

Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

Record of Discussion: February 6, 2012 Meeting

Record of discussion of the meeting of the Advisory Council to the
Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) /
Société de gestion des déchets nucléaires (sgdn)

Convened at 22 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario,
commencing at 9:00 a.m. EST on February 6, 2012

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie Council Chairman
David Cameron
Marlyn Cook
Wesley Cragg
Fred Gilbert
Eva Ligeti
Dougal McCreath
Michel Rhéaume

Regrets:

Derek Lister Council Member
Donald Obonsawin Council Member
Ken Nash President & CEO

NWMO Staff Present:

Kathryn Shaver VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection
Gillian Morris Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel Director, APM Geoscience
Angelo Castellan VP Environmental Assessment and Corporate Support (Item12)
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue
Elena Mantagaris Manager, Government & External Relations
Pat Patton Director, Engagement & Aboriginal Relations
Jamie Robinson Director, Communications
Sean Russell Director, APM Repository Research & Development
Bob Watts Director, Aboriginal Community Relations
Derek Wilson Project Manager, OPG DGR, EPCM (Item 12)

ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS

1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

David Crombie welcomed Dr. Wesley Cragg, who joined the NWMO Advisory Council as of January 1, 2012. Mr. Crombie provided the Council with summary of Dr. Cragg's biography.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the previous meeting, convened on November 30, 2011 with minor edits requested by members.

Kathryn Shaver reviewed the action items from the last meeting noting that all were either complete, on the agenda for discussion or being brought forward for future follow up.

In the review of actions, Council members discussed the upcoming International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR) being hosted by NWMO in Toronto. Several Advisory Council members expressed interest in attending this conference. Management noted that the scope for NWMO covering members' conference costs will be considered as plans are developed for stakeholder involvement in the ICGR. Management will report back to Council members as the conference planning evolves.
(*)

UPDATES FROM NWMO

3. Dispositioning of 2011 Council Advice

Kathryn Shaver reviewed the summary of Advisory Council advice provided in 2011 and NWMO's dispositioning of that advice. Ms. Shaver invited the Council to provide comment on the work before it is posted on the NWMO website.

A Council member noted that the summary provided was very helpful. Several members provided feedback on the matrix which will be incorporated before it is posted on the NWMO website. (*)

4. Program Overview and Risk Assessment

Further to the request of the Advisory Council, management identified areas of potential program risk. Kathryn Shaver highlighted some of the current risks to the APM site selection process. Sean Russell discussed risk related to the APM technical program.

Council members discussed and asked questions on a range of topics, including:

- the suggestion that NWMO seek to categorize levels of risk discussed at future meetings
- resource and staff capabilities to conduct multiple feasibility studies in different regions of the country;
- the important role of CNSC pre-project reviews in support of the APM program

- for completeness, the importance of considering any risks that may have been identified by the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) in its annual review of the APM technical program.

Ms. Shaver noted that items raised by Council will be addressed in future discussions of program risk. (*)

5. External Landscape and Risk Management

Staff reviewed the activities under way to build relationships in support of the siting process and manage risks in the external landscape. Staff provided status updates on:

- discussions with Provincial government officials;
- NWMO's aboriginal engagement;
- work to assemble expert working groups on siting-related topics;
- a meeting of the inter-jurisdictional used nuclear fuel transportation planning group; and
- recent coverage of media and interests in NWMO's work.

The Council discussed the various meetings held with provincial governments and Aboriginal groups. In responding to Council questions, staff outlined its plans for engagement on transportation with different jurisdictions including potentially affected communities in different phases of the feasibility studies. It was noted that transportation would be on the Council agenda for its June meeting.

A Council member also suggested NWMO might review lessons learned from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad, New Mexico as that community remains very supportive of hosting the repository.

Council members appreciated the review of academic social research on the NWMO and radioactive waste management-related topics provided and requested a full copy of one of the academic papers mentioned. (*)

6. Status Update on Site Selection

Kathryn Shaver and Jamie Robinson reviewed the communities publicly engaged in the APM Site Selection process and outlined where they are in different steps of the process. Council received an update on the communities that had requested briefings, as well as those that were active in the Step 2 of the process which involves learning more about APM and conducting an initial screening. It was noted that six communities had asked to enter the feasibility studies phase, which is Step 3.

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel provided the Council with information regarding the geoscientific components of the feasibility studies and noted that NWMO will work with both provincial and federal geological survey groups.

A Council member asked if the Independent Technical Review Group (ITRG) will have a role in reviewing the feasibility studies. Management undertook to consider this and to report back at a future meeting. (*) Council members also discussed the work flow for the feasibility studies phase and roles and responsibilities for project management and integration of reports.

