

Subject: Announcement about the development of Canada's Integrated Strategy for radioactive waste

From: "Glenn, Karine" <kglenn@nwm.ca>

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Hello,

I'm writing to share some news about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) you may find of interest.

Today, the Minister of Natural Resources announced that as part of the Government of Canada's Radioactive Waste Policy Review, the NWMO will be tasked with leading a parallel engagement process with Canadians and Indigenous peoples to inform the development of an integrated radioactive waste management strategy. The Government has asked us to take on this important work because of the NWMO's ongoing leadership in used nuclear fuel management and public engagement.

The NWMO was established in 2002 in accordance with the Government of Canada's Nuclear Fuel Waste Act (2002). Canada's plan was developed through extensive collaboration with specialists and the Canadian public. It will see our country's used nuclear fuel safely contained and isolated in a deep geological repository, an approach internationally recognized as the most appropriate and sustainable solution. The plan, known as Adaptive Phased Management (APM), was selected by the Federal Government in June 2007.

Currently, we are advancing a process to identify a suitable site for the project in an area with informed and willing hosts. The process is community driven and designed to ensure that above all the site selected is safe and secure for people and the environment, now and in the future. The process launched in 2010, and 22 municipalities and Indigenous communities expressed interest in participating to learn about the project and explore their potential to host it. Over time, assessing both safety and potential to build supportive, resilient partnerships, we have narrowed our focus. Today, we are considering two areas to host the project: the Township of Ignace and the Municipality of South Bruce, both in Ontario. The project will only proceed with interested communities, First Nation and Métis communities, and surrounding municipalities, working together to implement it.

The NWMO's role in the development of an integrated radioactive waste management strategy for Canada is separate and distinct from our ongoing work implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. We will continue to work with communities and interested parties as we advance the site selection process and technical work, mindful of our goal to identify a single, preferred location for a deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel in an area with informed and willing hosts in 2023.

While we may not have had the opportunity to connect on past work, I wanted to contact you directly to ensure you received this information. We hope to work with you, to invite your participation and collaboration in this process. All points of view are welcome in this dialogue.

Grounded in our ethical and social framework, the NWMO's approach to develop a strategy in support of the Government's Radioactive Waste Review will be guided by science, international best practices, and what is most important to Canadians and Indigenous people. Our values of safety, integrity, excellence, collaboration, accountability and transparency will be central to the design and implementation of this engagement process, which will launch in January 2021.

Conscious of the limitations presented by the COVID 19 pandemic, we will work to establish a process that provides a variety of ways to participate, while respecting public health directives.

We have set up a dedicated website, where you can find our news release and accompanying response to the Minister's tasking (www.nwm.ca/radwasteplanning). I hope these address any immediate questions you may have, until we have time to arrange a more detailed discussion. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me directly

Sincerely,

Karine Glenn, P.Eng., Ing.
Strategic Project Director



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