



# Municipality of South Bruce

**MAYOR'S DESK**

P.O. Box 540, 21 GORDON ST E. TEESWATER, ONTARIO N0G 2S0  
Phone (519) 392-6623 Fax (519) 392-6266

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Mayor Peabody and Council,

The Municipality of South Bruce is one of two remaining communities in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) site selection process for the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) project which includes a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) to store Canada's used nuclear fuel. South Bruce has not made a decision to host the project.

In July 2020, the Municipality and the NWMO signed a multi-year funding agreement. This will allow for the study of both advantages and disadvantages that hosting the project may have, and its potential enhancements to the community.

Shortly thereafter, the Municipality of South Bruce welcomed two new employees as part of the team to help the Municipality and the community continue to learn, gather information and evaluate the project. Dave Rushton has assumed the role of Project Manager and Steve Travale as Communications/Public Relations Officer. They join Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Project Coordinator Vivian Kennedy in working collaboratively on this project.

I wanted to reach out and provide an update where things stand in relation to the project, and moving forward will do so on a regular basis. As a regional counterpart, I want to ensure that you have information related to South Bruce's involvement in the site selection process.

Between December 2019 and February 2020, South Bruce conducted nine community workshops which focused on exploring questions, comments and expectations that the community has for the Adaptive Phased Management Project and Canada's plan for used nuclear fuel. On July 28<sup>th</sup>, Council received a final report which summarizes the results of the Project Visioning Workshops. A copy of this document can be found in the agenda package on our municipal website.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Council endorsed a report which presents a draft list of thirty-four principles as they relate to the Municipality's engagement with the NWMO over the next three years. It is the intent that these principles will ensure that questions are answered and information made available to the residents of South Bruce and beyond. They will guide the community in an assessment of, and engagement with, the site selection process and will allow for a well-rounded evaluation.

This list of guiding principles recognizes the questions, concerns, comments and visions which have been brought forward by the community. Input on the list of principles from residents is also being received before it is finalized and sent to the NWMO. The report and draft list of principles is also attached for information.

A number of studies will be undertaken as part of the ongoing engagement and education process. These studies will focus on a number of specific areas, including economic development, agricultural

impact, natural environment, safety, regional benefits and others. These studies will be reviewed by our CLC and Council, and details shared publicly.

Safety is a priority and the project will not be implemented in any location that is not proven to be safe and environmentally sound. The proposal of the draft list of principles, and the various studies which will be conducted in the coming years are critical in guiding the Municipality and the community as South Bruce continues to explore the viability of hosting the project.

It is my hope that you will continue to learn and be informed of the ongoing process in South Bruce. You may wish to explore the resources and funding opportunities provided by the NWMO for communities neighbouring South Bruce, by reviewing the report which is also attached.

Please feel welcome to visit <https://www.town.southbruce.on.ca/> and <https://clcinfo.ca/southbruce/> for more information, and do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Project Manager Dave Rushton at 519-392-6623 or [drushton@southbruce.ca](mailto:drushton@southbruce.ca).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Buckle".

**Robert Buckle**

Mayor, Municipality of South Bruce

Encls



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS  
ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SUITABILITY: PHASE 2

# Resources to Support Engagement of Neighbouring Communities in the NWMO Site Selection Process



UPDATE: JUNE 2017

## I. Introduction

In May 2010, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) launched a process to identify a safe site in an informed and willing community to host facilities for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The principles and decision-making framework to guide the selection of a site were developed collaboratively through a two-year dialogue involving a broad cross-section of Canadians and Aboriginal peoples.

Canada's plan for the long-term care of used nuclear fuel is called Adaptive Phased Management (APM). The ultimate goal of APM is to safely contain and isolate the used fuel in a single deep geological repository (DGR) in a suitable rock formation. The objective of the site selection process is to arrive at a single location for the DGR and associated Centre of Expertise through several phases of progressively more detailed technical, scientific and socio-economic assessment.

The process is advancing through a multi-year series of steps to ensure that, above all, the site selected is safe and secure, and meets the highest scientific, professional and ethical standards. Since launching the process, the NWMO has been working collaboratively with communities interested in learning to begin exploring their potential to meet site selection requirements. Upon the completion of Phase 1 assessments, a smaller list of communities was identified as warranting further study by advancing to Phase 2.

The second phase of preliminary assessment work involves more intensive community learning and engagement. Work takes on a broader focus to include First Nation and Métis peoples, and surrounding communities. Preliminary fieldwork, including airborne surveys and limited borehole drilling is completed to further assess geology and site suitability against technical safety requirements.

Engagement activities in the second phase of preliminary assessment are designed to be implemented through a partnership involving interested communities, First Nation and Métis peoples, surrounding communities, and the NWMO in a process based on trust, fairness and mutual understanding.

The NWMO is committed to the active and meaningful participation of interested communities, Aboriginal communities and surrounding communities. From its inception in 2002, the NWMO has sought to develop its processes and plans with the involvement of interested communities and Aboriginal peoples, laying a foundation for ongoing engagement and partnership.

Throughout the site selection process, the NWMO seeks to define the suitability of sites through engagement of the community and those in the surrounding area, and through interweaving scientific and Indigenous Knowledge. Ultimately, the project will only proceed with the involvement of the interested community, First Nation and Métis communities in the area, and surrounding communities working in partnership to implement it.

## II. Moving Towards Partnership

Building the relationships that would be required to support implementation of the APM Project will necessarily involve many steps over an extended period of time. The NWMO understands that early on, trust and understanding needs to be established to achieve mutual learning. As work advances, envisioning the project together and planning for its implementation is important. Planning for the project's implementation may include discussion about:

- The potential for strategic hiring and strategic procurement;
- Planning and implementation of education and training programs in the area over the extended planning and operation lifespan of the project;
- Business incubation support to assist local businesses to position themselves to participate in the project;
- Investments in infrastructure that may be required to foster well-being beyond what may be required for the project; and
- Business and ownership opportunities associated with the project.

## III. Phase 2 Preliminary Assessments

Preliminary assessments, which take place in Step 3 of the site selection process, are designed to assess in a preliminary way the potential suitability of an interested community and area to host a deep geological repository as part of Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Preliminary assessments are implemented through a two-phased process. Phase 1 focused on exploring the potential for the interested community to meet the robust requirements for the project. Phase 2 focuses on deepening this learning and exploration of potential suitability within the community, and broadening learning and reflection to include First Nation and Métis peoples in the area and surrounding communities. The project will only proceed with the involvement of the interested community, Aboriginal peoples in the area and surrounding communities working in partnership to implement the project.

Over the course of the site selection process, the NWMO will seek to engage neighbouring communities in learning about and reflecting upon the project, and in the conduct of the assessments.

## IV. Resource Program Description – Neighbouring Communities

### Purpose

Phase 2 preliminary assessment studies involve more detailed technical and social studies and intensive engagement within the community, with Aboriginal communities in the area, and with neighbouring communities in the immediate vicinity.

This program is designed to provide resources to assist communities in the immediate vicinity of the interested communities that are participating in Phase 2 preliminary assessment studies. Interested communities are communities that expressed interest in learning more about the project. They have successfully completed an initial screening, they have worked with the NWMO to complete Phase 1 preliminary assessment studies, and through these assessments, their area has been identified as having strong potential to meet the robust requirements associated with this project, they have advanced to Phase 2 studies and continue as a focus of study.

The resources provided to communities in the immediate vicinity of interested communities are intended to assist these communities in building understanding of the project, and to support their participation in discussions with the interested community and the NWMO designed to explore the potential to foster well-being in the area through the project.

### Description

The NWMO will cover the costs incurred by neighbouring communities to learn about the project and become involved in studies, as follows:

- **Visit an interim storage facility.** Community members may be interested in seeing how used nuclear fuel is currently managed on an interim basis. The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to visit an interim nuclear waste storage facility in Ontario or other nearby facility.
- **Meet with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).** Community members may be interested in learning about the regulatory framework that governs the NWMO project. The NWMO will cover travel expenses for a small delegation of community representatives to learn more about the regulatory framework governing the long-term management of used nuclear fuel by meeting with the CNSC. The timing and agenda for the meeting is established directly by the CNSC in concert with the delegation, in order to ensure the delegation's areas of interest and questions are addressed.
- **Understanding key topics such as radiation, geoscience studies, environmental protection, and multiple barriers.** The NWMO acknowledges the importance to communities of developing a deep understanding of key topics from NWMO specialists and academics working in the field. The NWMO will organize a series of learning events and workshops which will bring community representatives and these academics and specialists together. Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these learning events and workshops.

