

BACKGROUNDER



Nuclear Waste Management Organization

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Vision, Mission and Values

Our vision is the long-term management of Canada's nuclear waste in a manner that safeguards people and respects the environment, now and in the future.

The purpose of NWMO is to develop and implement, collaboratively with Canadians, a management approach for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel that is socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible and economically feasible.

VALUES

The fundamental beliefs that guide us in our work include:

Integrity: We will conduct ourselves with openness, honesty and respect for all persons and organizations with whom we deal.

Excellence: We will pursue the best knowledge, understanding and innovative thinking in our analysis, engagement processes and decision-making.

Engagement: We will seek the participation of all communities of interest and be responsive to a diversity of views and perspectives. We will communicate and consult actively, promoting thoughtful reflection and facilitating a constructive dialogue.

Accountability: We will be fully responsible for the wise, prudent and efficient management of resources, and be accountable for all our actions.

Transparency: We will be open and transparent in our process, communications and decision-making, so that the approach is clear to all Canadians.

Moving Forward Together

The management of used nuclear fuel involves very long time frames, complex technical questions, and challenging social and ethical considerations. Canadian citizens expect and deserve to be involved in deciding major public policy questions. The NWMO has worked hard to listen to Canadians and is committed to continuing an open, transparent dialogue as we move ahead to implement Canada's approach for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel.

The Government of Canada's decision to accept NWMO's recommendation for Adaptive Phased Management assigned the organization an important role in ensuring the long-term safety of Canadians and our environment in the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. NWMO is enhancing its processes to draw on the best technical expertise in Canada and internationally, and developing its ability to benefit from the knowledge of specialists, perspectives of citizens, and wisdom of Aboriginal people to address the social, ethical and technical challenges. The successful long-term management of used nuclear fuel is dependent on NWMO's commitment to moving forward together and collaboratively with Canadians.

For more information, please contact:

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ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

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The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) was established in 2002 by Ontario Power Generation Inc. (OPG), Hydro-Québec and New Brunswick Power Corporation in accordance with the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (NFWA) to assume responsibility for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. Used nuclear fuel is presently safely stored on an interim basis at licensed facilities at nuclear reactor sites in Ontario, Québec and New Brunswick, where it is generated, and at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's (AECL) nuclear research facility in Manitoba.

NWMO's first mandate was to study options for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. In 2005, NWMO completed its study and put forward its recommendation to Government. On June 14, 2007, the Government of Canada selected the NWMO's recommendation for Adaptive Phased Management (APM). APM moves towards a goal that Canadians themselves identified: safe and secure long-term containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel produced in Canada, with flexibility for future generations to act in their own best interests. The NWMO now has the mandate to implement the recommendation.

Effective January 1, 2009, the NWMO became its own employer with supporting infrastructure. The NWMO also entered into a services agreement with OPG to develop and license the electricity generating company's proposed repository project for low and intermediate level waste in Kincardine, Ontario,

Board of Directors

The NWMO Board of Directors is responsible for oversight of the organization and taking a leadership role in the development of the organization's strategic direction. Members recognize the importance of ensuring that the Board reflects the appropriate skills, experience and competencies required to oversee the managerial, financial and operational activities associated with the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The Board also includes independent directors to ensure a diversity of views. For biographical information on the NWMO Board of Directors, please visit www.nwmo.ca/board.



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The Advisory Council

The Nuclear Fuel Waste Act requires that the NWMO appoint an Advisory Council to review and comment on its study and its triennial reports following the Government's selection of a long-term management approach for used nuclear fuel. An Advisory Council was established in 2002, and in addition to meeting its statutory obligations, it provides ongoing independent guidance and advice to the NWMO. This group of individuals is knowledgeable in nuclear waste management, experienced in working with citizens and communities on a range of public policy issues and in the areas of nuclear physics, environment, chemistry, geosciences, strategic communications and Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. For biographical information on the Advisory Council, please visit www.nwmo.ca/advisorycouncil.

NWMO Staff

The NWMO is staffed by a team of professionals with a wide range of experience and skills which include social, ethical and technical research, public engagement, finance and governance. The organization works with an extended group of consultants, practitioners and academics from across Canada and internationally to ensure that its work benefits from the best available research and experience.

