

Advisory Council to the  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization

**Record of Discussion: December 4, 2018 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 December 4, 2018

**Advisory Council Members Present:**

David Cameron, Council Chair  
Donald Obonsawin, Vice Chair  
Monica Gattinger  
Sue Hartwig  
Derek Lister  
Dougal McCreath  
Linda Thompson  
Diane Kelly (items 4-19)  
Joseph Cavalancia (items 4-19)  
Dean Jacobs

**NWMO Staff Present:**

Laurie Swami	President and CEO (items 1-16)
Mahrez Ben Belfadhel	VP Site Selection (items 1-17)
Jo-Ann Facella	Director, Social Research & Dialogue (items 1-14)
Lisa Frizzell	VP Stakeholder Relations (items 1-16)
Joe Gaboury	Director Aboriginal Relations (items 1-14)
Gillian Morris	Board Secretary (items 1-17)
Doug Taylor	VP & General Counsel (items 1-14)
Bob Watts	VP, Indigenous Relations (item 7 via conference call)
Allan Webster	Director, Regulatory Affairs & Environmental Assessment (items 8-12)
Derek Wilson	Chief Engineer & VP Contract Management (Items 1-14)

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. The Chair acknowledged Toronto and NWMO are located in Indigenous Territory, the Dish with One Spoon Territory.

2. **Safety Moment**

Mr. Belfadhel provided a safety moment on the hazards of stairs and injuries from falls on stairs.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting / Action Items

The draft minutes and in camera minutes from the September 18, 2018 meeting were reviewed and approved by Council members. Council members asked the Board Secretary to check one item in the minutes and report back to Council (\*).

4. President's Report

The CEO provided a comprehensive year-end summary of NWMO's work outlining NWMO's ongoing organizational transformation, accomplishments and successes, obstacles faced and lessons learned. Ms. Swami touched on a very wide array of topics which included: changes within NWMO; the new Enterprise Resource Planning system implementation; progress in the siting process and borehole drilling permission; developments in the technical program and NWMO's increased visibility strategy. The CEO also discussed changes in the external landscape impacting NWMO and a summary NWMO's work plans for 2019. Ms. Swami recognized the hard work of all of NWMO staff in 2018 to achieve the numerous accomplishments.

Council members discussed some of the changes in the external landscape in 2018. A Council member asked if NWMO would be providing formal input to Bill C-69 (Impact Assessment Act). Ms. Swami reported that NWMO has given input to the bill through various channels. Council members also asked about the process through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) to gain permission to drill the second and third Borehole in the Ignace/Wabigoon area. Ms. Swami reported that some lessons were learned from the process and would be applied to NWMO's future work.

At the request of Council, the President also provided a brief summary with a slide presentation of her attendance at the Wabigoon Women's Circle.

5. Update on APM Site Selection

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel provided the Council with an update on the status of engagement in the APM Site Selection process, highlighting the reporting period from August 2018 through October 2018.

Mr. Ben Belfadhel reported on key developments which included:

- Gaining permission to continue with borehole drilling in Ignace/Wabigoon;
- Maintaining and building indigenous relationships with new agreements being signed with two national Indigenous organizations;
- The results of the recent municipal elections.

Derek Wilson provided the Council with an update on site assessment activities underway in the APM Siting Process, highlighting the reporting period from September 2018 through November 2018.

A Council member asked management for further details related to the leaning and sharing gathering held in Treaty 3. Mr. Ben Belfadhel discussed the gathering with the Council.

Items 6-7 were discussed In Camera.

8. Visibility Strategy

Lisa Frizzell led the discussion on NWMO's visibility strategy. Ms. Frizzell talked about the broad support that will be needed once a single site is selected and outlined NWMO's plans for achieving the needed support. She reported that NWMO will maximize its resources by learning what provides the maximum impact and reach and adapt plans as needed. Work has also been undertaken to identify any gaps in NWMO's communication plans.