- **Understanding the international perspective.** The NWMO encourages communities to keep abreast of international programs and best practices. The NWMO will facilitate opportunities for community representatives to learn from those involved in the implementation of used fuel management programs in other countries by organizing a series of learning events or workshops which will bring together community representatives and these international leaders. Modest participant expenses will be covered by the NWMO for community representatives to participate in these workshops.
- **Open houses and community discussions.** As Phase 2 preliminary assessment studies proceed, open houses will be planned and organized with the community to seek community involvement and share study findings.
- **Funding for administrative expenses associated with working with the NWMO and the interested community to expand understanding of the project and engage in preliminary assessment studies.** Detailed technical and social studies conducted by the NWMO as part of Phase 2 assessments will require planning, and ongoing discussion and collaboration between the NWMO and the interested community, and also surrounding communities and Aboriginal peoples. Neighbouring communities may incur expenses through participation in NWMO activities related to these studies, and these expenses will be covered at cost. These expenses may include small learning infrastructure improvements such as photocopy or printing costs and meeting equipment. Up to \$100,000 to cover these administrative expenses is available for each 12-month period for the duration of the Phase 2 assessments. An accounting must be kept of activities and money spent suitable for third-party audit and submitted to the NWMO every six months for the duration of participation in this program.

In the latter half of Phase 2 assessments, detailed studies will be conducted on the potential social, economic and cultural effects associated with the project. These studies will be conducted in close collaboration with the communities in the immediate vicinity of interested communities. Communities in the immediate vicinity of interested communities may wish to **enhance or augment an existing long-term vision** for community sustainability, integrated community sustainability plan and/or strategic plan during this process to support their participation in the planning and implementation of the detailed studies with the NWMO. Resources to support strategic planning activities are available (up to \$40,000 for each 12-month period for the duration of the Phase 2 assessments).

The NWMO continues to learn through working with communities. This program will be regularly reviewed and refined to reflect this learning and evolving needs of communities.

## For more information, please contact:

Nuclear Waste Management Organization  
22 St. Clair Avenue East, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M4T 2S3  
Canada

Fax: 647.259.3692

Email: [learnmore@nwm.ca](mailto:learnmore@nwm.ca)

Attention: **Jamie Matear**  
Director, Engagement Coordination



# Corporation of the Municipality of South Bruce

**Report Title:** NWMO Adaptive Phase Management Activity Report  
**Prepared By:** Leanne Martin, CAO/Clerk  
**Department:** Administration  
**Date:** August 25, 2020  
**Report Number:** CAO/Clerk-04-08-2020  
**Attachments:** Draft List of Guiding Principles

## Recommendation

That the Municipality of South Bruce Council receives the report number CAO/Clerk-04-08-2020 related to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Adaptive Phase Management (APM) Project and Project Visioning.

## Report Origin

To provide Council with information related to the NWMO Adaptive Phase Management Project.

## Analysis

South Bruce is one of two remaining communities – along with the Township of Ignace – in the NWMO's site selection process for the Project. The NWMO is planning to make a final decision on site selection by 2023. The NWMO has committed that it will not locate the Project within a community unless that community is a willing and informed host.

In order to determine if South Bruce is willing to host the Project, it is necessary for the Municipality and the residents of the community to understand the potential benefits and impacts that may arise from siting the Project within South Bruce.

Given the importance of this decision, the Municipality is committed to undertaking a rigorous and transparent evaluation of the potential benefits and impacts of the Project. This will provide Council and community members with the basis upon which to make a fully informed decision.

