

Report to Council

Report Title:	Nuclear Waste Management Organization Update		
Prepared By:	Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer		
Department:	Administration		
Date:	October 12, 2021		
Report Number:	CAO2021-23	File Number:	C11AD
Attachments:	NWMO Preliminary Assessment of Potential Suitability Phase 2 Study and Engagement		

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2021-23 – Nuclear Waste Management Organization Update, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer and in doing so and supports Brockton’s participation in the studies as outlined to ensure Brockton’s needs are understood and reflected; and further that the CAO bring forward additional information for Brockton Council’s consideration as applicable to ensure informed engagement in the NWMO Site Selection process.

Report:

Background:

In May 2010, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) began looking for the ideal site for Canada’s used nuclear fuel to be stored safely with a willing host. Two communities remain in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (NWMO) site selection process to find a suitable location to store Canada’s used nuclear fuel- the Township of Ignace and the Municipality of South Bruce.

The NWMO is on step three (3) phase two (2), of their nine (9) step process:

1. NWMO Initiates the Process
2. Initial Screening
3. Preliminary Assessments of Suitability
 - a. Phase One (1): Desktop Studies and Engagement
 - b. Phase Two (2): Field Studies and Engagement**
4. Detailed Site Evaluations
5. Confirm Acceptance to Host the Project
6. Formal Agreement to Host Repository
7. Regulatory Review and Approval Process
8. Construct and Operation of Underground Demonstration Facility

9. Construction and Operations of Facilities

Analysis:

On September 13, 2021, Brockton's Chief Administrative Officer was invited to a meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer's from the Municipality of North Huron and the Municipality of Huron Kinloss, and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) staff. This meeting provided an overview and update of the project as well as a brief discussion on the Regional Studies being conducted by NWMO.

These are the studies and a brief overview.

- Infrastructure Improvement (The Local Traffic Study and a Road Conditions Study) – examining potential effects of having additional people and traffic, including required improvements to roads and other infrastructure.
- The Regional Economic Development – Identifying local and regional economic development opportunities for existing businesses.
- Employment and Workforce – describing how many workers and what skills will be required at key points of the project
- Health – Examining the regional health system to prepare for the new families the project will bring to the area.
- Housing Needs Study – Whether sufficient short-term or long-term housing will be available, and what increased demand may mean for housing prices.
- Environmental – Ensuring the protection of the Teeswater River and local ground water, and that development of the site will not harm sensitive ecosystems or endangered species.
- Well-Being - Examining the effects on education, and other social programs in the region to meet the needs of families.

These are important studies that will take into consideration Brockton's future needs. This is a major infrastructure project that if sited in South Bruce will have implications on the Municipality of Brockton. By providing input early we can ensure Brockton's interests are well represented and we have input now that will benefit Brockton in the future in relation to infrastructure, filling of vacant buildings, housing opportunities, workforce development, ensuring environmental responsibly etc. The NWMO is anticipating that staff time in relation to assisting with the above studies will be approximately one (1) day a month for six (6) months for the CAO with additional staff attending depending on the study topic. There will also be additional staff time required to provide information to the NWMO for their study purposes.

As we advance in this process I propose to look at what additional needs we may wish to invoke to ensure Brockton is formally engaged and informed. Council may wish to consider a Working Group with a formal Terms of Reference to ensure our due diligence on the DGR project to determine how Brockton as a municipality including our residents, farms, tourists and businesses will be best protected and served in determining whether Brockton can support the DGR as neighbouring community. We may wish to develop a Partnership Working Group to work closely with the NWMO through this process such as that formed in Huron-Kinloss and potentially being considered by North Huron.

Sustainability Checklist:

What aspect of the Brockton Sustainable Strategic Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance?

- Do the recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Cultural Vibrancy? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Prosperity? N/A
- Do the recommendations contribute to Environmental Integrity? Yes
- Do the recommendations contribute to the Social Equity? N/A

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective?
N/A

There are no financial implications resulting from this report at this time.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer