

NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2013 Advice

Recommendations	Action taken
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SITE SELECTION PROCESS	
<p><i>At the January 28, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member agreed that since there were five broad regions engaged in the siting process, NWMO might consider carrying a diverse selection of regions forward in the siting process and be explicit about the basis for doing this. • A Council member suggested that NWMO formally add spiritual surveys to the list of activities in the assessments process and that NWMO investigate the spiritual aspects in a general way now before waiting for a specific site to be chosen. Council urged NWMO to make explicit its plan to include spiritual ceremonies with Elders as part of the next phase of the assessment process. • A Council member suggested that as NWMO narrows down the communities, it is important for the other communities in the area to stay involved as part of the regional engagement process. • A Council member suggested NWMO ask young Aboriginal people to write stories about their communities (not directly related to NWMO) and is important to them in their communities. <p><i>At the February 11, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council emphasized the importance of well developed communications for reporting out on the results of assessments. Management agreed to continue to bring this topic forward through the year for Council discussion. <p><i>At the May 27-28, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council believed NWMO adopted the right approach to the assessments and noted the approach is trackable and transparent. Staff were congratulated on their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO has addressed the diversity of siting areas in the decision document summarizing the first Phase 1 assessments. • Spiritual surveys and ceremonies have been added to NWMO's plans for phase 2. • NWMO's plans for Phase 2 assessment involve regional engagement and plans to invite continued involvement of communities not proceeding in the siting process. • NWMO will bring forward the idea to discuss with the Council of Elders as an option for Aboriginal communities to consider. • Communications items were addressed on the May, September and November 2013 Council agendas. • No action required.

Recommendations	Action taken
<p>Council provided advice on the structure of the assessment reports and contents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Council member proposed that environment sections of the reports should recognize explicitly not only impacts to be mitigated or managed, but also the positive opportunities for the APM project to make real and substantive enhancements to the community's environmental management and sustainability initiatives. • Council urged that the summary assessment reports include reference to how Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge had been considered and would be considered in future phases. Staff confirmed that this information, presently in background reports, would be carried forward to the summaries. • Council members urged NWMO to include an executive summary in layman's terms, to precede the more technical streams of assessment reporting. Council urged that the summary be developed in a way that would resonate with the communities involved, and reflect their contribution, the collaboration on the assessments and the full journey that each community has taken since its engagement with NWMO. Council members also emphasized that the results of the assessment are a result of a dialogue with the community and this should be reflected in the report. <p>Council members offered suggestions to staff on the definition of the program to recognize community contributions. It is noted that some Council members were not in favour of the idea of monetary awards.</p> <p>In discussing preliminary thoughts for capacity building in Phase 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members were asked by staff for views on the scope, investment and time frames for broadening discussion of the APM project to the surrounding areas and region, to discuss regional impacts of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Council member suggested it is important to invest significantly with the siting communities in Phase 2, and encourage their regional cooperation with Municipal and Aboriginal neighbours. ○ Council cautioned against building up expectations in different regions of the country, recognizing there would only be one host community. ○ Another Council member noted there is a need for framework development now on the topic of regional planning implications of the APM project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions were taken into account as reports were finalized for first 8 communities. • Assessment reports address Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. • Further to Council's advice, introductory sections have been added to Integrated Assessment Reports, tailored to reflect each community's journey in the siting process. • This advice was taken into account in draft program documents brought forward for discussion at September and November meetings. • Comments were taken into account in development of plans for Phase 2 • Phase 2 will include expanded capacity-building and involvement of surrounding areas and Aboriginal communities. • NWMO will expand discussion of partnerships.

Recommendations	Action taken
<p><i>At the September 16-17, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members discussed the results of the first 8 preliminary assessments and provided advice on the process for releasing the results to the community. • Council members reviewed NWMO’s proposed plan for recognizing community contributions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council members had varying opinions on the amount of the contribution but some strongly recommended the Board consider a slightly higher amount than proposed which would be a stronger demonstration of recognition from NWMO. ○ In communicating messages about the uses of funds, Council agreed with providing a broad scope so that communities can direct funds according to their own priorities but provided some suggestions on wording. ○ Council also felt that communications should emphasize communities’ strong contributions to the NWMO process, and the genuine contribution to the learning process. ○ Council members noted that recognizing these communities may set precedents for the future phases of siting investigations. <p><i>At the November 27-28, 2013 meeting while discussing early activities for the Phase 2 preliminary assessments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members suggested that, in addition to the duty to consult, there are broader regulatory requirements that may be triggered when NWMO begins seeking permits and NWMO should investigate what processes might be triggered as it may also engage others outside of the interested communities. • A Council member asked about permitting processes and suggested that there was a lot of expertise in this area on the Advisory Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO incorporated Council’s feedback in the communications planning and process for releasing the results of the first 8 assessments to the communities in November. • The Board of Directors was provided with the Council’s input for its decision making in September as the program was finalized.

TRANSPORTATION	
<p><i>At the February 11, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council asked that its ongoing concerns related to the social acceptance of transportation issues be acknowledged. Council has requested a special session on the societal aspects of transportation in 2013. • <p><i>At the May 27-28, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council suggested refinements and elaboration to provide clarity in public communication of transportation safety. A Council member proposed that it would be helpful to have a single document available for the public that addressed technical safety, regulation and other areas of public interest. <p><i>At the November 27-28, 2013 meeting, Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underscored the importance of advancing outreach on transportation and developing a deeper understanding of societal perspectives on transportation including different potential modes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This topical session was planned as a primary item for the May 27th Council meeting. • Staff reported that a 25-page booklet had been produced for this purpose. The booklet was made available to Council during the meeting. NWMO noted it would be continuing to expand its public material and exhibits on transportation. • Staff reviewed the expanding engagement program on transportation, and proposed a possible near term activity in the form of a focus group on transportation to probe these issues
BUSINESS PLANNING	
<p>(also see advice provided on siting and engagement)</p> <p><i>At the September 16-17, 2013 meeting, Council discussed NWMO's proposed capacity building program for communities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council suggested that within the general cost envelope, it will be important to retain some budgetary flexibility as experience may reveal that the response and need for resources may vary across the major grouping of communities and siting areas. Suggestions were offered by Council members on areas requiring clarification as publications are prepared. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO agreed that flexibility will be required, and responsiveness to community needs.

