheneaux, Valleyview
9 Ms. Jean Johnson, Valleyview
10 Carol McCallum, Valleyview

Manitoba Metis Federation: Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Report

Submitted by the
Manitoba Metis Federation

June 7, 2005

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) approached the Métis National Council (MNC) to conduct workshops on Métis perspectives for long-term storage of used nuclear fuel. The Manitoba Métis Federation, the MNC governing member in Manitoba, developed a workshop work plan that was submitted to, and accepted by, NRCan and NWMO. The MMF in its funding agreement was to conduct at least 4 workshops. The MMF has conducted 6 workshops with 115 Metis Nation members residing in 30 villages, towns and cities throughout the province.

The workshops focused on 3 options for storage: at-reactor site (above and below ground), deep geological disposal, and centralized storage (above and below ground). Two discussion topics were fundamental to the workshops:

1. Should we produce nuclear waste into the future?
2. What is the best option for disposal of nuclear waste from existing reactors, if any?

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The Manitoba Métis Federation conducted regional and focus group workshops (refer to Table 1). Three regional workshops were held in locations that are part of the Canadian Shield, have mining operations and could be possible locations for future deep geological disposal.

Regional workshops were conducted in:

1. Flin Flon: April 16, 2005;
2. Thompson: April 17, 2005; and,
3. Lac du Bonnet: April 21, 2005.

Focus group workshops were conduced in Winnipeg on April 22, 2005 with participants from all seven MMF Regions in Manitoba: Interlake, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, The Pas, Thompson and Winnipeg. The focus group workshops had participants chosen based on three age and gender categories:

1. Elders;
2. Women; and,
3. Youth.

Table # 1. MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshops.

MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshops							
Workshop Location	**Dates**	**Participants in Attendance**				**Returned Surveys**	**Residence of Participants**
		E	W	Y	M		
Flin Flon	April 16, 2005		9		10	15	Sherridon, Flin Flon, The Pas, Snow Lake, Cranberry Portage
Thompson	April 17, 2005		6		9	15	Thompson, Norway House, Thicket Portage, Pitwitonei, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Split Lake
Lac du Bonnet	April 21, 2005		10		8	18	Grand Marais, Manigotagan, Beaconia, Traverse Bay, Powerview, Rennie, St.
Elders (Wpg)	April 22, 2005	21				18	Binscarth, Grand Marais, Cranberry Portage, Brandon, Thicket Portage, Thompson, Winnipeg, Teulon, St. Ambroise, St. Laurent, St. Malo
Women (Wpg)	April 22, 2005		21			14	Thompson, Winnipeg, The Pas, Binscarth, Teulon, Dauphin, Cayer, Woodridge
Youth (Wpg)	April 22, 2005			21		11	Winnipeg, St. Laurent, Grand Marais, The Pas, St. Eustache, Brandon
Total participants per category		21	46	21	27		
Overall total					**115**	**91**	**30**

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshops[1]

These focus group categories were selected because women and youth are usually less engaged in discussions when Elders and men are present. Separating the groups was successful, as all three appear to have some differing opinions on used nuclear fuel.

The workshops had similar agendas: the workshops commenced with Dan Benoit, the Natural Resources Coordinator, providing a brief introduction to the topic; the video,

[1] E refers to Elders; W refers to Women; Y refers to Youth and M refers to Men.

Understanding the Choices, was shown; there was discussion and questions from the participants; and the participants filled out and submitted the questionnaire.

3.0 RESULTS[2]

The results are comprised of comments that highlight recurring themes throughout the workshops. During the workshops the participants agreed on three recommendations:

1. Nuclear energy should not be used into the future;
2. All three options for the management of used nuclear fuel have serious risks; and,
3. Nuclear waste should not be stored in Manitoba.

The nuclear fuel waste issue is very important to the Manitoba Métis Community. In the questionnaire, Métis were asked: "Compared with other issues in Canada, how important is the nuclear waste issue of concern to you personally?" On average Métis responded that the nuclear fuel waste issue is equal to or almost equal to: The health care system; The economy; Fulfillment of Aboriginal and treaty rights; Climate change; and, Terrorism (Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires, please see Appendix for full results).

The following eight sections report on recurring themes voiced throughout the workshops:

1. Alternatives to nuclear energy;
2. Concerns;
3. Economics and Employment;
4. Location;
5. Metis Involvement;
6. Traditional Knowledge;
7. Storage Methods; and,
8. Issues of Concern once a Concept and Site are Chosen.

3.1 Alternatives to nuclear energy

Participants frequently suggested conservation as the best solution for escalating energy needs. Participants often commented that current energy consumption rates are not

[2] Please refer to the appendix for the MMF Used Nuclear Fuel questionnaire with quantitative results.

sustainable; instead of creating new nuclear energy plants, we should strive to reduce our energy consumption.

To complement energy conservation, it was repeatedly suggested that Eastern Canada should use alternative energy sources including wind turbines and hydroelectric. One participant stated:

> "The problem of nuclear waste disposal is never ending. The process has already begun. Canada should be looking at taking care of the well being of Canadians and looking at other sources of energy."

Further research needs to be conducted on other alternative sustainable energy sources, according to one participant:

> "I think the only solution to the nuclear waste problem is to stop producing nuclear energy, there are other forms of energy out there and we need to start exploring these options."

Although sustainable energy was suggested as a solution, many participants were concerned with replacing coal energy with nuclear energy, as suggested by the Ontario Government. They questioned why should we replace one unsustainable energy source with another.

The practice of selling our energy to the United States was questioned especially when Eastern Canada relies on nuclear energy. It was suggested that we discontinue the sale of energy to the United States and sell our hydroelectric energy to Ontario instead.

3.2 Concerns

3.2.1 Environmental impacts

Environmental impacts were raised concerning all three used nuclear fuel management options and uranium mining. According to one participant, "Any of the choices could pose an environmental health threat."

Environmental concerns arose relating to the impacts of mining for uranium. One participant from Thompson questioned why the impacts of uranium mining were not discussed. The participant found it offensive that the government was impacting the environment and health of Metis in Northern Saskatchewan and others with uranium mining, then potentially asking them to repatriate and store the used nuclear fuel waste: "you wouldn't allow your neighbor to slop their mess in your yard. Saskatchewan has already gone through it and now they are being asked to store it."

Participants questioned the security of transporting used nuclear fuel to the deep geological repository and centralized storage. The polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) spill in Ontario was frequently mentioned and it was questioned what would happen if there

were an accident with the truck carrying the nuclear fuel waste? The environmental impacts of the storage option are further discussed in the storage section.

3.2.2 Future considerations

Participants were concerned that long-term storage research has only been conducted for thirty years for a project that could have significant impacts for thousands of years. They questioned the possible impacts of a spill or leaching and whether it would impact Canada similarly to Chernobyl in the former USSR. An Elder from the Elder workshop in Winnipeg questioned, "Do we want to take a chance on a Chernobyl incident happening here?"

3.2.3 Health risks

Participants questioned the benefit of receiving money for storing used nuclear fuel considering it might affect their health. They were concerned that if used nuclear fuel contaminates where they live, it will impact their children and grandchildren. They fear that future generations will suffer from their shortsighted decisions to store used nuclear fuel in return for economic growth from a compensation fund. A participant from Thompson commented, "money will not compensate future generations; their lives will be terrible. The people that produce nuclear energy will never have to see the damage." Another participant stated, "Money can't buy everything, especially when it comes to our health and safety". Participants also questioned whether there would be health risks for employees at the site.

3.2.4 Impacts of creating a nuclear fuel site

It was questioned whether the construction of a used nuclear fuel site would result in an increase in nuclear energy production. A participant from Lac du Bonnet commented, "If you build a place to dispose of it they (the government and industry) have the excuse to make more and won't look at alternatives".

Participants also wanted to know how other countries are disposing of their used nuclear fuel. One participant stated, "Information and discussion did not provide concrete examples of what the rest of the world is currently doing to deal with their storage of nuclear waste". Another participant stated, "I feel that the 'what ifs' could be included. What are other countries doing about their nuclear waste?" One participant questioned: "If Canada says no to storing the waste for other countries: what safeguards does the rest of the world have that these countries are responsible in their storage?

Participants repeatedly mentioned that they do not want Canada to become a dumping ground for foreign nuclear fuel. A participant from the women's workshop in Winnipeg stated, "I think Canada needs to take responsibility for what we have produced but we don't want to accept international waste." Again, most of the participants said that nuclear waste must not come to Manitoba.

3.2.5 Social justice issues

Two significant social justice concerns arose during the workshop:

1. Why should marginalized communities store used nuclear fuel when they are not benefiting from the use of nuclear energy?

2. Northern Manitobans have already faced the consequences of Hydro development for the profit of the South; why should they allow a used nuclear fuel site as well?

Many participants were upset with the possibility of having more waste from the South and the East. A participant from Thompson commented, "They want us to store their nuclear fuel waste and dam our rivers. It is beyond unreasonable. They want us to store their garbage and ruin our environment. This is ridiculous." Marginalized people, especially in the North, often have to face undesirable development for the benefit of the South. It was often commented that Manitoba does not produce nuclear energy so why should it be stored here?

Northern Manitobans, especially Aboriginal Peoples, have already been highly impacted by hydroelectric and other developments in Manitoba and many are not willing to have more detrimental development for the benefit of the South without significant compensation and economic spin-offs.

3.3 Economics and Employment

During the workshop and in the questionnaires, participants shared their economic and employment concerns regarding the used nuclear fuel storage site and the level of economic spin-offs relating to the project. Participants inquired about long-term employment at the site. One participant stated, "I don't think it would generate long-term employment for many people". Without significant economic spin-offs and compensation, participants questioned whether any community would want the site.

When asked in the questionnaire whether they would support nuclear storage in their region if it included economic benefits 73% of the participants responded no, (please refer to Table #2). One participant's comment exemplified a common concern from the participants when asked about economic benefits, "I would not put a price on my health and the environment in which I live". Only 2% of the participants would support nuclear storage in their community if it included economic benefits (please refer to Table #2). One participant answered:

> "No, because there is no amount of money that anyone can offer that will make me feel good about having it here or anywhere that will affect me and my kids health."

Another participant commented:

> "In other words - would I put my life, my children's life and my grandson's life potentially in harms way for the all mighty dollar? Definitely not."

Many participants commented that their environment, health and safety are more important than economic benefits from nuclear waste. According to one participant, "Environment, health, and future generations are far more important. Economic benefits can be gained in other areas." Another participant stated, "I place a higher value on life and well being of the community, rather than the value of the economy". Participants felt that economic benefits need to be balanced with the potential for environmental and security problems.

Table #2: MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaire "If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?" *

Answers	**Metis Percentages**
Yes	2%
Agree somewhat	11%
Not sure	14%
No	73%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

3.4 Location

One of the three areas where Metis opinion converged is that they do not want nuclear waste stored in Manitoba. Participants strongly asserted that Manitoba should not accept used nuclear fuel: it should stay where it is produced. According to one participant, "the province that produces the waste material should be ready to store it and not dump it on another province". One participant's comments exemplified the common concern of most of the participants, "I feel that the provinces that benefit from the product should have the responsibility of disposing of the waste".

In total, 73% of Metis participants stated no they would not accept nuclear waste in their community if there were economic benefits. According to a participant:

> "No amount of money would make me comfortable with risk to the environment and our health. It is not only the "here and now" that we must consider, but we must be responsible on our choices so we could leave the earth in the best shape for our future".

Only 2% of the Metis participants stated yes they would accept nuclear waste in their community if there were economic benefits. According to one participant, they would only accept nuclear waste, “If all other security and environmental procedures were met and surpassed and no other options were available”. A few participants stated they would accept nuclear waste only if there was significant economic and employment opportunities in their communities for generations. One participant stated:

> “I feel that this waste should be deposited in the province that uses it whether it be Deep Geological Disposal or Storage at the reactor site. But, if forced there should be large economic compensation. Production of this product should be stopped now.”

3.5 Métis Involvement

In the questionnaire, participants were asked to state whether they thought Aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches. Almost all the Metis participants stated that Aboriginal perspectives and insights were not included in the development of the management approach. According to one participant, “I feel that the three approaches were selected before any Aboriginal group was consulted.”

Many of the participants wrote that white people in the government must have created the management options. Many participants were concerned that they were not involved when the 3 management options were selected. According to one participant, “No, it always seems like the government asks us after the fact - its like "oops" we made another mistake. Now they want us figure out how to fix it.”

Participants commented that Aboriginal perspectives and insights would be invaluable to the development of the management approaches. One participant shared, “The Metis are a very diverse people and could provide valuable input”. Many participants shared a willingness to work with the Federal government on this important topic. One participant stated, “I think its great to get a Metis perspective on this, but something as serious as nuclear waste shouldn't be us against them (Metis vs. White man)”.