Council members provided a number of suggestions in relation to the visibility strategy:

- NWMO should emphasize "social safety" and how to involve communities in defining safety;
- NWMO's communications should signify citizens helped NWMO design APM, not just willing communities, but a broad cross section of Canadians – it was a bottom up plan;
- NWMO should not only looking at who it will need support from when a site decision is made, but also who will lend critical support if NWMO faces significant challenges;
- When NWMO embarks on its safety analysis to ensure to involve communities in identifying safety concerns;
- NWMO should inform and involve thought leaders who are interested in broader issues, or others such as academics, and those beyond the nuclear sector;
- NWMO should be emphasizing the theme of excellence in its communications – being an international gold standard is a very important message, and should include communication on NWMO's technical work.

A Council member asked about Indigenous involvement in the visibility strategy. Ms. Frizzell noted that Indigenous involvement is seen to be interwoven through every aspect of NWMO's work and is not a distinct category.

Ms. Frizzell stated that NWMO will need to continually assess its progress and monitor changes in the external landscape over the next 4 years, as many people and things can change in the transforming external environment.

9. Item 9 was discussed In Camera.

10. Status of Triennial Report Recommendations

Management provided the Council with an update on the status of the recommendations outlined by the Advisory Council in the Triennial Report (2014 – 2016), and identified actions going forward. Mr. Ben Belfadhel reported that management was seeking confirmation of the status of recommendations presented.

Council reviewed NWMO's report addressing its recommendations. Council members noted that they were interested in received the Journey of Water #2 presentation in March (\*).

The Council agreed that NWMO has satisfactorily addressed all 13 recommendations from the 2014-2016 Triennial Report in a systematic and traceable manner. Staff committed to continue briefing the Council on related topics in future years. Council asked that there be regular updates provided on the participatory approach to engaging the public on safety (\*).

Triennial Report Recommendations: Ethical & Social Framework

Management provided the Council with an update on work underway to address the Advisory Council's recommendations concerning updating the NWMO's Ethical and Social framework in order to increase its relevance to the site selection phase of the Adaptive Phased Management process.

11. Triennial Report Recommendations: Development of an Environment Statement

Management updated the Council on work underway in response to the recommendation that the NWMO develop a Statement of Corporate Environmental Responsibility and presented a draft statement for Council's review.

Council had a thorough discussion on the statement presented. A Council member asked if NWMO should have a more active environment agenda and take a leadership role on the environment. Mr. Webster stated that NWMO does not want to impose its own agenda on communities, and that the work required will be determined by the communities' needs. A Council member suggested that the statement, at the beginning, might want to be more reflective of the partnership aspect of NWMO's work. Another Council member suggested that NWMO should consider including criteria for its contractors, as much of NWMO's work is conducted by third parties (\*).

12. Triennial Report Recommendations: Progress and Year-End Report on Community Engagement on Safety

Management shared with the Advisory Council an update on ongoing progress in engaging the public and communities in discussions about safety. NWMO's goal is to ensure that concerns are addressed, scenarios that are considered are inclusive, and that technical and social safety are clearly linked.

Council members appreciated the summary provided and a member commented that this was a good step to define what safety means from a social perspective. Council also suggested that using well understood analogies can be helpful. Another Council member suggested the time frame of "millions of years" is not relevant as people live above ore bodies which could have the same radioactivity as the DGR after a certain number of years. A Council member also suggested using the word "consequences" has a negative connotation. A Council member suggests NWMO will need to reflect historically on its thought process when it submits the results of the siting process and it will be important to document this – information management will be important. Another Council member suggested that NWMO will consider how it will have a publicly accessible version of the documents prepared for the environmental assessment which could number in the thousands of pages.

13. Report from Council Members' Participation at the Municipal Forum and Council of Elders

Mahrez Ben Belfadhel reported that the November Municipal Forum meeting was cancelled due to a conflicting event and due to unforeseen circumstances the Council member representative was unable to attend the Fall Council of Elders' meeting.

14. Building Relationships

The Council was provided with updates on the following:

- recent Council of Elders' meetings;
- the external landscape;
- progress on youth engagement;
- an analysis of media reports;
- transportation engagement and planning framework; and
- APM Engineered Barrier, Proof Testing Progress and Technical Transportation.

A Council member asked questions about NWMO's stakeholder mapping in the transportation program and asked to be briefed on this topic at a future Council meeting (\*).

Items 15-18 were discussed in camera

Termination of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting terminated at 2:45 pm.

*Dated the 25th day of March, 2019*

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David Cameron  
Advisory Council Chair