7. APM Expressions of Interest Phase

Kathryn Shaver discussed the proposal to communicate early in 2012 about the duration of the “expressions of interest phase” of the APM siting process. She noted the rationale for bringing this item forward at this time.

Jo-Ann Facella discussed the proposed communications release that would ensure a six-month notice period prior to suspending the expressions of interest phase. Ms. Facella noted that it is important to NWMO that it fully devote time and resources to supporting communities engaged in the process. She noted that communities in the process are also interested in knowing when the expressions of interest phase will close.

Council had a lengthy discussion regarding closing the expressions of interest phase, including the following:

- Council concurred with the proposal that there be a communication around the expressions of interest;
- Council supported the idea of suspending the expressions of interest as of the end of September, while retaining NWMO’s right to re-open pending results of future feasibility studies; and
- Council concurred with the approach and direction proposed.

Through its deliberations, Council provided detailed advice for refining the communications. On the draft communications prepared by staff, Council provided suggestions for wording to provide greater clarity. Members proposed NWMO expand the communications piece to provide a backgrounder that speaks to the rationale and considerations for closing the expressions of interest at this time. Council members offered a range of views on some of the wording and left suggestions with the NWMO for consideration.

A Council member noted it is very important that the work with Aboriginal people continues and traditional teachings are considered through engagement of Elders and leaders.

8. Update on Re-Development of the Elders Forum

Council was provided with an update on the re-development of the Elders Forum. Bob Watts reviewed the process that evolved over the past year, guided by input from the Advisory Council, Aboriginal organizations and other experts in the area. All Elders Forum members were contacted and notified of next steps in the structuring of the new council. Former members were invited to put their names forward to be considered for the new Council of Elders. Mr. Watts reviewed the timeline for having the new Council of Elders in place. The Council was invited to review the draft terms of reference.

Council provided some specific advice on the Terms of Reference and discussed with staff some of the next steps on selection of members and implementation, particularly:

- the suggestion that NWMO make reference to NWMO’s Aboriginal Policy.
- greater clarity proposed for the mission, emphasizing the advisory nature of the new Council;
- youth involvement;
- suggestions to provide some further clarity regarding the selection panel; and
- options for structuring terms of co-chairs.

9. Advisory Council Communications

At the last Council meeting, Council proposed that NWMO explore opportunities to more broadly communicate what Council felt was NWMO's innovative approach to public engagement and work with communities. Further to that request, Jamie Robinson reported back on a number of possible opportunities for such articles.

In the ensuing discussion, Council members suggested as first step, pursuing an opportunity to have a US perspective because of the recent release of the US Blue Ribbon Commission report on America's Nuclear Future and careful consideration of process undertaken for the Commission. (*)

A Council member suggested looking at lessons learned from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in Carlsbad. A Council member was supportive of encouraging essays about NWMO's approach to public policy development, noting that there has been limited attention provided to NWMO's approach to process.

The Council Chair requested that Council members forward suggestion on topics, writers or organizations to Jamie Robinson or Gillian Morris. (*)

10. Review of Annual Report Sections

The Advisory Council was presented with the draft section on the Advisory Council for the NWMO 2011 Annual Report for review and comment. Comments were provided and noted by staff.

Ms. Shaver noted the Council will have an opportunity to review a full draft of the Annual Report on an upcoming conference call. (*)

11. APM Technical Program Update

Sean Russell discussed the Independent Technical Review Group's (ITRG) 2011 recommendations and NWMO's responses and action plan. Council members discussed how work on the OPG L&ILW DGR in sedimentary rock would be relevant in addressing the recommendation that NWMO should begin planning to demonstrate that it can implement the relevant repository design in sedimentary rock.

Sean Russell also provided an update to the Council on the APM technical program. Council members discussed the 4th and 5th case study postclosure safety assessments underway. Council members also discussed the used fuel container sizing study and the repository container closure weld development.

12. Review of NWMO support to the OPG L&ILW DGR

Angelo Castellan reviewed the status of the work in the regulatory approvals phase of the OPG L&ILW DGR project. Mr. Castellan reported that the Joint Review Panel has been struck and the public review of the environmental impact statement and the site preparation and construction licence for OPG L&ILW DGR project has begun.

Derek Wilson reviewed the progress of the work on the design and construction phase of the OPG L&ILW DGR project. He noted that the engineering has progressed to 50% design completion and the design packages are being prepared for OPG review. He

also reviewed the 2011 field program and noted that the 2012 annual work program was accepted by OPG. A Council member asked about the quality management audit report.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Advisory Council is June 5, 2012.

12. **In Camera Session**

It was determined that an in camera session was not required.

Termination of Meeting

The Chairman declared the meeting terminated at 2:30 pm.

Dated the 5th day of June, 2012

Vice President, APM Engagement and Site Selection

(*) Denotes action to be taken.