Many participants also shared concerns that the general Canadian public needs to be informed about the used nuclear fuel management. One participant shared, “For such an important topic to me, there is a lack of information. Everyone, not just Aboriginal, needs to be informed.”

3.6 Traditional Knowledge

In the questionnaire, participants were asked to state whether they thought Metis traditional knowledge could play an important part in the recommendation or decision-making process for a preferred management approach. Almost all of the participants wrote that Metis traditional knowledge could play an important part in the recommendations or decision-making process. One participant’s comments exemplify why traditional knowledge is essential:

> "Traditional knowledge speaks to the land, the environment, and the history. We must always take into consideration the knowledge of our Elders and learn from our history so that we may implement the good and not repeat our mistakes."

Metis participants believe they have valuable knowledge as they practice their culture on the land. One participant states, "as a Metis person, we have very good options to bring to the table since we live across the homeland".

3.7 Storage Methods

There are 3 management options for storage of used nuclear fuel: at-reactor site (above and below ground), deep geological disposal, and centralized storage (above and below ground). The participants converged in opinion that all three options for the management of used nuclear fuel have serious risks.

3.7.1 Centralized Storage

The only strength identified by participants for centralized storage is that the used nuclear fuel would be easier to monitor and control at one central location. Comments from participants include: "At least the fallout is containable to one area instead of several different sites"; "It could always be monitored at all times" and "One place, little chance of total destruction".

Participants were extremely worried with the threat of terrorism if the used nuclear fuel is stored above ground in one central location. Another major concern is the transportation to the central location.

3.7.2 Deep Geological Repository

Participants identified the strengths of the deep geological repository including:

1. Safer from terrorist attacks; and,

2. More environmentally secure;

Many participants felt that used nuclear fuel would be safer from potential terrorism attacks in the deep geological repository. Many participants wrote comments such as, "Probably the safest storage"; "Storage underground is not as susceptible to terrorism"; and "It will be less accessible and harmless if it is buried and secured properly".

Participants also felt the Deep geological repository would be more environmentally secure. Comments from participants include: "Environmentally secure" and "if it doesn't leak it may be good".

Although these two strengths were identified by many of the participants, many participant also mentioned there would need to be significant research conducted to ensure that it would be environmentally secure and substantial future monitoring. According to a participant, “Deep Geological Disposal would be my option if there is an absolute guarantee that it is safe for disposal”. Another participant stated, “Deep Geological Disposal would be my option providing all the homework is done and planned out to perfection”.

Participants identified the weaknesses of the Deep Geological Repository including:

1. Leaching and groundwater contamination;

2. Geological changes and earthquakes;

3. Threat of desertion similar to abandoned mines;

4. Difficulty with monitoring; and,

5. Transportation.

Many participants were apprehensive about the used nuclear fuel leaching and contaminating groundwater. According to one participant, “How will we know if this is not leaking under ground into our water systems?” Participants mentioned flooding, as often mines will eventually flood. It was questioned what measures would be taken to ensure that the deep geological repository never floods and what would be the result if it did flood?

Participants mentioned earthquakes and the shifting of rocks as concerns. One participant stated, “the grounds are constantly shifting and to make an estimate of 300 yrs is a little far fetched without the proof”.

Participants were concerned that we do not know what geological changes will occur over the next thousand years. According to a participant, “do we know what will happen in the next thousand years? The deep geological repository seems like an attempt at an easy solution for a difficult problem.”

Participants living in Northern mining communities shared their experiences with ‘orphaned’ and abandoned mines that were deserted by companies and ignored by government; they fear the same could happen with the deep geological repository. It was feared that used nuclear fuel stored underground would be ignored after construction. Participants commented that it would be “out of sight, out of mind”. Another participant stated, “‘Out of sight, out of mind. What a concept.”

Participants were concerned about the ability to monitor the deep geological repository. A participant stated the deep geological repository would be, “unable to monitor reliably. Possible shifting, allowing ground water or runoff to pass through fissures or cracks.” A

participant wrote, “Cannot monitor as easily as above ground. It could leak into water systems. If something did happen it would be more difficult to fix the problem.” Another participant wrote that they “do not like Deep Geological Disposal, not as far as 10 feet”.

3.7.3 Storage at Reactor Sites

Participants identified the strengths of the storage at the reactor site including:

1. No transportation;
2. Increased visibility, accessibility and monitoring;
3. Knowledgeable personnel on site with experience; and,
4. Less environmental justice issues.

Many participants felt that storage at the reactor site is safer as it does not require transportation. According to a participant, “I would say storage at reactor sites. They produced it, and it is already stored there. Would not have to worry about transportation and it can be well monitored.”

Many participants thought there would be increased visibility and monitoring opportunities of storing the used nuclear fuel at the reactor sites is a strength. One participant commented, “nuclear waste is already stored there. Would not have to build new facilities elsewhere. Monitoring will be easy.” Another participant stated, “Designs already in place for maintenance and monitoring. Waste stay where it was created”. Participants thought the waste should be accessible for when there is technology for it to be recycled. A participant stated, “I think it should be stored above ground so that if it could be recycled it could be easily accessed”.

Participants mentioned that there is already knowledgeable staff on site at the reactor with nuclear waste experience. One participant commented that the nuclear waste currently stored at the reactor site, “is at least taken care of there by professionals who know how to clean it up of fix the problem”.

Many of the participants felt that other provinces should not be responsible for disposing Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick’s nuclear waste. One participant stated, “nuclear storage should occur near where the reactor is located. As always it becomes an environmental justice issue where they want to store near where marginalized people live.” Another participant stated, “you made it; you keep it clear and safe from the environment and security issues that go with it”.

Participants identified the weaknesses of the storage at the reactor sites including:

1. The threat for terrorism; and,

2. The difficulty of monitoring and maintaining numerous sites.

Many participants were concerned about the threat of terrorism if the used nuclear fuel is stored at the reactor sites. Participants were also concerned that it will be difficult to monitor and maintain numerous sites.

3.7.4 Other Options

Participants questioned why they were not involved in the used nuclear fuel consultation earlier before the selection was narrowed to 3 options.

3.8 Issues of Concern once a Concept and Site area Chosen.

Metis participants were asked to rank issues they are "…most concerned with in relation to nuclear fuel waste once a concept and potential site are chosen." In order of most importance, the issues are: 1. Human Health; 2. Is it Environmentally Secure; 3. Security at the site; 4. Who is responsible for the site; 5. Transportation; and, 6. Cost efficiency of concept (Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires, please see Appendix for full results).

4.0 DISCUSSION

4.1 More Information Needed

Most participants wanted more information about the used nuclear fuel management options including specific risks, costs and scenarios associated with each storage method. Many of the participants came to the meeting with little or no information about nuclear waste and would now like to learn more, (please refer to Table #3). According to one participant, "People should be educated more on exact financial cost, project forecasts, health risks, and change in global shifting". Another participant stated, "Not enough information on the pros and cons of each option. Would need more facts in terms of the scientific aspect. What studies have been conducted? Results? What option is the government pushing? What do the scientists say about these options?"

Table #3: MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaire "How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel, either through the media or your own observations?"*

Answers	**Metis Percentages**
Do not know anything on the issue	37%
I know a little about the issue	56%
I am very familiar with the issue	7%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

Many participants came to the workshop with little or no information about nuclear waste. As they have little information on nuclear waste, many participants were

uncomfortable with offering initial comments on the management options, (please refer to Table #4).

Table #4: MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaire "Are you comfortable with the current information being provided to you today (NWMO/MNC) to make some initial comments on the management options?"*

Answers	**Metis Percentages**
Yes	14%
Agree somewhat	23%
Not sure	29%
No	33%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

Many participants wanted "what if" scenarios such as what would happen with each nuclear management option if there were a terrorist attack or groundwater leaching. According to one participant, "I think that there should be more info on what would happen if there was a leakage, or if there was an explosion, and what would be the long term overall effect." Another participant stated, the information is "Not telling the whole story. Possible scenarios for what could happen should have been part of the information."

Most participants appreciated attending the meeting, would like to participate in future meetings and would like more information regarding used nuclear fuel. According to one participant, "I appreciate the fact that we have been included in some form to give our opinion on nuclear waste management." Another participant stated, "we need more meetings. Thoughts should be put together; not instantly on the spot." Participants made many comments regarding the need for more information:

> "More dialogue needed to assist in allowing for more informed decisions based on fact, in opposed to theory."
>
> "I would like more information and attend more meetings on this topic. It's hard to say where to bury nuclear waste or what to do with it."
>
> "We need to know way more information on the subject, not just a day's discussion."
>
> "Please have more info on what could be or what would be. The public needs to know more of what the overall effect is on what we are dealing with."
>
> "Require much more information prior to supporting anything regarding nuclear waste storage."

"I will learn more about this, you may be sure."

4.2 Nuclear Waste Production

According to the questionnaire results, 74% of Metis participants feel that Canada should not use nuclear energy, (please refer to Table #5). They suggested halting production at current nuclear energy sites and not building any more reactors. One participant believes, "Just stop producing it, and those provinces/areas that are participating in the production of nuclear energy should store it in their own area and not ship it out to another community. Leave it where it is being produced."

Conservation and alternative energy were both suggested as possible options to supply for the energy demands of the east. According to a participant, "studies should be directed toward sustainability and alternative energy solutions." Many participants commented that the use of nuclear energy is shortsighted and not sustainable. One participant stated, "To maintain waste for such a long time is absurd and cost will be too much in the long run".

Participants questioned why Canada allowed the production of used nuclear fuel without a plan for disposal. According to a participant, "no approach is the best method. Why start something and not think through the beginning to the end result. Now look at what they created - a virtual walking time bomb."

Table #5: MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaire "In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future?"*

Answers	**Metis Percentages**
Yes	3%
Agree somewhat	4%
Not sure	18%
No	74%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

4.3 Differences Between the Focus Groups

In the focus group workshops conducted in Winnipeg on April 22, 2005 participants were chosen based on three age and gender categories: Elders, Women, and Youth. The three groups were given a brief description of the topic; watched the video together; and were separated into rooms to discuss and complete the questionnaire. Although in the questionnaire participants were not asked to select which management method was preferable, the participants were asked verbally to identify, if they felt comfortable, under Question 11 which method they thought was preferable. During the discussions, it became evident that many of the Elders and men support the deep geological repository while many of the women and youth support the used nuclear fuel being stored at the reactors.

Metis Men and Elders were slightly more in support of nuclear storage in their community than women or youth (please refer to Table #6). Women were clearly against nuclear storage with 100% stating they would not support nuclear storage in their community.

Table #6: April 22, 2005 Focus Group. "If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?"*

Answers	**Elders and Men Percentages**	**Youth Percentages**	**Women Percentages**
Yes	6%	0%	0%
Agree somewhat	17%	0%	0%
Not sure	28%	10%	0%
No	50%	90%	100%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

Metis Women and youth were more knowledgeable about the issue of nuclear waste before the workshop: 50% of Elders and men had no previous knowledge about nuclear waste, (please refer to Table #7).

Table #7: April 22, 2005 Focus Group. "How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel, either through the media or your own observations?"*

Answers	**Elders Percentages**	**Youth Percentages**	**Women Percentages**
Do not know anything on the issue	50%	30%	33%
I know a little about the issue	41%	60%	67%%
I am very familiar with the issue	09%	10%	0%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

Metis Elders and men were more comfortable with making initial comments on the management options than women or youth, (please refer to Table #8). Only 10% of the youth responded in the questionnaire that they felt comfortable making comments.

Table #8: April 22, 2005 Focus Group. "Are you comfortable with the current information being provided to you today (NWMO/MNC) to make some initial comments on the management options?"*

Answers	**Elders and Men Percentages**	**Youth Percentages**	**Women Percentages**
Yes	25%	10%	20%

Agree somewhat	40%	10%	20%
Not sure	25%	50%	27%
No	10%	30%	33%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

Metis Women and youth opinion converged on not wanting nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future, (please refer to Table #9). In total, 100% of both groups stated that they do not want nuclear energy.

Table #9: April 22, 2005 Focus Group. "In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future?"*

Answers	**Elders and Men Percentages**	**Youth Percentages**	**Women Percentages**
Yes	9%	0%	0%
Agree somewhat	14%	0%	0%
Not sure	36%	0%	0%
No	41%	100%	100%

* Data from 2005 MMF Used Nuclear Fuel Workshop Questionnaires

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommended halting the production of nuclear fuel waste and not constructing new nuclear reactors. Energy conservation is the best solution for meeting escalating energy needs. Current energy consumption rates are not sustainable; instead of creating new nuclear energy plants, we should strive to reduce our energy consumption. In addition to conservation, further research needs to be conducted on other alternative sustainable energy sources including wind and solar power.

