

Report to Council

Report Title: NWMO Proposed Site Selection Process

Prepared By: Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer

Department: Administration

Date: June 24, 2025

Report Number: CAO2025-08 **File Number:** C11AD, D03NW

Attachments: NWMO Proposed Site Selection Process Discussion Paper

Recommendation:

That the Council of the Municipality of Brockton hereby receives Report Number CAO2025-08 – NWMO Proposed Site Selection Process, prepared by Sonya Watson, Chief Administration Officer, for information purposes and further directs staff related to specific comments as part of the invitation to comment; and acknowledges support for further updates as the NWMO site selection process advances.

Report:

Background:

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) launched the first site selection process in 2010 and concluded the process in 2024 with the selection of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Town of Ignace as the host communities. NWMO will begin launching the site selection process for the second deep geological repository. The first repository site in Ignace will be used for the storage of intermediate- and high-level waste and while there is some capacity for expansion, any changes within the scope of the project at that specific site would require the consent of the host communities and approvals by applicable regulatory processes.

They note that in the spirit of ensuring responsible long-term planning, NWMO is beginning the site selection process for the second repository as a 'may-be-needed-in-the-future' scenario for the future for the storage of the following types of radioactive waste:

- Intermediate-level waste (existing and future);
- Non-fuel high-level waste (existing and future); and
- Used nuclear fuel from future nuclear energy projects intermediate-level and non-fuel high-level waste and used nuclear fuel from future nuclear energy projects.

Analysis:

Staff note that this is not a request for submissions or related to a location, only a request for comment on how the process is conducted as the site selection process is not anticipated to begin until 2028. With the importance of this topic locally we felt it was prudent to bring this to Council's attention. They note in the discussion paper the following:

"An interested community may include an Indigenous community or a municipal community, and ideally, the expression of a joint interest in which neighbouring communities work together. The project will not proceed without the involvement of Indigenous communities. We commit to adopting an engagement approach that will prioritize engagement with Indigenous communities right from the start of the process. Consistent with Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning, and in the spirit of Reconciliation, we acknowledge, respect and honour Indigenous Peoples as rights holders." They also note that co-location through an expansion with the first repository may also be possible with interest from the Ignace community.

NWMO is launching these engagement and public dialogue sessions in order to ensure that the site selection process is ensuring a fair process with informed and willing communities and to reflect the ideas, experience and best advice from across the country including marginalized and underrepresented groups.

They note the proposed goals:

"A. Finding a site that is safe, secure and sustainable: Recognizing that radioactive waste can remain hazardous for long periods of time, we need to ensure that any site that is selected to host the facility will safely contain and isolate intermediate- and high-level radioactive waste for the long term. The site must be in an appropriate geological formation to ensure long-term safety.

B. Finding host communities that are informed and willing: The NWMO will support potentially interested Indigenous and municipal host communities to carefully and thoroughly consider the project's potential benefits and risks before deciding whether they are willing to host it. We commit to engage local Indigenous communities early in the process. We will not proceed without their involvement and support.

C. Fostering ongoing conversations: The NWMO will commit to fostering conversations with Canadians and Indigenous Peoples throughout the process. This includes listening and learning, as well as sharing assessments of health, environmental, social, economic and cultural effects of the project in a transparent manner, and aligned with the NWMO Indigenous Knowledge Policy (2020).

D. Helping to demonstrate and reinforce global excellence: We commit to adhere to and help shape international best practices in the field of radioactive waste management and consent-based siting processes

NWMO is specifically asking the questions on page 7 of the discussion paper, but are open to all reviews and opinions. There is no date that NWMO requires comments to be submitted by and public dialogue sessions are anticipated to begin later this year.

We seek Council's interest and direction in sending in any direct comments related to this upcoming process and will keep Council informed as further information related to this process evolves.

Strategic Action Plan Checklist:

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 N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Heritage, Culture, and Community N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Quality of Life N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Land Use Planning and the Natural Environment N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Economic Development N/A
- Recommendations contribute to achieving Municipal Governance 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 associated with this report.

Reviewed By:



Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Respectfully Submitted by:



Sonya Watson, Chief Administrative Officer