Long-Term Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel

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Presentation

» Nuclear Waste Management Organization

» Canada’s Plan

» Progress Update
NWMO: Who we are

» **NWMO Mission statement**: The purpose of the NWMO is to develop and implement collaboratively with Canadians, a management approach for the long-term care of Canada’s used nuclear fuel that is socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible and economically feasible.

» **Values**: Integrity, Excellence, Engagement, Accountability, Transparency

» NWMO is a corporation that operates as a not-for-profit organization.
Our mandate

» Federally-mandated under *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*
  » Established in 2002
  » Funded by waste owners

» Long-term management of Canada’s used nuclear fuel
  » Study options, propose an approach
  » Implement the approach selected by Government
NWMO Study of Alternatives (2002-2005)

» NWMO three-year nation-wide study:
  - 18,000 Canadians including 2500 Aboriginal people
  - Contributions from 500 experts

» Canadians told us:
  - Safety and security is top priority
  - Take action now
  - International standards
  - Approach must be adaptable
Plan emerged from dialogue with citizens and experts – best met key priorities

A Technical Method

- Isolation in deep geological repository
- Continuous monitoring
- Potential for retrievability

A Management System

- Flexible implementation
- Responsive to new knowledge
- Siting process: open, inclusive, fair
- Sustained engagement
National Infrastructure Project

» Protect health, safety and environment

» High technology

» Strongly regulated

» Informed, willing host community

» Long-term partnership between NWMO and community
Collaborative Development of a Site Selection Process

» 2008
  What is important for a site selection process?

» 2009
  Review of proposed process

» 2010
  Initiated siting
  ❖ Invitation to communities to Learn More

» Foundation of process:
  ❖ Safety
  ❖ Community-driven process
  ❖ Informed, willing host community
Guiding Principles

» Focus on Safety
» Meet or exceed regulatory requirements
» Informed and willing host community
» Focus on the nuclear provinces
» Right to withdraw
» Siting process led by interested communities
» Respect Aboriginal rights, treaties and land claims
» Shared decision-making
» Inclusiveness
» Support capacity building
» Informing the process
» Community well-being
» Ongoing engagement of governments

People said the siting process needs to be grounded in principles that reflect their values, concerns and priorities.
Communities Engaged in Learning More

- 21 communities engaged in learning about the project
- 18 have requested Preliminary Assessments (Step 3)
- 3 considering interest in proceeding on (Step 2)

“Expressions of Interest” phase suspended in September 2012
Multiple Stages of Assessment and Dialogue

- **Initial Screening (complete)**
  - ~ 3 months

- **Preliminary Assessment: Phase 1 (Desktop)  (in progress)**
  - ~ 18 months

- **Preliminary Assessment: Phase 2 (Field Work)**
  - Multi-year work
  - (with short list of communities)
  - (may begin 2014)

- **Detailed Site Characterization**
  - ~ potentially 3-5 years
  - (followed by regulatory approvals)

Engagement, Dialogue, Mutual Learning, Collaboration…
Preliminary Assessments

1. Potential to find a safe site?
2. Potential to foster well-being of community?
3. Potential for citizens’ continued interest?
4. Potential to foster well-being of surrounding area?
Implementation of the Plan Continues

» Technical repository design

» Continued research, and confidence building, international collaboration

» Ongoing advice and guidance
  » NWMO Advisory Council
  » Council of Aboriginal Elders
  » Municipal Association Forum
Engagement, Transparency, Accountability

» Involving Canadians in decision-making

- Local communities in siting process
- Aboriginal people
- Surrounding areas, regions
- Municipal associations
- Nuclear host communities
- All levels of government
- Diversity of interests

» Five-year Strategic Plan

- Developed through engagement and revised through annual public review

» Regular reporting on progress

- Annual and Triennial Reports submitted to Minister of Natural Resources, and made public
Dialogue Continues