We recommend that nuclear waste should not be stored in Manitoba; used nuclear fuel waste should remain in the provinces where it is produced.

Provinces, and especially marginalized communities, that do not use nuclear energy should not be asked to bare the burden of used nuclear fuel disposal unless acceptable consultation, mitigation and accommodation occurs.

We also recommend that the MMF, as the representative of the Manitoba Métis Community, should be involved in any further consultation.

6.0 CONCLUSION

Based on our research, we feel that nuclear waste should not be produced and new

reactors should not be constructed. We also feel that nuclear waste should not be stored in Manitoba.

We look forward to continuing a full, proper, and meaningful consultation process with you on this important matter for the Métis Nation.

APPENDIX

Nuclear Waste Consultation Workshops Percentages

Region and Community: _____

Participant's Name: _____

1. In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Canada with its energy needs into the future? (Check one)

3% yes **4%** agree somewhat **18%** not sure **74%** no

2. How familiar are you with the issue of nuclear fuel waste, either through the media or your own observations? (Check one)

37% Do not know anything on the issue

56% I know a little about the issue

7% I am very familiar with the issue

3. Compared with other issues in Canada, how important is the nuclear waste issue of concern to you personally? (Please circle)

The health care system	(avg. **5.2**)	less	22% 1	6% 2	7% 3	7% 4	20% 5	7% 6	1% 7	7% 8	7% 9	17% 10	more
The economy	(avg. **4.8**)	less	16% 1	11% 2	7% 3	9% 4	20% 5	12% 6	7% 7	6% 8	4% 9	8% 10	more
Fulfillment of Aboriginal and treaty rights	(avg. **5.1**)	less	22% 1	9% 2	4% 3	4% 4	20% 5	7% 6	6% 7	2% 8	10% 9	15% 10	more
Climate change	(avg. **5.7**)	less	11% 1	6% 2	6% 3	6% 4	25% 5	6% 6	12% 7	6% 8	4% 9	19% 10	more
Terrorism	(avg. **6.4**)	less	8% 1	4% 2	4% 3	3% 4	25% 5	13% 6	2% 7	7% 8	7% 9	26% 10	more

4. Are you comfortable with the current information being provided to you today (NWMO/MNC) to make some initial comments on the management options: (Check one)

14% yes **23%** agree somewhat **29%** not sure **33%** no

5. In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion (where do you think it should be stored?);

Please comment.

_____

_____

_____

6. What issues are you most concerned with in relation to nuclear fuel waste once a concept and potential site are chosen?
Please number from 1 (most important) to 6 (less important).

42% 13% 15% 13% 6% 3%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Security of the site (**3**)

47% 15% 13% 14% 3% 1%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Is it environmentally secure (**2**)

31% 6% 15% 13% 21% 5%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Transportation (**5**)

28% 12% 11% 17% 17% 7%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Who is responsible for the site (**4**)

63% 21% 5% 2% 1% 1%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Human health (**1**)

16% 4% 5% 9% 10% 47%
1 2 3 4 5 6 Cost efficiency of concept (**6**)

7. If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region? (Check one)

2% yes **11%** agree somewhat **14%** not sure **73%** no

Please comment.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

8. If you said yes or agree somewhat to question #4 – what are your thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses of each management approach?

Pleases provide any initial comments on the proposed concepts that follow:

A. Storage at reactor sites
Strengths

Weaknesses

B. Deep Geological Disposal
Strengths

Weaknesses

C. Centralized Storage
Strengths

Weaknesses

9. To your knowledge, have Aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches identified? Please comment.

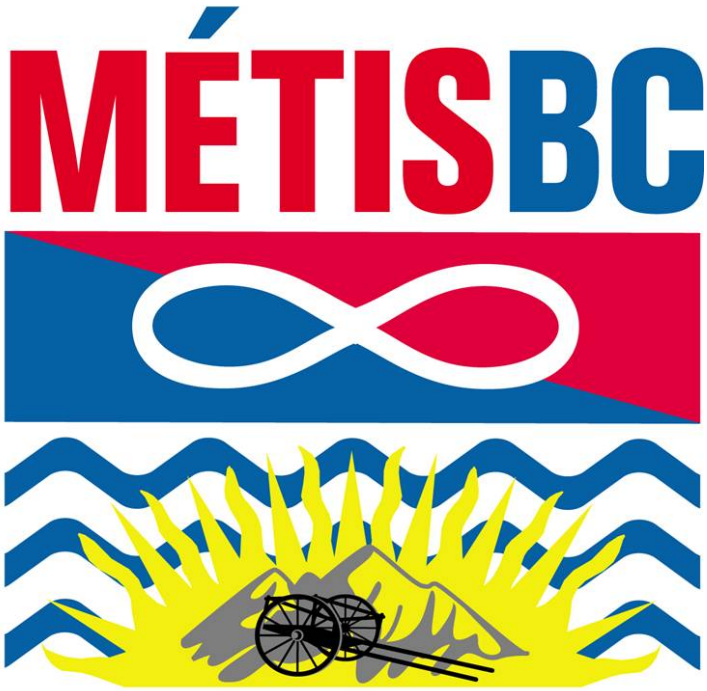
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

10. Could Métis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision-making process for a preferred management approach?
Please comment.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

11. Is there anything else you want to tell us? Comments.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____



Nuclear Fuel Waste Consultation
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September 22, 2005

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1.0 Introduction

Throughout 1996 and 1998, the Government of Canada started the development of the Nuclear Fuel Waste (NFW) Act. Several policy communications by the Government of Canada was held with the public and other stakeholders. As a result, the Nuclear Fuel Waste (NFW) Act was established on November 15, 2002. An [1]Environmental Assessment Panel then recommended, which was supported by Canada that "federal government should immediately initiate an adequate funded participation process with [2]Aboriginal people, who should design and execute the process". The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) then contacted Métis National Council (MNC) to initiate a process that would bring forward Métis opinion, views and concerns to the Department of Natural Resources Canada for consideration in regards to the long-term storage of nuclear fuel waste and the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act in Canada. The MNC then has designed, in conjunction with the (5) five [3]governing members, a culturally specific dialogue program.

Through a series of meeting with the MNC's environmental technical committee the information collection was to have two levels. Firstly was to develop some common dialogue (presentation materials) and data collection tools (questionnaire) to ensure consistency across the Métis homeland. Second was to have each governing member establish regionally specific methodologies to provide unique information and concerns tailored to that province. The following work plan has been submitted to indicate the procedures being implemented by the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MPCBC).

1.1 NWMO Aboriginal Dialogue Objectives

The overall goal of the NWMO Aboriginal Dialogue is to create the needed foundation for a long-term, positive relationship between the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

---

[1] Refers to the "*Government of Canada Response to Recommendations of the Nuclear Fuel Waste management and Disposal Concept Environmental Assessment Panel*".

[2] Aboriginal as defined by Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution being; Métis, Inuit and First Nations

[3] The Métis Provicial Council of British Columbia, Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Manitoba Métis Federation and Métis Nation of Ontario.

1.1.1 Specific Objectives

- To build effective working relationships with the National Aboriginal organizations by supporting and working with them as they conduct their dialogue processes on the long-term management of used nuclear fuel; and integrating the results of their work into NWMO deliberations;
- To build effective working relationships at the local and regional scale by supporting and facilitating local dialogue processes should they be desired and in a way that is coordinated with activities being led by the national organizations;
- To generate specific commentary from an Aboriginal perspective on the deliberations of the NWMO as summarized in the three milestone discussion documents: (1) *Asking the Right Questions?* - Fall, 2003; (2) *Understanding the Choices* - September, 2004; and (3) *Choosing a Way Forward* - Draft Final Report - Spring, 2005 within a time frame that ensures Aboriginal ideas, insights, wisdom and values are factored into the final NWMO recommendation to government;
- To document the input of Aboriginal peoples to NWMO deliberations as a means of ensuring: (1) that Aboriginal ideas, insights, wisdom and values have contributed to the development of NWMO's final recommendation to government; (2) that they are available over the long term as part of the foundation needed for continuous learning.

2.0 Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia

The MPCBC is the democratically elected Métis political representative and governing organization in BC. The Métis Provincial Council of BC represents the political, legal, social and economic interests of the Métis people in BC with local, provincial and federal levels of governments, funding agencies and other related bodies. In addition, the MPCBC undertakes an advocacy, coordination and policy-making role on behalf of the Métis people in BC on matters related to provincial and federal programs and services. The MPCBC also acts to protect and preserve Métis history, promote and develop Métis culture, ensure Métis rights are understood and protected, and coordinate and facilitate local activities in Métis communities.

As the Government for the Métis in British Columbia, MPCBC is committed to the protection of Métis culture and heritage, to the well-being and security of Métis families, and for the advancement of Métis rights.

2.1 B.C. Métis Assembly of Natural Resources

On September 19, 2003 the Powley decision created the need for the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia to not only focus on the hunting and fishing rights of the Métis people, but the self-management and enforcement of these rights. The Powley case was not only about hunting and fishing but has inference to access to our land-based natural resources. The MPCBC recognized that with gaining our rights we mustn't lose the perspective of being responsible for ourselves through self-government (which includes resource management and enforcement).

The implementation of the British Columbia Métis Assembly of Natural Resources (BCMANR) is based in principle, on the success of the Métis people in the 1700-1800's. The "Buffalo Assembly" and the "Laws of the Prairies" were established by the "community" way of life. These communal commitments ensured the survival of the Métis people during tough times. The basic principles were; no "individual" way of thinking and that the strength was generated from the proletarian group. These principles were the basis of the Métis culture; therefore the present day infrastructure and principles honours the past.

BCMANR is the natural resource department for the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia. The provincial BCMANR committee consists of seven regional Captains (appointed by the regional President's Councils) of Natural Resources, the lead MPCBC environmental technician or Director of Natural Resources and the political Minister or Minister of Natural Resources.

2.1.1 Mandate

To establish a natural resource policy to support the cultural and sustenance needs of the Métis people in British Columbia through the conservation and management of our environment using both traditional and educational knowledge.

2.1.2 Vision Statement

To help revitalize Métis culture and nationhood pride through the use of our natural resources.

2.2 MPCBC NFW Consultation Objectives

Under the direction of MNC the following are the objectives that were to be achieved for the NFW consultation sessions;

- ∞ The long-term management of nuclear fuel waste in Canada including options developed in the NFW Act, and others as proposed by the NWMO;
- ∞ Traditional Métis Knowledge (TK) in relation to nuclear fuel waste management; basis for utilization of TK and methods for doing so;
- ∞ Métis rights as related to nuclear fuel waste management;
- ∞ Other relevant topics as they arise, which are approved by the MNC Minister.

3.0 Expected Deliverables

According to the MNC Environment's work plan submitted to Natural Resource Canada in April 2004, the MPCBC will meet the following deliverables;

- ∞ Identify one representative to facilitate the culturally specific dialogue program
- ∞ Participate in a training workshop that will enable the representative to develop their presentation skills and materials
- ∞ Develop and provide a format conductive to the synthesis of data for interim and final reports
- ∞ Collect views and opinions of the B.C. Métis people regarding Canada's options for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste
- ∞ Submit detailed descriptions of quarterly and annual activities and results of those actions
- ∞ Submit analysis of culturally specific dialogue program data (including who was consulted and when)
- ∞ Submit analysis of the culturally specific dialogue program results (# of people, outcomes, views and opinions)
- ∞ Submit financial reporting as required

3.1 Deliverable Timelines

The following is a quick reference table that can be used to track MPCBC's progress on the NFW work plan commitments.

Deliverable	Completed		Estimated Completion Date
	Yes	No	
Identify one representative	✓		April 01, 2004
Participate in training workshop	✓		December 18, 2004
Develop and provide a conductive format	✓		February 15, 2005
Consultation workshops	✓		April 02-03, 2005
Submit mid-term report	✓		February 01, 2005
Submit final report (analysis of data and dialogue)	✓		September 22, 2005
Financial report	✓		September 22, 2005

3.2 MPCBC's NFW Representatives

The MPCBC has appointed two levels of representatives, one technical and one political. The majority of the NFW will be conducted by the technical staff member. The representative for MPCBC will be the MPCBC's Director of Natural Resources, Dean Trumbley. If required, the political representative will be the Minister of Natural Resources, Dave Hodgson (MPCBC, Thompson/Okanagan Board Member). Contact information is located on the following page for Mr. Trumbley and Mr. Hodgson.

