

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: May 27, 2015 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 May 27, 2015

Advisory Council Members Present:

David Cameron, Vice Chairman  
Dean Jacobs  
Eva Ligeti  
Derek Lister  
Dougal McCreath  
Donald Obonsawin  
Linda Thompson

Regrets

Hon. David Crombie      Council Chairman  
Diane Kelly              Advisory Council Member

NWMO Staff Present:

Ken Nash                  President and CEO  
Kathryn Shaver         VP, APM Engagement and Site Selection  
Gillian Morris          Assistant Board Secretary

Contributing Staff:

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel    Director, APM Geoscience  
Jo-Ann Facella            Director, Social Research & Dialogue  
John Fraser                Director, Community Engagement  
Lisa Frizzell               Director, Corporate Affairs  
Paul Gierszewski         Director, Safety & Licensing (items 7-11)  
Monique Hobbs          Siting Project Coordination Manager  
Elena Mantagaris         Director, Government & External Relations  
Sean Russell               Director, Environmental Assessment  
Bob Watts                 Director, Aboriginal Community Relations  
Derek Wilson              VP, Design and Construction (items 7-11)

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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

The Vice-Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was agreed as written. David Cameron introduced and welcomed two new Members of the Advisory Council: Linda Thompson and Dean Jacobs. The Chair noted that new member Diane Kelly was unable to attend today's meeting. Mr. Cameron also recognized the significant contributions to NWMO's work of the four outgoing members of Council: Fred Gilbert; Marlyn Cook; Michel Rheaume; and Wes Cragg.

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

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved the record of the meeting convened on February 9 and in camera on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with two minor editorial changes. Council members requested that the minutes reflect not only the questions asked by Council members, but also NWMO's responses.

## **STANDING ITEMS AND UPDATES FROM NWMO**

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

Mr. Nash reported on recent activities in the NWMO work program:

- NWMO staff member Sean Russell is retiring, and Mr. Nash introduced the Council to Monique Hobbs who is taking over as the Siting Project Coordination Manager;
- the siting process continues to progress with each region moving at its own pace;
- work on proving the engineered barrier system continues to progress well, NWMO is receiving positive feedback from other countries on its work;
- important dialogue with the regulator continues regarding its role in pre-licensing work during Phase 2 site selection and proof testing;
- NWMO is in the advanced stages of updating the five-year lifecycle cost estimate;
- the results of the Joint Review Panel report on the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Low and Intermediate Level (L&ILW) DGR demonstrated that a strong safety case was made;
- Mr. Nash discussed a recent request for proposal that was issued by the Ontario Government regarding the viability of building fast reactors for the purposes of improving waste management, and;
- Mr. Nash reported on a recent meeting of NWMO's international counterparts in Finland and the progress in waste management in other countries.

A Council member reported receiving correspondence from an individual regarding an alternate waste management option. Mr. Nash reported that NWMO and the Board of Directors had received the same letter and had sent a response. Council requested a copy of NWMO's response to the letter. (\*) Council discussed how they would like to respond to letters addressed either individually to Council members or to the Council as a whole. Several Council members agreed that any letter received should be brought via the Chair to Council for discussion and a coordinated response.

A Council member asked how NWMO ensures the public perceives the regulator as independent while reviewing NWMO's work. Ms. Shaver reported that NWMO's agreements with the regulator are publicly available and that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) works directly with the communities without the presence of NWMO staff. A Council member asked whether the CNSC formally responds to NWMO's submissions. Ms. Shaver reported that there are formal responses provided from the CNSC on NWMO's safety case studies, but informal responses in workshop settings is also provided.

A Council member asked if there was anything to be learned from failed siting experiences in other countries. A staff member reported that understanding how to support communities in their interest in the project is an important learning from other international experiences.

#### **4. APM Overview and Risk Assessment**

As requested by Council members, as context for Council's advice and discussion, management highlighted key areas of business risk relevant to near-term activities in APM implementation. Staff focused on emerging trends and developments since the Council last met in February.

#### **5. APM Site Selection Process: Status Update**

Kathryn Shaver provided the Council with an update on recent and planned site assessment activities.

Developments were reported by staff for each siting study area. For each study area, staff reviewed initial field work plans and activities and progress with municipal and Aboriginal engagement relationship-building that is proceeding in parallel with early Phase 2 assessments.

Council members discussed the status update. A Council member notes that she was pleased to see NWMO had been invited to speak in schools as an important part of informing the communities. Council members also discussed with management, First Nation representation on the Community Liaison Committees and how communities integrate work across regions. Council members asked about the approach to contracting for field work expertise, and about the sufficiency of NWMO staff to manage the contracts. Staff confirmed that NWMO is resourced to oversee the contracted work.