EVOLVING EXTERNAL LANDSCAPE / COMMUNICATIONS	
<p><i>At the February 11, 2013 meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council recommended updates to the risk framework to address the challenges and risks associated with messaging that was occurring through digital media. To maintain the trust that NWMO has built up over the years, Council suggested that NWMO needs to reiterate its commitments to its core values and ethical framework, and principles embedded in the site selection process. Council members requested further discussion on NWMO’s ethical framework at a future meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At its May meeting, Council was updated on how these additional considerations were incorporated into a revised risk framework. • NWMO will bring forward further discussion of the ethical framework to a future meeting.
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT	
<p><i>At the November 27-28 Advisory Council Meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council suggested that NWMO’s future corporate social responsibility program could focus on schools in the interested communities (recognizing that this is difficult with a large number of communities in the process). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO will consider this suggestion as it develops future phases of the program.
COUNCIL OF ELDERS / ABORIGINAL ENGAGEMENT	
<p><i>At the January 28, 2013 Special Meeting on interweaving Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in NWMO’s work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member emphasized the need for NWMO to continue to engage Elders to learn how to incorporate Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge into its decision-making processes. • A Council member suggested NWMO review models where Aboriginal Traditional knowledge has been successfully integrated in projects and that there had been some significant work on how to bring the two distinct world views together in the justice system. • Council members urged NWMO to involve First Nations contractors as early as possible in the site selection process. • A Council member suggested that NWMO’s dialogue with Aboriginal Peoples should continue to be broader than with just those communities in the siting areas. • Council members encouraged NWMO to invite a “northern” elder to join the Council of Elders. • Council asked to be kept updated as new appointments to the Council of Elders were made. • Council suggested NWMO learn from Hydro-Quebec’s work with the Cree organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO continues to engage Elders on ATK in both its Council of Elders discussion and with Elders in the siting areas. • NWMO has engaged services of experienced Aboriginal contractors for advice on phase 1 and phase 2 assessments. • NWMO engages with Aboriginal people through outreach to a large number of communities in siting regions, Treaty Organizations and Tribal Councils and provincial and national organizations. • Council receives updates on appointments of Elders at each meeting.

<p>At the May 27-28, 2013 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members encouraged NWMO to develop a framework for long-term future relationships with Aboriginal people. Recognizing that NWMO is years away from identifying the host community, Council suggested that there may be a range of models that may be appropriate to consider for future partnerships with communities and Aboriginal people. <p>At the September 16-17, 2013 meeting Council members were presented with NWMO's plans for applying the Aboriginal policy in Step 3, Phase 2 of site selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Council member recommended that when developing partnerships, NWMO must look beyond just interests of the project and focus on creating sustainable communities. This would be consistent with NWMO's focus on fostering community well-being. A Council member suggested NWMO understand the experiences of some mining companies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO will continue to seek advice on next steps for framework development of future partnerships. • A greater emphasis on partnerships was incorporated into the November 2013 communications documents and is planned for future communications. • This advice will be considered as plans are developed for Phase 2 and subsequent phases of the siting process.
COMMUNICATIONS	
<p>At the May 27-28, 2013 meeting, Council discussed communications for the fall rollout of the assessments:</p> <p>Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested that NWMO develop a questions and answers package for Council's use in responding to any enquiries about the assessment process and its results; • Sought clarification on how the assessment criteria and process had been discussed with communities. • Sought confirmation from NWMO that social media would be considered as the communications plan is developed; and • Urged that NWMO be clear and consistent in communicating the key message that the objective is an informed and willing host community, and that this is a community driven process. • The Council encouraged NWMO to provide direct briefings to the Mayors of each community and encouraged NWMO to then work with the Mayors on communicating the results to the broader community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Q&A package and backgrounders were distributed to Council to support the November communications. • NWMO confirmed that publications and presentations over the last two years have addressed siting criteria and methodology for transparency. • Social medial strategy has been initiated with the Q4 2013 hire of a dedicated resource to support implementation of the social medial activities • Message is clear in Fall 2013 communications • NWMO worked with each community leader to confirm appropriate approach.

<p>At the September 16-17, 2013 meeting Council members discussed NWMO's draft communications plan for releasing the assessment findings for the first 8 communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council members suggested the timing of notifying neighbouring communities should be as soon as possible after the host communities to ensure accurate and timely provision of information to those interested; • A Council member strongly recommended a personal approach to delivering the assessment findings to communities; • A Council member suggested NWMO contact radio stations in the north to ensure facts are provided by NWMO; • Council members provided some editorial feedback on the communications materials for greater clarity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWMO has worked with each community to plan out timely notification to surrounding communities. • Staff will be in the communities for the delivery of assessment findings, and for follow up discussions in the weeks following. • Outreach to radio stations included in communications roll out in November. • Feedback was dispositioned as material finalized.
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY</p>	
<p>At its November 27-28, 2013 meeting, Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested NWMO should explore environmental integrity broadly, to go beyond meeting the minimum requirements of the environmental assessment and consider broader potential opportunities to foster communities respective priorities for environmental programs and sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This advice is taken under advisement for consideration in future partnership discussions with communities. • In the interim, staff are reviewing materials forwarded by a Council member with examples of such initiatives.