3.2.1 Contact Information for Representatives

Dean Trumbley, RP Bio.:

- MPCBC, Director of Natural Resources
- Registered Professional Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist
- 15+ years of experience/education in Natural Resource Management
- 10+ years of experience in Métis Specific Agenda
- MPCBC National Métis Rights representative
- MPCBC Multilateral Negotiation representative
- MPCBC National Métis Environmental Technician representative

Mobile: (604) 317-4175
E-mail: dtrumbley@mpcbc.bc.ca

Dave Hodgson:

- ∞ MPCBC, Regional Director for the Thompson/Okanagan
- ∞ MPCBC, Political Board Member
- ∞ 5+ years Métis political experience
- ∞ 30+ years Union experience
- ∞ MPCBC Provincial Minister of Natural Resources
- ∞ MPCBC Provincial Treasurer

Mobile: (250) 319-0221
E-mail: dhodgson@mpcbc.bc.ca

Contact Information for both:
Suite 1000 – 789 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
V6C 1H2
Phone: (604) 801-5853
Fax: (604) 801-5097
Website(s): http://www.mpcbc.ca or http://www.bcmanr.ca

3.3 NFW Training Workshop

The MPCBC NFW representative participated on the two-day workshop coordinated by MNC and presented by the NWMO and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The workshop was held on December 18-19, 2004 in Ottawa, Ont., Canada. The session discussed the presentation materials and the standardized questionnaire to be utilized during all sessions throughout the Homeland. Requirements for this objective have been completed by MPCBC.

3.4 Provincial Consultation

3.4.1 Consultation Methodology

The MPCBC plans conducted two workshops for the collection of views and opinions from the Métis citizens in B.C. The workshop provided the material supplied by the MNO and MNC; however the participant consistency was different. The first workshop conducted was with the seven MPCBC regional "Captains of Natural Resources". These individuals are appointed natural resources representative for their respective MPCBC region (*Figure to left*). They are appointed by the Regional President's Council and are the voice for the people of that region. The second session was conducted in Northeastern British Columbia. The MPCBC's

Director of Natural Resources toured to various small northern communities and discussed various issues relating to the topic of Nuclear Fuel Waste. The target of these personal meetings was to collect the Traditional Knowledge (TK) concerns of the Métis Elders in Northern B.C. The MPCBC feels that these two provincially coordinated meetings would satisfy the requested deliverables stated in the MNC's April 2004 work plan.

The course materials package was presented to the Captains and Elders upon commencement of the presentation. Standardized items included were the NFW questionnaire (created by MNO) and the DVD titled "*Understanding the Choice – the Future Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel*" (developed by the NWMO).

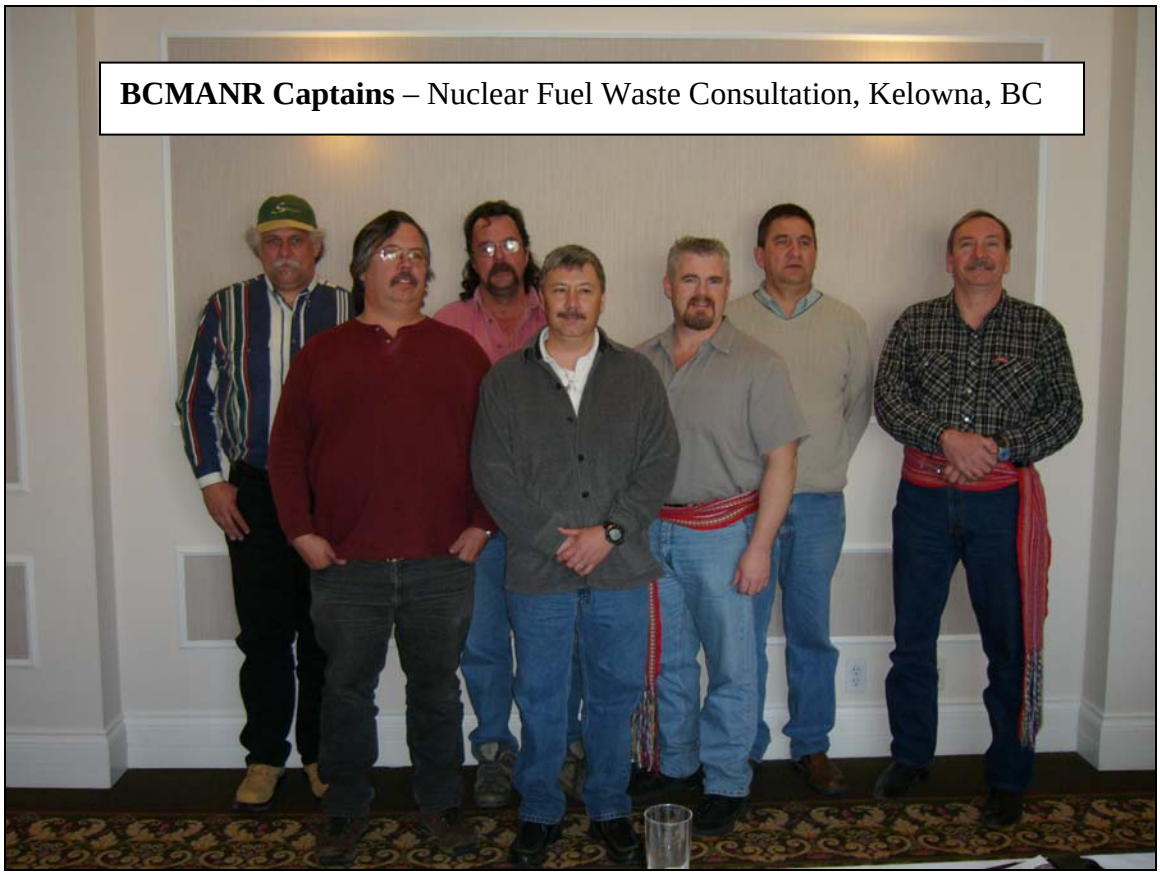
3.4.2 Consultation Workshops

3.4.2.1 Provincial BCMANR Captains of Natural Resource Meeting

The BCMANR Captains meeting was held on April 02-03, 2005 in Kelowna, British Columbia. The following individuals were in attendance (*Figure on top of following page*);

Dean Trumbley, RP Bio.	Director of Natural Resources	Vernon, MPCBC
Dave Hodgson	Minister of Natural Resources	Ashcroft, MPCBC
Rob Humperville	Vancouver Island Captain	Nanaimo, BCMANR
Gary Biggar	Lower Mainland Captain	Abbotsford, BCMANR
Ron Nunn	Thompson/Okanagan Captain	Penticton, BCMANR
Mark Carlson	Kootenay Captain	Trail, BCMANR
Gary Ducommun	Northcentral B.C. Captain	WilliamsLake,BCMANR
Mike Ballard	Northwest B.C. Captain	PrinceRupert,BCMANR
Ed Whitford	Northeast B.C. Captain	FortSt.John, BCMANR

Upon reviewing the materials, the discussion led to the conclusion that the Director of Natural Resources would summarize the opinion and views for the BCMANR committee. The materials provided to MPCBC indicated very minimal impacts to the Métis citizens residing in British Columbia. However, the following suggestions and concerns, as a result of the meeting in Kelowna were noted from the Captains and the individual research conducted under the official motion of BCMANR by the Director of Natural Resources.



BCMANR Captains – Nuclear Fuel Waste Consultation, Kelowna, BC

The following is a list of concerns and recommendations as an outcome of the Captains meeting and the independent review of the Director of Natural Resources;

- The NWMO should consider developing a long-term NFW Aboriginal Board that consists of representatives from the three Section 35 Aboriginal Governments (MNC, AFN and the ITK). The purpose of this board would be to supply an on-going source of aboriginal opinion and direction.
- Develop a "*Terms of Reference*" or similar document to identify the implementation of Aboriginal opinion or "Traditional Knowledge" when pertaining to NFW issues.
- That documents be developed that would be easily understood by Métis Elders and traditional knowledge holders.
- That resources are continued to be supplied to Métis National Council. This will assure that the capacity is affordable for Métis to monitor NFW issues that will affect their communities directly.
- Upon reviewing the various methods of NFW storage the BCMANR Captains indicated that "deep geological storage" seemed to be the best alternative. However, none of the proposed methods would be considered fool-proof or guaranteed.
- That funding should be immediately made available to the three aboriginal governments to initiate a third-party non-biased team consisting of both scientific and traditional knowledge peoples. This could even be a collaborative approach between all the Aboriginal peoples of Canada (AFN, MNC and the ITK).
- That this document simply be viewed as a "position paper" and not a proper consultation of the Métis peoples in British Columbia".

3.4.2.2 Northern B.C. Traditional Knowledge Tour

The biggest obstacle for the Director of Natural Resources was trying to simplify the wording of the materials for our Elders to understand. The documents in general are written from a science perspective which made it very difficult for our traditional knowledge holders to grasp. A lot of the concerns raised by the Elders were, even if they participate will their voices be heard or even acknowledged. One Elder stated "it is understood amongst our people that the Elder is the voice of wisdom and time; however outside our community (meaning the aboriginal community) we are simply viewed as old and should be placed in homes". Most traditional knowledge holders indicated that British Columbia is nuclear free and felt that the rest of Canada should follow the same idealisms. They had great concerns around "injecting poison into the heart of our planet", but also stated "leaving it on the surface will eventually poison the water, which is the blood of the earth anyways". Certain Elders felt that some of the wording used tried to minimize the impacts for urban people but seemed to forget that "we as aboriginal peoples still use and live off the lands, mostly the remote portions". Therefore, "this is going to impact us the most". One Elder stated "if the city people are using the energy from these nuclear devices, then store it in their backyard". Most Elders indicated that it was necessary for the government and the NWMO to talk with the traditional knowledge holders that are from the areas DIRECTLY impacted by the NFW issues. One Elder stated "I know everything that happens within the area I harvest, however I do not know Northern Ontario, but I guarantee the Métis land-users there do".

In general, the Elders interviewed were more concerned about NFW in general and would not comment on what they felt was the best method for storage. Basically, they felt nuclear energy was not natural. In closing one Elder stated it the best "why do we need nuclear energy when the Creator has supplied us with natural sources with no by-product, things like solar, wind and water". Despite attempts by the Director of Natural Resources, the Métis traditional knowledge holders interviewed would not make or supply recommendations on the preferred method of storage.

3.6 Reporting Requirements

The MPCBC submitted a mid-term report as required under the NFW agreement on February 01, 2005. This final report, submitted by MPCBC, will complete the requirements as per the NFW agreement with NWMO and the MNC.

3.7 Financials to Date

Métis Provincial Council
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES- NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT
For the 12 Months Ended 31/03/2005
(UNAUDITED)

REVENUES - METIS NATIONAL COUNCIL - NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT		15,000
EXPENDITURES:		
Strategy and Final Report Preparation	6,770	
Hotel Accommodation	2,203	
Travel, Meals and Incidentals	6,027	
TOTAL EXPENSES		15,000
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES		0

4.0 Conclusion

Based on the levels of funding received by the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia this document is simply a "*position paper*". It is by no means a full consultation of the Métis communities in B.C. To acquire full consultation the MPCBC would require funding for to consult all 39 of our active communities throughout British Columbia. It is understood why the Métis National Council has allocated minimal resources to MPCBC, as the nuclear fuel waste issue affects the Métis Nation of Ontario, Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan directly. However, this document simply supplies a cursory overview of appointed individuals that represent their respective MPCBC regions of British Columbia.

The highlighted concern is the capability for the Métis to have an active role or funds to conduct a third-party non-biased analysis of all the scientific materials being presented to the aboriginal peoples of Canada. This appears to be an industry and government driven process with consultation being a requirement as opposed to it being a part of the process itself. It is difficult to derive opinion when looking in from the outside. This entire process from its strategy stages should have had the three identified aboriginal bodies involved (including the research components). [4]

[4] Métis National Council, Assembly of First Nations and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami

the Métis Nation of Ontario

Nuclear Waste Management Dialogue Process
Final Activity Report
2004/05

Submitted to:

Metis National Council,
Nuclear Waste Management Organization
& Natural Resources Canada

May 2005

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Part F – Agenda, MNO Nuclear Fuel Waste Training Initiative

Part G - MNO Draft Nuclear Fuel Waste Questionnaire

Part H - MNO Nuclear Fuel Waste Presentation

Part I – MNO Community Dialogue Preliminary Reports

1. INTRODUCTION:

This final activity report is one of the five regional reports funded by the Metis National Council (MNC) through the federal government's Nuclear Fuel Waste Program in Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Aboriginal Dialogue Program. As part of this process, the Metis Nation of Ontario Secretariat (MNO) entered into a Letter of Agreement with the Metis National Council (MNC) to undertake a series of specific activities on the issue of the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste (***Part B)***.

