

Report to Council

Report Title: Finland Nuclear Repository Tour Update

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: Administration

Date: July 11, 2023

Report Number: CAO2023-12 **File Number:** C11AD

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2023-12 - Finland Nuclear Repository Tour, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer for information purposes.

Report:

Background:

On April 11, 2023 staff brought Report Number CAO2023-07 outlining the invitation to the Nuclear Waste Management Finland Tour to explore firsthand the progress of the project and learn about potential community considerations and best practices to consider.

Council authorized Mayor Peabody and Chief Administrative Officer, Sonya Watson to attend the tour on behalf of the Municipality of Brockton.

Analysis:

The Municipality of Brockton was invited and sponsored by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to attend a tour of the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant in Finland the week of July 3 to 7, 2023. There were nineteen (19) community representatives that participated in this tour, including participants from Protect Our Waterways, Willing to Listen, NWMO, the Municipality of South Bruce, the Township of Huron-Kinloss, and the Municipality of Brockton. Mayor, Chris Peabody and Chief Administrative Officer, Sonya Watson represented Brockton on the tour.

The tour started in Helsinki and participants were brought to Rauma to be closer to the repository site. Participants were presented information on the site selection process and decisions that lead to the site selection in Finland. Having a willing Municipality, a community that was favorable to nuclear, and a location suitable to host of all aspects from production to long-term storage within the island site, lead to the final decision. Participants toured the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant and Posiva Encapsulation Plant, which is

located in the Municipality of Eurajoki. The Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant is one of the two nuclear power plants operating in Finland and is the world’s first permanent geological repository for spent nuclear fuel. The Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant produces 30% of Finland’s electricity. A tour was also held at the Onkalo Spent Nuclear Fuel Repository which is a deep geological repository for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel, and located near the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant. Participants were able to travel 450 meters underground to view the repository currently under construction. This was a valuable perspective to understand the scope and breadth of the project. Participants were also fortunate to be one of the last groups to view the encapsulation plant which is under final construction phase with testing to being shortly. Seeing this plant helped to further understand the processing and sealing process of the fuel bundles for safe storage prior to moving to the underground facility for long-term storage.

On July 6, 2023 the Mayor and CAO met with the Mayor of Eurajoki who outlined from a Municipal perspective the importance of the Olkiluoto Nuclear Power Plant to the community and the Council’s vote to permit the deep geological repository. Overall his message was a very positive one with strong support for nuclear and the benefits related to growth, tax revenues, quality jobs and a strong pillar in the community. Aspects from housing, labour force, housing prices, and community consultations were discussed.

The Municipality of Eurajoki has ambitious plans with an Industrial Park, Shopping Centre, and Clean-Tech development lands available to support the growth from nuclear and other related business. There is also added road networks to support increased travel in the Municipality. The community has benefitted from many local companies working at the various construction projects on site. Businesses, eateries and store fronts in the communities in proximity to the site were full and operational. While the placement of the repository in proximity to the power plant limits some of the transportation considerations that are prevalent in Ontario there is used fuel that will be transferred from another nuclear power plant site in Finland by either land or sea. Finland overall is a very natural environment outside of the City of Helsinki with vast km’s of vegetation, rocks and tree cover and could be comparable for perspective to the Northern areas of Ontario with quaint historic communities throughout.

This was an educational opportunity to gain valuable insight into the first world’s first permanent geological repository for spent nuclear fuel. This will allow the Municipal staff and Council to engage in meaningful conversations as the community of South Bruce engages in the Site Selection Process and consider how we can prepare, ensure due diligence and benefit as a neighbouring community should Canada’s Nuclear Waste Repository proceed in South Bruce.

I would like to thank Council for supporting the opportunity for Mayor Peabody and I to attend this tour arranged by NWMO and to engage in the Learn More Process on behalf of Brockton.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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| What aspect of the Brockton Strategic Action Plan does the content/recommendations in this report help advance? | | |
| • Recommendations help move the Municipality closer to its Vision | | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community | | N/A |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life | | Yes |

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| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development | Yes |
| • Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance | Yes |

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding:

- Do the recommendations represent a sound financial investment from a sustainability perspective? Yes

This tour was paid for by NWMO as part of the Adaptive Phased Management Learn More Process.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer