

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: November 28, 2017 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 November 28, 2017

Advisory Council Members Present:

Hon. David Crombie, Council Chairman  
David Cameron, Vice Chairman  
Eva Ligeti  
Derek Lister  
Dougal McCreath  
Donald Obonsawin  
Linda Thompson  
Dean Jacobs  
Diane Kelly  
Joseph Cavalancia

NWMO Staff Present:

Laurie Swami President and CEO (items 1-14)  
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel VP Site Selection (items 1-15)  
Jo-Ann Facella Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-14)  
Lisa Frizzell VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-14)  
Joe Gaboury Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-14)  
Gillian Morris Board Secretary (items 1-15)  
Derek Wilson Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management (Items 1-14)  
Bob Watts VP Indigenous Relations (items 1-6)

Guest:

Dr. Michael Stephens Member of the APM Geoscientific Review Group (item 8)

## **1. Constitution of Meeting / Approval of Agenda**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed upon as written.

## **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items**

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the September 18, 2017 meeting were brought forward for Council review and were approved as written. There were no comments on the action items from the previous meeting.

## **3. President's Report**

The President provided a detailed summary of NWMO's work and accomplishments in 2017. Among the highlights of the 2017 accomplishments were the following:

- NWMO's internal reorganization including the appointment of three Vice Presidents;
- publishing the 2014-2016 Triennial Report;
- a strong focus on improved business planning and budgeting;
- updating NWMO's values;
- narrowing down communities in the siting process and the commencement of borehole drilling;
- a presentation to the Canadian National Safety Commission; and
- participation in many engagement events and conferences.

Ms. Swami also updated recent developments in the nuclear industry in Canada, the U.S.A. and internationally summarizing information from the European and the U.K. programs.

Council members asked about heat-generating intermediate level waste in Canada and possible solutions. Ms. Swami noted that while there was not currently a permanent storage solution for some intermediate level waste, it is all safely stored.

## **4. Update on APM Site Selection**

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel provided an update on the siting process outlining fieldwork and engagement activities in the siting communities. The Council was updated on the borehole drilling underway in the Ignace-Wabigoon area and the advanced planning for the second and third boreholes. Lisa Frizzell reported on NWMO's social media outreach related to borehole drilling.

Council members discussed agreements in place with Indigenous organizations in the siting areas. Council members discussed Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) work on its near surface disposal facility and how NWMO is interacting with CNL. Council asked about how NWMO is ensuring there are employment opportunities at the local level in the siting communities. Mr. Wilson noted that NWMO is working with the borehole drilling contractors to maximize these opportunities.

Council discussed the importance of how findings from borehole testing such as hydraulic conductivity would be explained to the public using simple language and asked to have this on the agenda for Council's next meeting (\*).

**5. APM Risk Assessment**

Mr. Ben Belfadhel reported to the Council that there were no significant changes to the risks since September. He noted that the full risk reporting would be brought to the Council in March and September.

**6. Update on Stocktaking (In Camera)**

The Council held an in camera session to discuss NWMO's work on stock-taking in the siting areas.

**7. Update on Partnership Discussions**

The Council was updated on the discussions held with the communities on partnership and the next steps. Mr. Ben Belfadhel discussed how NWMO has introduced its Partnership roadmap in public presentations to Community Liaison Committees (CLCs), Councils and/or working groups in core siting communities. Staff reported that these discussions have been received enthusiastically by communities.

A Council member asked if the type of partnership in each community would emerge from the dialogues with the communities? Mr. Ben Belfadhel confirmed that this was NWMO's approach. Council members supported the respectful and collaborative manner in which NWMO was approaching partnerships.

**8. Report from the APM Geoscientific Review Group**

Dr. Michael Stephens joined the meeting to provide the Committee with an overview of the APM GRG's review of NWMO's geoscientific preliminary assessments. Dr. Stephens' presentation covered:

- A review of the GRG's process to review NWMO's work;
- The reviews undertaken by the group; and
- The group's conclusions and recommendations to NWMO based on its review.

Council members talked about the importance of dykes in some areas and how associated uncertainties can be better understood. The Council also had discussions with Dr. Stephens about the need for staff to allow sufficient time to analyze data from initial boreholes to inform work plans for subsequent boreholes.

**9. Triennial Report Recommendations – Environment Best Practices and Statement of Corporate Environmental Responsibility**

The purpose of this item was to provide an update and seek input on work underway to address the Advisory Council's Triennial Report recommendation that the NWMO undertake a scan of best practices for environmental sustainability in related industries. This scan will be one key input into the Advisory Council's additional recommendation that NWMO develop a Statement of Corporate Environmental Responsibility.

Lisa Frizzell reported on the scan of best practices for environmental sustainability in related industries undertaken by NWMO. She reported that this scan has helped NWMO identify a series of next steps and action plan to address the Council's recommendation. Council members suggested there should be a strong link between NWMO's environment sustainability plan and the work underway on partnerships.

**10. Building Relationships**

The Council was provided with updates on the recent meeting of the Council of Elders and Youth, the external landscape, a youth engagement report and media analysis.

**11. Transportation Engagement Update**

Staff provided an update on the work underway in the area of transportation engagement. Dialogues had been held on transportation and NWMO received input on the questions in its discussion document.

A Council member noted that a lot of the discussions surrounding transportation may take place on social media and encouraged NWMO to consider this in its preparation to shape the discussion. A Council member suggested that correcting serious misinformation on social media will be very important. Another Council member suggested it will take many years to build knowledge and a level of awareness of people on the transportation routes, and NWMO should undertake a steady year by year process to provide education.

**12. APM Technical Program Update**

Council members were provided with an update on the work underway in NWMO's technical program.

**13. Review of Progress on OPG's L&ILW DGR**

The Council was provided with an update on NWMO's work to support the OPG L&ILW DGR.

A Council member asked about the request for proposal regarding climate change. Ms. Swami noted that there had been several severe weather events over the last couple of years and an analysis of near term climate change effects on the project needed to be undertaken. Council also discussed staffing levels at NWMO for the work related to the OPG L&ILW DGR.

**14. Next Meeting of the Advisory Council**

The next meeting of the Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

**15. 2017 Annual Tracking Matrix – In Camera**

The Advisory Council met in camera to discuss its annual tracking matrix. The Council then met in camera without management present.

**16. Termination of Meeting**

Council members and NWMO management thanked David Crombie and Eva Ligeti for completing their contributions, and long and productive terms of service to the NWMO Advisory Council.

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:20 pm.

*Dated the 20th day of March, 2018*

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David Cameron  
Advisory Council Chair