Under the Agreement, the MNO is to develop necessary capacity to engage our citizens in a series community dialogue sessions on the following issues:

- To discuss the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste, including the three proposed concepts in the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA), 2002;
- Determine how to utilize Metis traditional knowledge in our dialogue process, and;
- Identify Metis rights in relation to the long-management of nuclear fuel waste

In addition, the MNO also agreed to work with the MNC on a number of activities in order to assist the national process:

- to develop information materials to be used by MNC's Governing members to prepare for and implement regional dialogue sessions with their respective community members;

- Provide "expert advise" on nuclear waste management issues to the MNC and its Governing Members for the purpose of training and assisting community dialogue facilitators;

- Provide quarterly and final reports on progress of MNO's activities and financial statements to the MNC, NWMO and NRCan during the period of 2004/05.

During the past year, our focus has been on developing the necessary capacity to prepare for and roll out our dialogue sessions with Metis citizens on the proposed options for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. In the Activities and Outcomes section of this report, you will find greater detail to the initiatives that the MNO participated in, dialogue tools produced and preliminary reports from the dialogue sessions.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE METIS NATION OF ONTARIO (MNO)

The Metis Nation within Ontario has a long, rich and proud history. Historic Metis communities have existed and continue to exist along the Ottawa, surrounding the Great Lakes and through to the northwestern part of the provinces.

In the past, pan aboriginal lobby organizations and associations, to which some Metis people and communities However, these types of organizations and associations continually impeded the Metis Nation's aspiration of implementing Metis self-government. Therefore, in 1993, the Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established through the will of Metis people and historic Metis communities coming together to create a Metis-specific governance structure to achieve the nation's aspirations.

At the founding meeting for the MNO, Metis representatives from over 90 communities throughout the province set the foundational principles, which have continued to guide the evolution of the MNO. These foundational principles focused on the following:

- establishing a Metis-specific governance structure for the implementation of the nation's inherent right to self-government;
- establishing a credible and recognized identification system (Registry) for Metis people within the province;
- focusing on 'nation building' by working together as a collective to support Metis citizens and communities;
- pursuing a rights-based agenda and proudly asserting the Metis existence as a distinct Aboriginal people within Ontario.

These foundational principles, as well as, the values and vision of the Metis Nation within Ontario have been encapsulated in the MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose which serves as a guide for the MNO's on-going evolution and decision-making process. Grounded on this solid foundation, the MNO has drawn Metis people and communities together in Ontario.

Today, the MNO has over 10,000 Metis citizens within is Registry, as well as a, solid governance structure through the Provincial Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) which represents these citizens at a local, provincial and national level. As well, the MNO provides programs and services to Metis people in specific sectors such as employment and training and Health through a community based, province-wide delivery structure with an annual budget of over $10 million. The MNO's governance and administrative capacity continues to grow as the Metis Nation moves forward on its ultimate goal of self government

3. ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

Throughout the fiscal 2004/05, the MNO have worked with the MNC to meet the terms and obligations set out in MNC/MNO Letter of Agreement. The MNO will have an effective voice in the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste issue in the near future and over the long term.

The following are a list of the activities and outcomes performed by the MNO:

A. MNC Environment Committee Meetings:

The MNO participated in three MNC Environment Committee Meetings over the course of the 2004/05 fiscal year. Each meeting was a chance for the representatives of the MNC and its Governing Members in the development of the national action plan on the nuclear fuel waste management file and the on-going sharing of information on the file from a regional perspective.

The following is a chronology of meeting events taken place and their respective outcomes:

Date / Meeting Location	Purpose(s):	Outcomes:
April 2-3, 2004 Ottawa, ON	▪ The purpose of the meeting were to finalize 2003/04 deliverables set out in MNC Workplan and; ▪ make recommendations to the MNC on the draft MNC proposal to the NWMO; ▪ develop 2004/05 workplan to NRCAN	▪ deliverables outlined, including a "Issues paper" and a "framework for engagement" were not completed ▪ draft NWMO proposal not complete for review by the MNC – no timetable set for completion ▪ NRCAN workplan not completed in time for review by committee
December 18-19, 2004 Ottawa, ON	▪ Invite NWMO officials to make presentation on current stage of the NWMO Study ▪ MNO to provide training session rolling out Community Dialogue process for Committee members ▪ Discuss milestones and timelines of regional dialogues and draft year-end reporting	▪ NWMO made presentation to MNC Committee and answered questions from committee members ▪ MNO official provided training on elements of the NFW initiative, draft survey and information kit (Part E) ▪ MNC Governing members were anticipated to begin their own regional dialogue sessions in the winter of 2005. ▪ Initial timelines were set by the Committee for completion
March 21-22, 2005 Calgary, AB	▪ Provide national update on the NFW file and relations with NWMO and NRCAN ▪ Provide regional updates to progress of MNC affiliates dialogue process	▪ MNC officials provided status on relations with NRCAN and NWMO and on funding flow issues ▪ MNC affiliates each provided a progress report on the status of regional dialogue process

B. MNO Preparation of draft Community Dialogue Plan

In May 2004, the MNO submitted its "Provincial Framework for Engagement" document to the MNC. The provincial framework sets out our role and responsibilities under the MNC "Framework for Engagement" workplan. Included in the MNO Framework is our draft dialogue process with Metis communities in Ontario on Canada's option for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

C. MNO/NWMO Information Exchange and Planning Retreat

As part of our engagement process, the MNO held a retreat with its executive body called the Provincial Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) in Belcourt, North Dakota USA on August 9 – 10, 2004. This was the first opportunity to bring together the PCMNO and invited guests from MNC and hear from the NWMO (Donna Pawoloski) on the nuclear fuel waste issue. The NWMO also made a presentation on the organizations' mandate, its obligations to ensure Aboriginal dialogue and its important milestones before November 2005.

The meeting was utilized to get some initial feedback from the PCMNO on the issue posed and allow this body to provide overall guidance and direction to MNO's Framework for Community Dialogue process. Outcomes included PCMNO acceptance of the Community dialogue document and agreement on scheduling the Dialogue sessions in winter 2004/05. At this point, the MNO did not have confirmation on the funding amount it would receive or the terms of the Letter of Agreement from the MNC.

PCMNO Members in Attendance:

Tony Belcourt – President, MNO
France Picotte – Vice-Chair, MNO
Gilbert Gervais – Senator
Cam Burgess – Councilor, Region 2
Brent McHale – Councilor, Region 4
Pat Thibault, Councilor, Region 6
Anita Tucker , Post-Secondary Rep
Gary Lipiniski Chairperson, MNO
Tim Pile, Secretary Treasurer
Reta Gordon – Senator
Roland St. Germain – Senator
Olivine Tiedema – Senator
Valerie Stewart – Councilor, Region 9
Marc Neumann – Youth Rep

MNO Staff: Pierre Lefebvre – Executive Director & Paul Heigington, Policy

Guests:

Bill Flett –Vice President, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF)
Dan Benoit, MMF
Donna Pawloski, NWMO

D. Prepared MNO Information Kit to MNC and Governing Members:

In accordance with our obligation to develop information materials for the MNC and its Governing members on the issue of nuclear fuel waste, the MNO put together an information kit consisting of MNC, MNO, NRCan and NWMO documents and submitted to the MNC Board of Governors on November 29, 2004.

The Information Kit included the following items:

- NWMO video "Invitation to Dialogue"
- MNC Framework for Dialogue Presentation – prepared by the MNO
- MNC Framework for Engagement Documents – MNC workplans with NWMO and NRCAN
- MNC Backgrounder and Issues Paper
- NWMO Fact Sheets – NWMO Mandate, study and the three proposed concepts
- Assessing the Options --- NWMO Assessment Team Report July 2004
- NWMO Document # 1, Understanding the Choices – NWMO Document # 2
- Responsible Action – Research Report prepared by the Canadian Policy Research Networks July 2004
- Drawing on Aboriginal Wisdom and Traditional Knowledge – NWMO Workshop Report, October 2003
- Draft Nuclear Fuel Waste Survey – prepared by the MNO and to be used by MNC and its Governing Members

E. Capacity Building and Training Session for representatives of the MNC

Outlined in our MNC/MNO Letter of Agreement, the MNO hosted a Capacity Building & Training session on December 18 –19, 2004 at its offices in Ottawa with the MNC and representatives of the Metis organizations from Manitoba westward (MMF,MN-S and MPCBC officials were in attendance). The MNO gave an overview of the nuclear fuel waste issue and walked officials through the materials in the Information Kit. In addition, a representative from the NMWO accepted an invitation and made a presentation on the "Understanding the Choices" Document, up-coming milestones for the NWMO and detail on what the organization seek from the MNC Dialogue process. *(Part F – Training Session Agenda*)

Outcomes: Representatives from the MNC were satisfied with the information provided and were prepared to design and execute their own regional dialogue process. A draft community dialogue questionnaire (Part G) and a power point deck (Part H) were provided by the MNO to representatives of the MNC and its Governing members in attendance for their review and comment.

MNC Representatives in Attendance:

Bob Stevenson – Chair, MNC Environment Committee
Valerie Nichols – MNC Consultant
Dan Benoit – Natural Resources, MMF
Duane Roth – President, MNS
Paul Heighington – Policy Advisor, MNO
Dean Trumbley – Policy Advisor, MNBC

Day 2 Representatives

Clem Chartier – President, MNC Kathy Hodgson-Smith, Executive Director, MNC

Presenters: Pat Patton, NWMO

F. MNO Community Dialogue Sessions:

In the months of January and February 2005, the MNO rolled out Community Dialogue Sessions in six locations and participated by 311 citizens' representative of 25 Metis Community Councils in Ontario.

In preparation for the series of community dialogues, the MNO head office engaged in the following activities:

- Renting of Meeting space, catering services and technical equipment
- Development of Agenda
- Mail-outs to MNO members in each region and up-loading of Dialogue Sessions on MNO website www.metisnation.org
- Travel arrangements and accommodations are being made for staff and community members
- Requests to NWMO for a quantity of documents for dissemination to community members, including Document #2, CRPN Documents, NWMO Fact Sheets, and Video

Community Dialogue Sessions:

The following lists the place and dates of sessions and Metis community council participation.

Place/Date	MNO Regions and Council Participation
Midland, ON January 15- 16, 2005 Midland Community Centre	Georgian Bay Metis Council, Moon River Metis Council, Saugeen Metis Council, Owen Sound Metis Council, and the North Humberland Metis Council
Hamilton, ON January 22-23, 2005 Best Western Hamilton	Hamilton-Wentworth Metis Council , Port Credit Metis Council, Toronto Metis Council Windsor Essex Metis Council, Oshawa Metis Council
Ft. Frances, ON January 29- 30, 2005 Hotel Rendezvous	Dryden Metis Council , Sunset Country Metis Council, Kenora Metis Council , Rainy River Metis Council , Thunder Bay Metis Council
Timmins, ON February 5- 6, 2005 Centennial Hall	Timmins Metis Council, Northern Lights Metis Council, Temiskaming Metis Council Chapleau Metis Council
Sudbury, ON February 12- 13, 2005 - Howard Johnson's Sudbury	Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council , Thessalon Metis Council , Bruce Mines Metis Council , Sudbury Metis Council , North Bay Metis Council
Thunder Bay, ON February 18 – 19, 2005 Best Western	MNO Community Council Presidents Meeting (representatives from all 30 Charterd Community Councils)

Methodology:

The methodology used could be best describes as a "primer" exercise on the issue at hand. The MNO used many of the NWMO's materials including the discussion documents and videos during the dialogue's introduction. The dialogues were followed by an MNO produced power point presentation and then ample opportunity was afforded to take questions and comments from the audience. At the end of the dialogue session, participants were encouraged to fill out and submit the MNO survey prior to leaving the session.

Dialogue Session Preliminary Reports;

In total, 311 people participated in the five sessions throughout the province. The MNO were encouraged both by the turn out and interest in this important public policy issue. The dialogues were insightful not only on the level of knowledge and awareness of the nuclear fuel waste issue, and the importance of having a say on its management as well as on questioning the viability of nuclear energy as the future main source of energy for Ontario. Full preliminary reports on "what we heard" from questions and comments made during the dialogues are available for each session.

4. YEAR-END SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS:

Overall, the MNO were encouraged by the turn-out from community leaders and citizens alike on the important public policy issue of Canada's options for the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste. Stormy weather in January and February contributed to the low participation levels in the Hamilton and Ft. Francis dialogue sessions, however, we are encouraged with the feedback received and view this as only the beginning of MNO's meaningful involvement over the long-term.

