

# NWMO's Dispositioning of the NWMO Advisory Council's 2019 Advice

Advice	Action taken
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>	
<p><b><i>At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <p>Council members were pleased to see the work NWMO is undertaking to communicate clearly and educate communities by building their knowledge of water and how it will interact with the APM repository. Council members provided some advice to NWMO on the Journey of Water #2: Teaching from Mother Earth About Water and Clay presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWMO might consider introducing the two scientific terms: hydraulic conductivity and gradient;</li> <li>• Ensure the presentation is responsive to both non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities;</li> <li>• It would be relevant to include how deep the boreholes were drilled in the Greenland ice sheet (for comparison to the NWMO repository); and</li> <li>• There are a number of other analogues that could be useful in the presentation such as the 500 million year old fossil bed in China, the uranium deposits in Africa and Canada with clay caps, and the Cigar Lake uranium ore deposit in Canada.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWMO will reflect upon and work to address the suggestions in future presentations</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council members had an in-depth discussion around the prospect of NWMO taking on a low-level membership in the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA). Council members cautiously agreed that NWMO taking on a minor membership in the CNA is appropriate at this juncture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWMO proceeded with the membership, while making clear to the CNA our neutral position on nuclear power generation.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><i>At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council reviewed NWMO’s draft implementation plan and a Council member suggested that the introduction could better reflect the status of the changing NWMO organization.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWMO reviewed the introduction to introduce this refinement.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Council member suggested that youth should be explicitly considered as they are very influential on climate change issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management reported that there is a youth engagement strategy in place but NWMO will be exploring additional opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council stated the work NWMO was doing to communicate the story of water was effective and NWMO might consider doing something similar on environmental monitoring.</li> <li>• A Council member suggested that some key technical terms (such as hydraulic conductivity, gradients etc.) should be inserted into the story of water as the public’s knowledge of the topic grows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NWMO will be implementing programs similar to the Journey of Water on other topics of interest in the environmental monitoring program.</li> <li>• The NWMO will look for opportunities to incorporate key technical terms in future iterations of the story of water.</li> </ul>
<b>SITING &amp; PARTNERSHIPS</b>	
<p><b><i>At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On NWMO’s community well-being funding program Council suggested that NWMO publicly summarize the uses of the money provided to communities in order to ensure transparency. Management agreed with Council’s idea of writing a high-level summary report on communities’ usage of funds and annually posting it on NWMO’s website.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management agreed with this advice and will provide and post a summary on NWMO’s website.</li> </ul>

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<p><b><i>At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On planning for the Centre of Expertise Council members were very interested in the Centre of Expertise and made suggestions about how NWMO could leverage the use of this CoE in areas of interest to the chosen community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NWMO will consider these types of opportunities as discussions advance with communities on the potential shape of the Centre of Expertise</li> </ul>
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>	
<p><b><i>At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In discussion of the transportation engagement program, a Council member noted the benefits and opportunities are always the most challenging part of these types of projects and recommended that NWMO examine the experiences of other large infrastructure projects. A Council member suggested that it will be important to conduct surveys in the transportation route communities to be able to gauge progress.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWMO will examine the experiences of other linear infrastructure projects with respect to benefits and opportunities related to transportation.</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>At the December 4, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council expressed concern about the possibility of communities along transportation routes passing resolutions against transporting the waste without being well informed on safety. There was also an understanding of the need to balance being transparent and sharing information while also not prematurely creating issues considering the long time frames until waste will be transported.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWMO expects to publish its transportation planning framework in draft form for discussion in 2020, which will provide some additional clarity on plans for transportation.</li> </ul>
<b>RECONCILIATION</b>	
<p><b><i>At the June 17, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council members were impressed with the leading edge work NWMO has undertaken to develop the Reconciliation Policy and are supportive of the policy as written. Council suggested that it will be important for NWMO's partners to share its values on reconciliation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWMO has and continues to communicate its values with respect to reconciliation as part of publishing the policy. NWMO has communicated this broadly, including with communities involved in the site selection process.</li> </ul>

Advice	Action taken
<p><b><i>At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council was impressed with the work NWMO has undertaken to develop the leading edge work on the reconciliation policy and are supportive of the policy as written.</li> <li>• Council members also suggested that NWMO is doing some very innovative things and that these best practices should be documented. Management stated that many of the practices NWMO has implemented will be documented during the impact assessment.</li> <li>• The Council wanted to consider its role and how it can be more active in reconciliation. Council will consider making a statement on Reconciliation in the Triennial Report and will discuss the issue further once they have undergone Reconciliation Training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action required. The NWMO appreciates the support of the Advisory Council on this important initiative.</li> <li>• Management stated that many of the practices NWMO has implemented will be documented during the impact assessment.</li> <li>• Advisory Council members completed Reconciliation Training and are supportive of the Reconciliation statement and policy developed by NWMO. The Council will use the policy as a guide in its work and its conduct</li> </ul>

## IN CAMERA DISCUSSIONS

*Due to the sensitive nature and timing of some of the advice requested by NWMO, it was determined appropriate for the discussions to be in camera in order for Council members to have the freedom to deeply explore the topics and provide advice to the NWMO.*

*Below outlines the nature of those discussions held by Council during 2019. NWMO has listened to the advice and discussed with Council its responses to the Council's advice.*

### SITING & PARTNERSHIPS

#### ***At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- Council highlighted the risks of communities competing with each other and creating a dynamic where NWMO could be perceived as playing communities against each other when there are only two sites remaining.

#### ***At the June 17, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- Council discussed the importance of transparency in the narrowing down process and how the process has been communicated to the siting communities.

#### ***At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- When discussing NWMO's narrowing down of communities Council members suggested that NWMO should be prepared to address any critiques of its decisions as it narrows down communities.

#### ***At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- During a discussion on willingness, Council members strongly supported an approach in which willingness is demonstrated by multiple indicators over time.
- Council had a discussion about how far "willingness" needs to be advanced in the communities before stock-taking.
- Council encouraged NWMO to invite NGO involvement.

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### ***At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- As site selection narrows to two communities/ areas, Council members thought it would be important for NWMO to stick to its established process and criteria in order to ensure fairness. It is also important that NWMO continues to remain open and transparent.

### ***At the September 24, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- Council thought that NWMO might want to consider trade-offs when developing project implementation plans (i.e. one community gets the Centre of Expertise, and the other community gets a different part of the project).

## COMMUNICATIONS

### ***At the June 17, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- Council had a discussion about NWMO's public attitude research. A Council member noted that while they found it encouraging that people's attitudes were able to evolve and fears reduced when provided with fact based information, it was asked how a much less controlled environment with competing negative information might be simulated and explored?

## THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF NWMO'S WORK

### ***At the March 25, 2019 Advisory Council meeting:***

- Staff outlined an approach for a Siting Review Group which focuses on delivering operational level support in the form of review, advice and guidance for the narrowing down process. Council members discussed the proposed group, reflected on composition and how the group, in combination with the Advisory Council advice and other ongoing review activities, might help ensure fairness.