The NWMO has responsibility for directing and managing all aspects of the established Canadian social and technical research on used nuclear fuel, in addition to siting and concept design development. The research program focuses on used fuel storage and repository engineering, geosciences, safety assessment, and technical support to the development of a collaborative siting process. Contracts with many Canadian universities support this research.

Implementing a long-term management process for used nuclear fuel requires an understanding of the many social issues and concerns associated with this issue. Dialogue and collaboration are the important means through which the NWMO understands what are the social issues and concerns to Canadians.

The NWMO will continue to learn from and contribute to Canadian and international developments in public engagement concerning radioactive waste management. Canadians have told us that they want the NWMO to continue to build new knowledge, inform the public about emerging innovations, seek third-party verification, consider the work of other countries, assure that best knowledge and expertise is applied, measure actions against independent benchmarks, report in easy-to-understand, non-technical language and ensure ongoing involvement in decision-making.

Our team

(Left to right) Kenneth Birch, Debbie Williams, Janet David, Kevin Orr, Angelo Castellan, Angela Ciccotelli, Jo-Ann Facella, Michael Hung, Mahrez Ben Belfadhel, Branko Semec, Robin Frizzell, Daniela Heimlich, Patrick Moran, Dylan Luhowy, Frank King, Amy Hutchison, Sally Clark-Mills, Kevin Tsang, Jenny Parina, Richard Heystee, Anda Kalvins, Michael Borrelli, Laura Grant, John Kennard, Pat Patton, Paul Hader, Wendy Yan, Jorge Villagran, Jessica Millar, Frank Garisto, Chantal Green, Peter Maak, Maryam Dabir, Tiger Liu, Sean Russell, John Mauti, Gillian Morris, Toivo Wanne, Tammy Yang, Marie Wilson, Jose Freire-Canosa, Peter Simmons, Cynthia Jourdain, Mike Budge, Andre Vorauer, Helen Leung, Mark Gobien, Stella Shiv, Sean O'Dwyer, Nicole DiCarlo, Erik Kremer, Kelly Sedor, Jamie Robinson, Tom Lam, Gloria Kwong, Ken Nash, Michael Krizanc, Atika Khan, Phyllis Pandovski, Larry Starecky, Mark Jensen, Kathryn Shaver, Ulf Stahmer, Jessica Perritt, Mike Garamszeghy, Kitty Lee, John van den Hengel, Deb Rzeplinski, Paul Gierszewski, Gowie Garcia, Alex Covarrubias, Jim McLay, Deanna Wolff, Monica Dias, Eric Sykes, Elena Mantagaris, Ian Walker, Kevin She, Diane Barker

Building an implementing organization...

The NWMO is growing from a small study-based organization to a sustainable corporation with all of the necessary skills and capacity that will be needed to meet the challenges of implementing Adaptive Phased Management, Canada's plan for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel.



Social Research

The NWMO Social Research program supports our ongoing dialogue and collaboration activities including work to engage potentially affected citizens and interested organizations, visioning of the implementation process and the development of decision-making processes. We learn from the experiences of others, exploring the perspectives of citizens and specialists on key issues.

Public Engagement

The NWMO is building long-term relationships to develop awareness, understanding and support for Adaptive Phased Management. The success of Canada's approach for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel is dependent on the involvement of interested Canadians, organizations and Aboriginal people in key decisions through open, transparent and inclusive engagement processes.

Liability Management

The NWMO is responsible for ensuring that the cost estimates for Adaptive Phased Management remain updated and that the funding formula to pay for the plan collects and protects enough money to ensure that its entire costs are covered under a variety of social and economic circumstances, and within the required timeframe.

Technical Research

The NWMO Technical Research program is focused on developing engineering designs for a deep geological repository, advancing geoscience and site characterization methods, and preparing illustrative safety assessments to support development of the siting process. In addition to our in-house staff capabilities, the program benefits from strong working relationships with universities and consultancies, as well as collaboration and participation in joint research, development and demonstration projects internationally.

Corporate

As of January 1, 2009, the NWMO is a stand-alone employer with all of the necessary supporting infrastructure including human resources, finance, legal services, quality assurance and administrative support.