Documents and materials from the NWMO were valuable tools for participants, who may have never have given the nuclear fuel waste issue much consideration or thought in the past. However, when presented with information we found that the nuclear fuel waste issue tends invoke emotional and passionate debate among people from all walks of life.

Initial comments received on the strengths and weaknesses on the three proposed management scenarios varied from each participants level of knowledge on the issue or on similar waste management issues and often posed a number of other questions on nuclear waste in general. There were some in our dialogue sessions that are proponents of variations of the options proposed by the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act, but, there was greater resistance and/or concerns with nuclear fuel waste, nuclear energy in general and its long term impacts in Ontario. Another important issue that came out of the sessions were that participants were surprised by the limitations of the Act related what nuclear waste is to be managed and what is not, such as the Act not covering or responsible for water used to cool the rods, reactor materials, etc.

A number of common themes did come out of the sessions based from the on “what we heard” in comments and questions from the presentations and submitted surveys. These themes are outlined, but not limited to the following:

- Paramount consideration should be given to the health and safety of our communities;
- Greater consideration must be given, in term of fairness. There is wide speculation that rural communities and/or current host communities could be burdened with the storage/disposal facility;
- How should government and Industry make every effort to ensure Aboriginal peoples, including the Metis are meaningfully at every stage of the management approach;
- Utilizing or investing in alternative energy sources must be Ontario’s energy policy focus;
- How best can Metis traditional knowledge be utilized in the nuclear waste management disposal/storage process; and
- The northern vs southern Ontario divide; differing opinions on the public policy issue
- Transportation issues
- Is there a full accounting of the associated risks and costs in moving ahead with one proposed option over another?

PART I

the Métis Nation of Ontario

Community Dialogue Roundtables on:

The Long-term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste in Canada

Preliminary Notes from:

Midland, ON
Hamilton, ON
Ft. Frances, ON
Timmins, ON
Sudbury, ON

the Métis Nation of Ontario

Georgian Bay Region Metis Community Dialogue on:

Canada's Options for the long-term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste

Saturday January 14, 2005
Midland Recreation & Community Centre, Midland ON

Preliminary Report:

1.0 Participants:

There were 77 participants that attended dialogue session. Participants were made of five Community Councils' representatives, including the Georgian Bay Metis Council, Moon River Metis Council, Saugeen Metis Council, Owen Sound Metis Council and the North Humberland Metis Council.

The MNO was represented by members of the Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario, including President Tony Belcourt, Chairperson Gary Lipinski, Co-Chair France Picotte, Senators Marion Larkman, Allan Vallee and Executive Director Pete Lefrbrve.

The MNO facilitator on the dialogue session was Paul Heighington.

The following are comments from the dialogue session and MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey:

2.0 Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Concepts:

2.1 Storage at reactor sites:

2.1.1 Advantages

- Less/no transportation required if left on-site
- Cost convenience, no mega project development needed
- Less expensive in the short term and It may keep hydro costs down
- Better control of waste on site
- Expertise on site and monitoring will be constant;
- Public awareness of the issue is much higher when it is in front of them

2.1.2 Limitations:

- There are no guarantees on how long on-site structures will it last for
- Multiple sites will present security concerns in relation to being targets of terrorism and sabotage
- Human error is a concern – people get lazy over a long period of stability
- Potential health risks multiple with several sites in host communities
- Cost disadvantage, costs will continue forever
- Multiple sites will constantly have to be watched
- Limited amount of space in or around existing reactor sites – because they are high populated areas

2.1.3 Other comments on concept

- Do not support this concept at all – too dangerous
- Cold war era bomb shelters are all over southern Ontario i.e. near Camp Borden. They make oxygen and are currently not being used. They would be ideal for the storage of the waste.

2.2 Deep Geological Disposal:

2.2.1 Advantages:

- Potential terrorist or security concerns can be better contained underground
- Economical over the long term because it only is one site, one host community
- Out of sight out of mind
- Probably the safest, because it is away from people and communities

2.2.2 Limitations:

- How will the storage last for?
- Some participants issues concerns regarding plate shifting and potential earthquakes that might effect any structure under ground;
- Concerns were raised on transporting all the waste to one central site - other communities could be affected by transporting the waste materials by rail or truck – accidents can and will happen
- A participant said it could not be recovered if found to pose some good to society
- Could potentially change from the inside out (weather, cracks, toxic soils

2.2.3 Other comments about the concept:

- What about leaching under the ground?
- Has this concept been tested over time? Will the structures age underground?
- Who will monitor the waste when put underground?
- Long term effects not known -- Maybe we should leave this decision for the future
- Possibility of seepage over the long-term in all three concepts
- Less awareness by removing from sight of the public, must remain in public view
- No one knows the environmental impacts on the concepts

2.3. Centralize Storage Concept:

2.3.1. Advantages:

- Some participants view that this concept would be a cost advantage being in one centralized location and maybe most cost effective in the long run
- Expertise would also be centralized and provide an more concerted effort for constant monitoring the structure(s)
- One participant said the concept is good because the "problem" is in one location

2.3.2 Limitations:

- Some participants were not sure about the safety factors in terms of the transportation of hazardous goods to one central location
- Other participants worried about the potential security risks if kept above ground
- Costs would never stop because structures would need to be upgraded over time

2.3.3 Other comments about concept:

- One participant asked what communities would want this stuff – not in my backyard
- Another participant would not support this concept above or below ground
- Others worried if concept chosen that their could be possible contamination in the form of leaks into the water table and will create a very dangerous area
- One participant from North Humberland County raised concerns that there is nuclear waste that is being processed in their region by companies
- One participant said It should be away from large population areas for safety precautions
- Some believed that they were not really informed enough to comment

Other General Comments about the Management concepts and presentation:

- One participant said that they live in close proximity to Bruce Power and said many of our people do work there. The participant serves on a committee which studies the impacts of the warm waters extracted by the plant. Also sites on a technical working group facilitated by Bruce Power Corp and has a favourable opinion of the outreach Bruce provides to the community and believes they have a better track record on this issue than government
- Other participants said they found the presentation to be informative and enlightening on this important issue. The nuclear waste issue should actually take a full day or two to properly educate and to provide research so our people can make an informed decision on these matters
- Our youth should play an instrumental role in this process, considering they are the ones that will have live with whatever solution is decided
- We are starting to understand from the comments today that we have a lot of knowledge and expertise within our nation --- It should be something to consider in forming ideas on how we will respond to industry and government on this issue
- Another participant questioned the concerns he had in North Humberland county about the nuclear waste currently being process by Zarteck Corp. He didn't see anything in the presentation and wondered why?

3.0 Other comments from the dialogue session:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and are loosely grouped under the following categories:

3.1 Alternative Engery Sources:

- We should be like Germany and stop nuclear energy production --- direct more resources to renewable energy development
- We must find alternative energy sources other nuclear
- Strongly in favour of using other sources of energy

3.2 Nuclear Energy & Nuclear Waste Issues:

- Does anyone know how long the nuclear bundles stay hot for?
- Is there room at the reactor sites to store all of the spent fuel?
- The plants that we have in Ontario – do we supply any of the U.S. with hydro from these reactors? -- if so, does the U.S. have any involvement in our discussion?
- A participant questioned the rationale for discounting the recycling of the spent fuel in the NWMO video "Understanding the Choices" – suggested that it is not an option because of the expense is not strong enough
-

3.3 Governance and Public Participation Issues:

- The MNO should be seeking partnerships to help form opinions --- I suggest we partner with First Nations
- It frightens me who is on the NWMO Advisory Council – we are the little people
- There are a lot of mainstream professionals working on this issue. There have been Senate hearings regarding the Pickering Power Plant to determine risks associated with the job --- it is necessary to continue testing.
- The MNO should be working with mainstream professionals and put an aboriginal lens on it

3.4 International Issues

- We should be checking with other countries on how they are dealing with this problem
- What is the U.S. doing?

4.0 Questions & Comments from MNO Survey:

The MNO distributed the MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey at all dialogue sessions. The following are answers gathered from the completed survey questions:

In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion:

- What about using bomb shelters? There is one sitting near Camp Borden that is not being used
- I worry about the environmental effects such as climate change and global warming in calculating the risks in the management concepts. Just 20 years ago, climate change was not part of our vocabulary;
- A participant said that a major factor to them was the fear of the unknown, fear for our children and having not enough knowledge before decision is made
- What about putting it in abandoned mine shafts underground – all nuclear waste should be encased in concrete
- Whatever concept chosen, it should be in the "safest place known to man" with the technology to support it
- Should be stored at the reactors sites with proper security
- We should keep up the studying on transmutation before moving the fuel bundles
- After neutralizing, it could be s combination of all three concepts
- Why don't we just store it in "space"
- Any movement of the waste will create the potential for accidents to happen – keep it where it is

If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?

- Aboriginal people should be approached before decisions are to be made
- If proven to be safe and secure
- Not a chance
- Not a consideration in light of the health, safety and environmental concerns
- Because of the fear of the unknown would not want near my community no matter the economic benefits are
- Never
- We can survive economically without having these hazards near by
- Not worth the risk

Could Métis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a management approach?

- If the nuclear fuel waste is to be relocated in whatever area, Metis and First Nations would have knowledge to add into any environmental impact or effects study
- Not enough information on traditional knowledge and its use on this to comment

- Years of managing our own resources should teach us now on proper waste disposal issues
- Yes, talk to the elders and the people who know --- and learn how our people in the past dealt with the disposal of unwanted things
- How would traditional knowledge come into play on this?
- As aboriginal people we have a direct connection and respect for the land
- Before any site is selected, the government will need to know from an aboriginal perspective the potential environmental impacts of the surrounding people
- I don't want our knowledge being used at all in this process
- Yes it should be used – everything is connected
- Our people could build that "bridge" between the aboriginal world view to the mainstream approach
- The use of traditional knowledge and its ability to look beyond the immediate monetary value will be beneficial to this discussion
- Metis traditional knowledge could assist and be integrated into the mainstream
- I think our elders should be front and centre giving input into this process – do we have a way of measuring our knowledge?
- Would be another approach to ideas not previously thought of

Greater Toronto Area & South-western Ontario Metis Community Dialogue on:

Canada's Options for the Long-Term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste

Saturday January 22, 2005
Best Western Hotel – Downtown Hamilton, ON

Preliminary Notes:

1.0 Participants:

There were 43 participants present at this dialogue process, representing five community councils including; the Hamilton-Wentworth Metis Council, Port Credit Metis Council, Toronto Metis Council, Windsor Essex Metis Council and the Oshawa Metis Council.

The Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario were represented by Tony Belcourt – President, Gary Lipiniski – Chairperson, France Picotte – Co-Chairperson, Tim Pile – Secretary Treasurer, Pete Leferbrve – Executive Director, Marc Neumann – Youth Rep and Anita Tucker – Post-Secondary Rep.

The MNO facilitator was represented by Paul Heighington. The following is a summary of comments from dialogue session and completed MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey.

2.0 Nuclear Fuel Management Concepts:

2.1 Storage at Reactor Sites:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- Stays with the producer
- No transportation is needed if stay where it already is

2.1.2 Limitations:

- It is an interim plan not a solid long-term solution
- May run out of space at the reactor sites

2.1.3 Other comments about the concept:

- This is a very serious approach to managing nuclear waste – I am dead set against it

2.2 Deep Geological Disposal:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- Canadian shield seems to be the most stable concept
- Out of site out of mind
- Will be out of areas with high populations

2.1.2 Limitations:

- We don't know of the effects underground
- Very difficult to fix or contain the structure if something should go wrong

2.1.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Would burying the waste cause harm to the water table?
- Would it just stay there and decompose?
- They are talking about putting it in the Canadian Shied because it is less seismic, but we can't guarantee we will not have earth quakes or earth movements due to climate change in the future
- Once underground, the casing where the waste is store can no longer be measured

2.2 Centralized Storage:

2.2.1 Advantages:

- Would create some definite economic opportunities for needy communities
- Same advantages as deep geological disposal concept

2.2.2 Limitations:

- Transportation of the waste to one location will be a concern for a number of communities
- Too costly to maintain and replace structures over time
- Same limitations as deep geological disposal

2.2.3 Other comments about the concept:

- If they chose a central location, it will be a hot spot for eternity
- Who is going to determine this central location, government, industry or the people

Other General Comments about the Management Concepts and Presentation:

- Have they thought about putting the nuclear waste back in the mines or putting the storage facilities near the abandoned mines?
- One of the things that comes up for me is the possibility of storage beside the Rocky Mountains?
- Doing a study in Saskatchewan and most people seemed to be against nuclear waste being stored in Saskatchewan
- I know about trucking other wastes to landfill sites and I know things that the average public does not know about waste issues
- I think transportation is a major problem. I think the idea of transporting it anywhere is a really bad because how many more people will be at risk? It should stay where it is developed
- We need people involved who can inform us along the way. I will have questions throughout our dialogue process
- This is such a politically charged issue, however every opinion and every thought is valid – There is different models and each one has good and bad scenarios – it is a serious problem and maybe we can't afford to pass the buck
- Why not space? Blow it up in space? Can it be done?
- Do we have any experts within the Metis Nation that could be of great use to us?