At its meeting of July 28, 2020, Municipal Council received a final copy of the Report on the South Bruce Project Visioning Workshops prepared by AECOM (the "Project Vision Report"). The Project Vision Report was based on nine community workshops held in South Bruce between December 5, 2019 and February 18, 2020 to explore the community's expectations and aspirations for the Project if it were to be located in South Bruce. The workshops were jointly conducted by the Municipality and the NWMO. A draft of the Project Vision Report was made available on the Municipality's website for review and comment between May 27, 2020 and June 30, 2020.

The final Project Vision Report details the community's key priorities and objectives for the Project, the key concerns and questions about the Project that still need to be addressed, and design features and/or activities that might help the Centre of Expertise support community well-being within the community and area.

The Municipality's primary task at this stage is to put in place a process that will ensure staff, Council and community members have adequate information about the potential benefits and impacts of the project to make an informed decision. In a typical planning application, the Municipality would have a list of policies that it would utilize to evaluate the impact of a proposed development. In this case, there are no ready-made principles due to the unique nature of the Project.

Staff have drawn upon the project visioning work to create a list of 34 draft principles to guide the evaluation of the potential benefits and impact of locating the Project in South Bruce (attached to this report).

The draft principles are based on the expectations and aspirations, as well as the key concerns and questions, identified by the community in the workshops and detailed in the Project Vision Report. CAO/Clerk Martin is seeking council's endorsement of the draft principles to advance discussions with the NWMO and the community.

Importantly, the list of principles is not designed to be static and staff expect that they may evolve and expand as the process continues. Further, fulfillment of the principles by the NWMO does not necessarily mean that the community is willing to host the Project nor should the endorsement of the draft principles by Council be seen as a pre-approval of the Project. The listed principles are intended to guide the community's assessment of the project's potential impacts and benefits in conjunction with the existing regulatory regime that will apply to the Project. The principles recognize that not all aspects of the Project will be fully defined at the time of site selection and these will be determined through the regulatory process.

Staff recommend that, once the draft principles have been endorsed by Council, they be presented to the South Bruce Community Liaison Committee at its meeting of September 3, 2020 for feedback. It is also recommended following the September 3, 2020 CLC Meeting that the Municipality seek public input through the municipal website until September 18, 2020. Municipal staff will then provide an update at Council's meeting of September 22, 2020.

**Recommendation: That Council endorses the draft list of principles to assist the Municipality to assess and fully understand the potential benefits and impacts that may arise from siting the Project within South Bruce;**

**And further that council authorizes staff to provide the list of principles to the South Bruce Community Liaison Committee for feedback and to post the draft list on the municipal website for public input following the September 3, 2020 CLC Meeting.**

Submitted by:

Leanne Martin, CAO/Clerk

*Draft resolution for NWMO Site Selection Process for discussion:*

WHEREAS the Municipality of South Bruce has been involved since 2012 in a process of learning about Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel (the Adaptive Phased Management project, including a deep geological repository and a Centre of Expertise (the Project)) being undertaken by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO);

AND WHEREAS the NWMO has committed that the Project will only be located in an informed and willing community and that the Project will be implemented through a long-term partnership involving the host community;

AND WHEREAS the Municipality and the NWMO conducted community workshops between December 5, 2019 and February 18, 2020 to explore the community's expectations and aspirations for the Project if it were to be located in South Bruce and had a third-party consultant prepare a Project Visioning report that summarized the feedback from the community received at the workshops;

AND WHEREAS, as part of the community's continued participation in the NWMO's site selection process, the Municipality will continually assess the Project's potential contribution to community well-being and the community's willingness to host the Project;

AND WHEREAS it is understood that the list of principles is not designed to be static and it is expected that the list will evolve and may expand as the process continues;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Municipality's assessment of willingness be guided by the following non-exclusive principles drawn from the Project Visioning report, to be interpreted in conjunction with the existing regulatory regime for the Project:

*Safety and the Natural Environment*

1. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project will be subject to the highest standards of safety across its lifespan of construction, operation and into the distant future.
2. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that sufficient measures will be in place to ensure the natural environment will be protected, including the community's precious waters, land and air, throughout the Project's lifespan of construction, operation and into the distant future.
3. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that used nuclear fuel can be safely and securely transported to the repository site.
4. The NWMO will ensure that the repository site will not host any nuclear waste generated by other countries.
5. The NWMO must commit to implementing the Project in a manner consistent with the unique natural and agricultural character of the community of South Bruce.
6. The NWMO will minimize the footprint of the repository's surface facilities to the extent it is possible to do so and ensure that public access to the Teeswater River is maintained, subject to meeting regulatory requirements for the repository.
7. The NWMO must commit to preparing construction management and operation plans that detail the measures the NWMO will implement to mitigate the impacts of construction and operation of the Project.

*People, Community and Culture*

8. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project enjoys broad support within the community of South Bruce.
9. The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.
10. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will establish a property value protection program to compensate property owners in the event that property values are adversely affected by the NWMO's site selection process and the development, construction and/or operation of the Project.
11. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will establish a program to mitigate losses to business owners adversely affected directly by the development, construction and/or operation of the Project.
12. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote the agriculture of South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
13. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote tourism in South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
14. The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will commit to implement programs to engage with and provide opportunities for youth in the community, including investments in education and the provision of scholarships, bursaries and other incentives for youth to remain in or return to the community.
15. The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.
16. The NWMO will commit to relocate the working location of a majority of its employees to South Bruce as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so after the completion of the site selection process.
17. The NWMO will, in consultation with the Municipality, establish a Centre of Expertise at a location within South Bruce to be developed in conjunction with the Project.

*Economics and Finance*

18. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a local employment and training strategy with the objective of ensuring that the majority of employees for the Project are located within South Bruce and surrounding communities.
19. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a business opportunities strategy that will provide opportunities for qualified local businesses to secure agreements that support the Project and that requires the NWMO to take all reasonable steps to create opportunities for qualified local businesses to benefit from the Project.
20. The NWMO will commit to implementing a procurement strategy for the Project that gives preference to the selection of suppliers who can demonstrate economic benefit to South Bruce and surrounding communities.
21. The NWMO will enter into an agreement with the Municipality providing for community benefit payments to the Municipality.

### *Capacity Building*

22. The NWMO will cover the costs incurred by the Municipality in assessing community well-being and willingness to host the Project.
23. The NWMO will fund the engagement of subject matter experts by the Municipality to undertake peer reviews of Project reports and independent assessments of the Project's potential impacts on and benefits for the community as determined necessary by the Municipality.
24. The NWMO agrees to cover the costs of the Municipality's preparation for and participation in the Project's regulatory approval processes, including the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's licencing process and the assessment of the Project under the *Impact Assessment Act* (or other similar legislation), that are not otherwise covered by available participant funding.
25. The NWMO will fund the Municipality's preparation of a housing plan to ensure that the residents of South Bruce have access to a sufficient supply of safe, secure, affordable and well-maintained homes.

### *Services and Infrastructure*

26. The NWMO will prepare a review of the existing emergency services in South Bruce and provide appropriate funding for any additional emergency services required to host the Project in South Bruce.
27. The NWMO will prepare an infrastructure strategy that addresses any municipal infrastructure requirements for the Project and will commit to providing appropriate funding for any required upgrades to municipal infrastructure required to host the Project in South Bruce.
28. The NWMO will prepare a review of the existing and projected capacity of South Bruce's road network and will commit to providing appropriate funding for any required upgrades to the road network.
29. The NWMO will enter into a road use agreement with the Municipality to ensure proper funding for maintenance and repair of municipal roads and bridges used for the Project.
30. The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.
31. The NWMO will comply with the Municipal Official Plan and zoning by-law and seek amendments to the Official Plan and zoning by-law as necessary to implement the Project.

### *Governance and Community Engagement*

32. The NWMO will provide the Municipality with an ongoing and active role in the governance of the Project during the construction and operation phases of the Project.
33. The NWMO will continue to engage with community members and key stakeholders to gather input on community vision, expectations and principles, including concerns, related to the Project.

*Regional Benefits*

34. The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project will benefit the broader region outside of the community of South Bruce, including local Indigenous communities.