Council members stated that they appreciated the shift to NWMO's reporting of work by siting area, and found the new reporting format to be very useful.

#### **6. Recognizing Community Contributions – Phase 2 initial Studies (In Camera)**

Jo-Ann Facella reviewed NWMO's recommendations for recognizing community contributions in Phase 2 of the initial siting studies.

#### **7. Preliminary Business Planning**

Ken Nash reviewed NWMO's annual business planning initiative with the Council, reporting that the plan will be based on two major projects: Phase 2 site selection and proof testing of the engineered barrier system. He discussed the unpredictability of specific timelines associated with site selection and that the timing has a range of

implications for the expenditure levels over the next five years. He reported that the business planning results will be incorporated into a five-year update on the lifecycle costs which will be reported to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada in the 2016 Annual Report.

Council members discussed the status of the program for proof testing the engineered barrier. Mr. Wilson reported that the project is well defined and supported by detailed planning. A Council member asked about whether NWMO considers container research earlier undertaken by AECL in its work. Mr. Wilson reported NWMO does consider data from earlier AECL research.

#### **8. Nature of Agreements and Involvement of Aboriginal Communities / Organizations**

Mr. Nash reported that NWMO has made commitments directly or indirectly related to Aboriginal peoples through its Aboriginal Policy, local procurement policy, site selection process and statement regarding working towards partnerships in Phase 2 site selection which have all been reviewed and agreed to by the Board of Directors. Mr. Nash noted that translating these documented statements and principles into practice will continue to evolve and will be critical to NWMO's success as NWMO seeks to move forward in partnership.

Bob Watts reviewed the range of NWMO's agreements with Aboriginal organizations and communities, and the underlying basis for these agreements.

Noting that NWMO is no longer actively assessing sites in Saskatchewan, a Council member asked if NWMO is still working with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN). Mr. Watts responded that NWMO is winding down its work with FSIN by completing some legacy work items with the organization.

Council Members discussed the relationships and interaction between municipalities and the surrounding first nations in the APM siting process. A Council member asked about NWMO's work with women's organizations in Aboriginal communities. Mr. Watts noted that NWMO does have ongoing dialogue with various Aboriginal women's organizations, including delivering presentations and providing opportunities for site visits and learning about APM.

#### **9. Joint Review Panel Report on the L&ILW DGR**

Paul Gierszewski informed the Council that the Joint Panel Review (JRP) Report was released on May 6, 2015 and it contained a list of 97 recommendations, 89 of which were for OPG and 9 of which were for the Federal authorities. NWMO is currently assessing possible impacts of those recommendations on APM.

Dr. Gierszewski informed the Council that the JRP report contained a strong endorsement of the safety case model and of NWMO's capability to prepare a safety case. Dr. Gierszewski discussed the types of recommendations in the report and the next steps. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) has issued a set of draft license conditions which are available for formal comment and based upon those comments, the Minister of the Environment will then make a decision.

Mr. Wilson reported that NWMO is conducting a detailed review of the recommendations which could have an impact on cost and scheduling. Council members discussed the possible timing of a decision and requested the electronic link to the JRP Report. (\*)

## **10. Building Relationships**

Council received NWMO's reports on building relationships which included information on the external landscape, engagement activities, media coverage and recent meetings of the Council of Elders.

Council members discussed work underway with Aboriginal groups and the request for proposal issued by the Province of Ontario for a Feasibility Study on Recycling Used CANDU Fuel.

## **11. APM Technical Program Update**

Derek Wilson discussed the progress in the engineered barrier design and proof testing program since the last meeting. He reported that the plan is being executed in accordance with the reference Project Execution Plan (PEP) baseline schedule as of November 2014. Highlights during this period included:

- production of the first large bentonite block (1/5<sup>th</sup> scale);
- completion the APM Mark 1 and Mark 2 conceptual design reports; and
- progress in the development of emplacement equipment prototypes and bentonite placement techniques.

Mr. Wilson reported that NWMO's Chris Hatton will be receiving the 2015 Canadian Nuclear Innovation Achievement Award at the upcoming Canadian Nuclear Society Conference for his work on the Mark 2 container design.

Council members asked about international funding and involvement in NWMO's research work. Mr. Wilson reported that NWMO has protocol agreements with a number of international organizations.

## **12. In camera session**

Council members held an in camera discussion with Kathryn Shaver and Ken Nash. Council members requested a copy of the NWMO Code of Conduct. (\*)

## **Termination of Meeting**

The Vice-Chairman declared the meeting for the day terminated at 2:55 pm.

Dated the 21st day of September, 2015

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*David Cameron*  
*Advisory Council Vice-Chair*

(\*) Denotes actions to be taken