3.0 Other comments from the Dialogue:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and are loosely grouped under the following categories:

3.1 Alternative energy sources or solutions:

- The MNO should move forward with plans to make a strong case for alternative sources of energy
- Maybe we could start projects in our communities to conserving energy so we will not have to rely on nuclear energy production

3.2 Nuclear energy and waste issues:

- What is the projection for the nuclear usage in Canada? How long can the current storage practice go on?
- What is the life expectancy of a used fuel line? In the presentation they said they want to have access for this – what is the reason?
- Those caskets which currently hold the rods also be considered nuclear waste?
- A big concern is that when you talk about 10 to 20 years before a government makes a decision on this – how much more of this waste will be produced only to add to the issue?
- You have to consider the heavy water as waste, it the by-product of nuclear production and it is just as lethal
- We should consider pushing the Ontario government to discuss with us their future energy plans and examine all other potential energy sources – in the meantime, we as Canadians must deal with the current waste and finding a solution to its management.
- The NWMO video presentation stated that used rods remain radioactive for a long time. This is very misleading when the reality of that "long time" is hundreds or thousands of years.

3.3 Governance and Public Participation Issues:

- Would it be better to work with other aboriginal peoples so we would have more of a voice as a collective?
- Is the government funding this or is it the nuclear producers?
- The discussion seems to create more questions. From my council's perspective we have been aware of the issues as Canadians, but are open to more focused and collective Metis voice
- One participant asked if there have been any discussions on bringing this issue back to the MNO and determining our role – will we have our own experts in this process?
- We are a collective and have governing institutions within the MNO structure and I believe we must be heard once we put forth recommendations and/or a position
- Because this is an important issue for the Metis, particularly for Ontario - shouldn't the MNO request full standing on the NWMO Advisory Council?
- Is the government going to continue on its own and operate these nuclear facilities or are they going to sell them off like the Bruce plant and reduce their accountability to the public?
- We must ensure that the MNO collectively comes together on this issue and address the provincial and federal government
- What stage are other aboriginal peoples in their discussions?
- Do you know what other aboriginal people are saying?
- Have they set up a situation already what will be the best concept or do they really want to know what the people want
- The question of partnering has come up and would good to further explore with First Nations, the province and Industry (NWMO) in order to be better informed to express our views on this subject

3.4 International Issues:

- What are other countries doing with there waste? I heard thing are not going well for the U.S. on their Yucca Mountain selection. I also hear that Europe wants to find alternative energy like wind and solar to produce their needs

4.0 Questions & Comments from MNO Survey:

The MNO distributed the MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey at all dialogue sessions. The following are answers gathered from the completed survey questions:

In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Ontario and Canada with its energy needs into the future?

- The nuclear energy industry has prematurely entered into its implementation and usage stage without a long-term disposal plan – the Industry should not be given any more chances for production if they can not clearly take care of it without the burden on society
- Based on the presentation alone – I am strongly in favour of finding alternative energy sources for our hydro
- I enjoy the comforts of my home and I know I am benefiting from nuclear energy – however, also feel we are responsible and must find alternative sources to live

In your view, do you feel there any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion? (Where do you think it should be stored?)

- I am a little uncomfortable about telling the government where to store the waste - government and industry should have thought about this before they started producing nuclear energy
- People in southern Ontario have been the beneficiaries of nuclear energy, therefore, I believe we have a direct voice on where the waste should go but also direct say on what future energy we want to consume.
- Send it to a less populated place of the province
- Maybe the nuclear producers should keep it where it already is – at the reactor sites

If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?

- Absolutely not, government cannot begin to put a price tag on the fundamentals of health and safe communities. Any price tag flashed now can only be seen by people who will not be around for any significant amount of time compared to the life span of nuclear fuel waste. Once a decision and digging begins , it will be impossible for future generations to try and change it
- No, security is never guaranteed

To your knowledge, have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approached identified?

- Not until now, with the community dialogue happening
- I admire the MNO for feeling compelled to be part of the decision making process with the NWMO, since the government are a bunch of procrastinators.

Could Metis traditional knowledge play and important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a management approach?

- Yes, our communities are growing and building strength and could provide excellent insight to generating ideas
- We should hold a elders and youth conference soon with this being the theme
- Do we have the knowledge?
- Yes, we have many in our community that can advocate the sensitivity of lands

Northwestern Ontario Metis Community Dialogue on:

Canada's Option for the Long-Term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste

January 30, 2005
Hotel Rendezvous – Ft. Frances, ON

Preliminary Notes:

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1. Participants:

There were 38 participants present at this dialogue process, representing five community councils including; the Sunset Country Metis Council, Dryden Metis Council, Kenora Metis Council, Rainy River Metis Council and the Thunder Bay Metis Council

The Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario were represented by Tony Belcourt – President, Gary Lipiniski – Chairperson, France Picotte – Co-Chairperson, Tim Pile – Secretary Treasurer, Pete Leferbrve – Executive Director and Marc Neumann – Youth Rep

The MNO facilitator was represented by Paul Heighington

Special guest Included Metis National Council President, Clement Chartier

The following are comments made during the dialogue session and comments received from the completed MNO Nuclear Survey

2. Nuclear Fuel Management Concepts:

2.1 Storage at Reactor Sites:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- None given

2.1.2 Limitations:

- Costs too high

2.1.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Against dump nuclear waste

2.2 Deep Geological Disposal:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- None given

2.1.2 Limitations:

- Ground could cave in

2.1.2 Other comments about the concept:

2.3 Centralized Storage:

2.3.1 Advantages:

- None given

2.3.2 Limitations:

- None given

2.3.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Danger for terrorists

Other comments on the management concepts and presentation:

- Site selection: who picks them? Where does it go? Where are we going to dump this stuff?
- I heard discussion that the government may find a place around the Timmins area, is this true?
- We should just get out of the industry, however we still have to deal with the waste
- We reap what we sow. Southern Ontario does absorb a lot of energy. Is there any way that we cannot use alternative sites that aren't inhabited?
- How do they fill the casks? Do they wait til they have 350 bundles for dry storage? Where are they keeping them until then?
- When does industry think they are going to build this thing?

3.0 Other comments from the Dialogue:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and are loosely grouped under the following categories:

3.1 Alternative energy sources or solutions:

- More research is needed on alternative sources of energy less harmful to the environment and future generations – we have a history of ecological disasters
- we here in the north a clearly affected by the changes in the climate -- who need to be more pro-active in find better energy sources than nuclear
- Can we get enough energy from wind?

3.2 Nuclear energy and waste issues:

- The presentation doesn't tell how much power is generated in my area from nuclear energy. Maybe the waste should stay in the areas that produce
- If we shut down the reactors we still have to get rid of the waste. If we go to alternative energies, what would happen to the existing sites and waste?
- I am in favour of alternate resources, but think there is a spot somewhere for the nuclear waste
- What is the effect on global warming

3.3. Governance and Public Participation Issues:

- Who is the NWMO Advisory Committee?
- Is the MNO willing to strike a community of some kind to work on this issue?

4.0 Questions & Comments from MNO Survey:

The MNO distributed the MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey at all dialogue sessions. The following are answers gathered from the completed survey questions:

In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Ontario and Canada with its energy needs into the future?

- Is it not possible to research the possibility of a more friendly energy source such a wind power?
- This is going to be such a high cost for Canadian people

In your view, do you feel there any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion? (Where do you think it should be stored?)

- It should be stored in very far away place and closely guarded
- Site must be very safe
- Not in northern Ontario – keep it in Toronto

If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?

- I believe that we have disturbed mother nature enough and there is no economic benefit for that
- No, nuclear as we know it is always dangerous

To your knowledge, have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approached identified?

- Native peoples in my opinion are gentle fun loving people who are brought together for the love of the land. We have much to offer others about the land and the respect for it – history has proven this to be.
- I still think that we have some concerns of with them really listening to us
- As a people we have our rights and be enlightened to be a full participant in this process
- Don't regard us as a stranger in our own land – we could assist them
- No not to my knowledge

Could Metis traditional knowledge play and important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a management approach?

- Absolutely, as long as such things as greed, self-promotion and mis-management does take place, traditional knowledge is the cornerstone of which decisions could be based on
- Yes, we have many people in my community of Kenora who educate government and nuclear people about the area
- Yes, if the right people were involved

Greater Abitibi-Temiskaming Region Metis Community Dialogue on:

Canada's Options for the Long-Term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste

Saturday February 5, 2005
Centennial Hall – Timminis, ON

Preliminary Notes:

1.0 Participants:

There were 67 participants that attended the dialogue session. Participants were represented by the five area community councils which included; the Timmins Metis Council, Northern Lights Metis Council, Temiskaming Metis Council and the Chapleau Metis Council.

The Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario was represented by Tony Belcourt – President, Gary Lipinski – Chairperson, France Picotte – Co-Chairperson, Tim Pile – Secretary Treasurer, Pete Lefebvre – Executive Director, Women's rep and Marc Neumann – Youth Rep.

The MNO facialitator for the dialogue session was Paul Heighington.

The following comments were received from the dialogue session and completed MNO Nuclear Waste Management surveys:

2.0 Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Concepts:

2.1 Storage at Reactor Sites:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- Stays where it is
- Constantly under observation
- No transportation risks

2.1.2 Limitations:

- Seems like it is a interim solution
- Not a solid long-term plan – in effect making no decision
- Increases the security threat
- Costs will continue forever at the taxpayers' expense
- Limited storage capacity

2.1.2 Other comments about the concept

- Very serious if chosen
- Too dangerous
- The waste should definitely be stored at the reactor sites
- If you keep at the reactor sites, you eliminate the danger of double handing the hazardous waste
- Leave it where it is, the areas are already contaminated dead zones

2.2 Deep Geological Disposal

2.2.1 Advantages:

- Out of sight, out of mind
- Job creation opportunities in communities
- Much safer in all aspects and unlimited storage potential

2.2.2 Limitations:

- Is the Canada Shield the most stable concept
- How can this be measured
- Transportation concerns

2.2.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Do not like the idea of putting into the ground
- We don't know the potential effects yet if put inside the rock
- Too dangerous
- None are safe
- Impact of the earth underground
- I have concerns regarding leaching of the structure below
- Ground is unstable -- there are sinkholes, ground movement and temperature changes
- Some disaster is bound to happen during the transportation of the waste.
- A big "no"

2.3 Centralized Storage:

2.3.1 Advantages:

- Cost effective
- In one place

2.3.2 Limitations:

- Transportation concerns

- Must be under ground for heighten security

2.3.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Too dangerous
- None are safe

Other general comments about the management concepts and presentation:

- I was very impressed with the presentation and have learned a lot about a topic that I honestly have not given much thought to. The nuclear issue is important and I think today's generation must deal with a final solution on the waste issue.
- Some participants were very concerned and they hoped northern Ontario would not be stuck with Toronto's burden
- Participants were very supportive of keeping the used fuel at the reactors sites
- There is no safe site to disposal of nuclear fuel waste because there is a danger of emissions into our water
- Why should this area accept the waste, we don't want government thinking because there is less people in the north that this is the best location for the storage facility

3.0 Other comments from the Dialogue:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and have loosely grouped under the following categories:

3.1 Alternative energy sources or solutions:

- We need to find alternative energy to supply us like wind or solar

3.2 Nuclear energy and waste issues:

- How is the nuclear energy transported to the sites where they are stored
- Lets get out of the nuclear production business
- I do not want the waste at all. Up here, we have had to deal with Toronto wanting to truck all their garbage to this area and throw it in an abandoned mine pit. The south can keep their waste – we don't want it.

3.3 International issues:

- Maybe we should follow the examples of other countries in the world, like Germany, that is shutting down its nuclear power plants

4. Questions & Comments from MNO Survey:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and are loosely grouped under the following categories

In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Ontario and Canada with its energy needs into the future?

- Yes, but in 40 or 50 years other sources of energy available may change the whole prospect for nuclear energy to generate power
- No, its too much of a risk to our future generations
- Before beginning to produce nuclear energy they should have had an proper plan of ways disposal
- Why are we in the process of discussing the storage of the waste while we are still producing this waste?

In your view, do you feel there any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion?

- Maybe store it in Africa and create some energy there instead of building dams from water
- Unfortunately we've started this process without having all the answers to the long-term implications
- Should not have started without a long-term storage plan. Maybe we should send it to another planet or the moon.
- What about sending to another country that would accept the waste?
- Keep it on site and use the resources to look into researching ways of utilizing the waste
- Can we not find a way to destroy the material?

If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?

- I would never accept a storage facility in my area
- Not for the money, this issue is too important to be blurred by dollars
- I don't want Toronto's garbage no matter what the economic benefits are
- No amount of money will replace your health – the waste will pollute the environment, water and vegetation

To your knowledge, have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approached identified?

- I personally did not know about this issue or our involvement until today
- Not sure yet, however I am glad to see that efforts are put forth
- We will see with the final report from the NWMO and from government

Could Metis traditional knowledge play and important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a management approach?

- If the government is willing to help the Metis with rolling up our traditional knowledge, we could be a important part of any decision being made on the site location
- Who knows – would government or industry care or even listen?
- I would like to believe so
- I think that a spiritual approach is important considering all life on this planet now and in the future

Greater Sudbury Region Metis Dialogue on:

Canada's Options for the Long-Term Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste

Saturday February 11, 2005
Howard Johnson's Hotel – Sudbury, ON

Preliminary Notes:

1.0 Participants:

There were 86 participants that attended the dialogue session. Participants were representative of five community councils, including the Sault Ste. Marie Metis Community Council, Thessalon Metis Council, Bruce Mines Metis Council, Sudbury Metis Council and the North Bay Metis Council.

The Provisional Council of the Metis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) was represented by Tony Belcourt – President, Gary Lipinski – Chairperson, Tim Pile – Secretary Treasurer, Pete Lefebvre – Executive Director and Marc Neumann – Youth Rep.

The MNO facilitator on the dialogue session was Paul Heighington

The following are comments received from the dialogue and completed MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey to date:

2.0 Nuclear Fuel Waste Management Concepts:

2.1 Storage at Reactor Sites:

2.1.1 Advantages:

- One participant said that Its already there and that might the best place to keep it
- Their would be very little or no transportation needed reducing costs of wear and tear on our highways

2.1.2 Limitations:

- There was some concern that reactors sites were not planned to be permanent – should those communities be burden with it?
- A participant thought this concept would be too expensive to maintain because of multiple sites and the taxpayers would be on the hook
- Storage at reactor sites would pose a real security threat in several places
- There is no infrastructure at existing sites

- One participant thought there would be increased health and safety concerns in communities where the reactor are located
- Storage at reactor sites could come under threat by any natural disasters

2.1.3 Other comments about the concept:

- A participant said it would be paramount to making no decision
- Is there currently any room for the future waste and the existing sites?
- Sounds good, but how much may be stored at the reactors

2.2 Deep Geological Disposal

2.2.1 Advantages:

- It would be cheaper to the taxpayer over the long-term if stored in one place
- If it is underground, the structure will last longer because it will not be exposed to the elements - safer than outside storage
- Probably the safest and cheapest of the three concepts
- Will provide the best security hundreds of feet underground

2.2.2 Limitations:

- Out of sight, out of mind
- Transporting the waste to one location could lead other troubling issues such truck or rail accidents
- There would be no options in the future for retrieving the waste
- One participant thought the costs would be like any other mega-project --- expensive
- Another participant was concerned about the possible contamination of the water table

2.2.3 Other comments about the concept:

- Could use existing mine shafts and fill in with cement
- We have no way of predicting nature under the earth's surface
- Are earthquakes a factor in the planning of the management concept?
- What about the ground caving in?
- I think this is a good type of disposal, but how much space would this take
- Just another way to pollute the earth
- It would a boost to a regional economy

2.3 Centralized Storage

2.3.1 Advantages:

- One site to monitor and will be watched constantly
- More secure than current storage facilities
- Purpose built and suitable for storage
- Sufficient security would be in available in one place
- Ability to access materials if needed in the future
- Could be implemented, prior to extensive consultations with host community

2.3.2 Limitations:

- Transportation concerns would increase as waste is moved to one central location
- High costs of up-keeping site infrastructure --- site will wear over time
- Site selection will be challenging and maybe difficult to find willing community to host the storage facility
- Concerns were raised that in light of the new security environment we live in a that a centralized site above ground will pose potential terrorist threats

2.3.3 Other comments about concept:

- Management and responsibility will need public, not government oversight
- This is really beyond my knowledge to make any comments
- Centralized storage seems to be the most reasonable option based on today's lense

Other General comments about the management concepts and presentation:

- Some participants regarded the presentation as a very informative exercise, and had given them an opportunity to begin thinking about the issue and the concepts proposed
- Why is the MNO involved with industry and government on this?
- A participant did not want the MNO to do the government's bidding

3.0 Other Comments from Dialogue:

Other Comments and questions were asked not related to the management options, but are important to the overall discussion and are loosely grouped under the following categories:

3.1 Alternative Energy Sources or solutions:

- I think Canada and the world should look at other services of energy. We should not look strictly at nuclear
- We must look at alternative sources of energy, such as solar
- It has always been a dream and desire of mine to be self-sufficient so we are not faced with this problem. I think if we slowly make these changes in new communities and neew homes …there are new resources out there already and we are responsible to try to take advantage of them
- We enjoy power and we call hydro our source of electricity for life, but we tend to live beyond our means and maybe its time we cut back

- I took a vacation and toured the hydro projects in the Quebec. It seems that Quebec is a leader. They have built huge dams; have flooded some lands but created work for generations. We should be looking at creating dams and not nuclear reactors
- Energy conservation should be the number one priority for Ontario
- There are better ways to produce energy such as wind, solar or reducing consumption
- We need to invest in cleaner, safer and cheaper energy
- Technology is a wonderful theory when used with common sense or respect – just because we can do something with should not
- We need to look for better, more friendly environmental sources of energy
- Hydro costs are very expensive now --- what's the future generations going to pay? Ew sources have been established
- With any type of energy, there are both good and bad effects. Unfortunately, most information is obtained only after production begins

3.2 Nuclear Energy and Waste Issues:

- When the rods are cooled down in wet storage – what happens to the water?
- We should keep the waste close to home
- Is there a way of recycling or reusing the waste?
- It is an issue of the future. Our children, our great, great grandchildren will be impacted and we have to think seriously about this waste. They don't even know for sure what will happen with this stuff. They should have considered this before they started playing with nuclear energy production
- I have a solution – why don't they just shoot into space?
- It seems to me that mother earth must be left to take care of it in its natural form
- One of the things I am realizing is how little I know about the effects and the dangers of nuclear waste. The presentation gives us only a few options
- My concern is that we have problems today like finances and health and yet the government is now charging us more for energy to get less
- There is so much risk when dealing with nuclear energy and the waste
- This is a fairly new thing. Nobody knows down the road the effects it will have on people and the earth
- I am not for nuclear energy, but I'm sure I wouldn't be one of the first to complain. I am sure we can come out of this with a more secure source of power in the future
- Lets get out of the nuclear producing industry
- Ship it to the sun in outer space
- Get out of the nuclear producing industry
- Neither land or water --- I feel they should resolve within another solution
- More public awareness is needed before any real or safe disposal is implemented
- Do we still want the Ontario government to use nuclear power?
- Let's mothball the reactors like Germany's doing before it is too late

3.3 Governance and Public Participation Issues:

- I was wondering if we would consult with municipalities in the north? I think it would be important that the Metis Nation meet with other community representatives on this issue

- I am not sure how much we can trust government – there are many sites that have to be cleaned up
- What are the companies who are making profits doing about it? Their imput must be secret. They should come forward and tell us how much money they are making and how they will help
- That fact is that we don't have any of our experts in this area who can be giving us advice from a technological viewpoint. In our communities, I believe we have some citizens who have good knowledge in this field that could assist the Metis Nation in bringing forth recommendations -- we should work with First Nations and should not necessarily give a position on this subject right away
- We should definitely consult with other municipalities
- To date my confidence in the current authorities of nuclear energy production has not been compromised
- A greater perspective of the overall need of the Metis homeland in relation to energy, health and the economy would increase the ability to develop a sound opinion on a this specific issue.
- One the main weaknesses of this process is that it is government driven – not by the public

3.4 Geographic Regions:

- One of the things is if there is a decision on what geographic regions at play, there will be a definite economic opportunity for the host community and should be considered in our discussion
- What response does northern Ontario have on this issue? Do you feel it should be brought to the north?
- Feedback from northern Ontario is important because this is where Toronto wants to send the nuclear waste

3.5 International Issues:

- I am not sure it we should accept the waste from another country. Each country shoud be responsible to take care of their waste. It is important that the international community work together to find a global solution but I am not sure if I want waste from another country
- If Germany can get out of nuclear production – Canada can too
- We should be constantly checking on what the rest of the world is doing on getting rid of their nuclear waste – Many great scientists in the world are working on this serious problem

4.0 Questions & Comments from MNO Survey:

The MNO distributed the MNO Nuclear Waste Management Survey at all dialogue sessions. The following are answers gathered from the completed survey questions:

In your opinion, are you in agreement with nuclear energy providing Ontario and Canada with its energy needs into the future

- No, there has been many effective, cost efficient ways to produce energy like solar and wind
- Our energy needs on Ontario are considerable and the demand has continued to increase. I am comfortable that the benefit outweighs the risks of this power sources, though I would be open to supporting other viable options if they present themselves
- I am in agreement, however should look at other similar and safer ways in the future such as looking a more water turbines improvements in the future

In your view, do you feel there are any concepts that are not present that should be part of the discussion:

- self sufficiency and the costs –how about go it on our own in the future
- Should be accessible just in case there is a way to use it in the future
- Underground in old mine shafts
- What options?
- I feel there must be other options
- Canada should stop production of nuclear energy --- we must learn from our mistakes

If there were economic benefits to your community, would you support nuclear storage in your region?

- No, there is no price to the health and safety of the community
- Security is never guaranteed
- If all matters i.e. risks, health, the environment was addressed and a sound, safe plan was created – yes.
- Yes, as long as it would be done in the safest possible manner – it has to go somewhere
- It would be okay if it was made in our own immediate area
- If we produce here in Sudbury, then we should store it
- Not in my background
- If there was even a 1% risk, it is not worth it
- I would chose life and health over money and short term gain
- Not sure, we need to look at the whole concept of the workplan
- Yes, if proper health and safety concerns could be satisfied, I would consider it --- Our community is poor and are losing our health services
- Let's look at the economic benefits to communities of other alternative energy sources

To your knowledge, have aboriginal perspectives and insights informed the direction, and influenced the development of the management approaches identified?

- I am proud to Metis and I know that the MNO has this issue in their heart and resolution is of great importance
- Yes, much more than I was aware of
- Yes, I think they have somewhat

- No as discussion is just know being implemented
- I think it is good during the process that they ask us if we are informed
- My knowledge of being Aboriginal, would be that this is not a healthy option for energy for people or our planet
- Other than this presentation, not to my knowledge
- I would be interested in hearing from Metis senators and youth reps on these issues
- Common sense first off, then aboriginal perspectives and insights come into play --- if we can't respect mother earth she will longer sustain us
- I do not have enough knowledge on this
- I have little or no information to make any kind of opinion regarding this question
- Not yet, the dialogue with aboriginal peoples has just got underway

Could Metis traditional knowledge play an important part in the recommendation or decision making process for a management approach?

- Have we heard anything from the other community dialogues on Metis traditional knowledge?
- We should hear from our senators/ people who know and the youth on what their understanding is to this question
- I believe that the Metis is on its way to live clean, providing and maintaining life that should be priority above all
- Yes it could be utilized
- Definite use
- Yes, I believe it would be good that traditional knowledge and the Metis teachings of this area could be part of the process
- I hope so
- I believe that the unique heritage we have as Metis people gives us an opportunity to be leaders in environmental concerns – we need specific elder input and youth input
- I don't know anything that I have heard to date that could utilized
- Yes, it could play an important role --- traditional knowledge holders will have the greatest insight into the environmental effects/impacts because they respect mother earth, something the "white man" has forgotten
- We are already part of this discussion along with all citizens
- Yes, I think will should have a say in what happens to mother earth
- Metis citizens who use the land on a daily basis (trappers and harvesters) could possibly give valuable testimony as the effects of nuclear use
- Yes, our stories and teachings reflect timeless insights of humanity is sound and should be meaningfully part of this process --- However, I would be unhappy if is used not our benefit
- No I don't think so for we have no professional people who know about nuclear waste