

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES



Aboriginal Engagement

March 2014

Aboriginal Engagement

- Built on the NWMO's Aboriginal Policy and continued advice from the Council of Elders
- Two important elements include:
 - Respect for Aboriginal and Treaty rights
 - Recognition of positive contributions Aboriginal peoples can make to major developments as partners
- Memorandum of Understanding with Crown



Aboriginal Engagement

- The NWMO has committed to an engagement plan with Aboriginal peoples
- It includes outreach to national and regional organizations and community-specific engagement
- Activities include information sharing, joint learning and participation in NWMO activities
- The NWMO encourages interested communities to reach out to Aboriginal neighbors

The project will only proceed with interested community, Aboriginal peoples and surrounding communities working in partnership.

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge

- Knowledge about the land and ecology stemming from long contact with the land
- Knowledge about developing and maintaining effective and meaningful relationships between generations and within and between communities
- Special understanding of the broad range of factors that should be considered, and the processes that should be used, in assessing the appropriateness of any site



Involving the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

- Good decision-making among Aboriginal peoples regarding the NWMO's work must be built on a foundation of knowledge to ensure that informed choices can be made by Aboriginal communities.
- The NWMO recognizes and honours that Aboriginal peoples have a special relationship with the natural environment and have unique stewardship responsibilities that are part of this relationship.
- Consideration for the safety and security of future generations is integral to the Aboriginal world view and fundamental to the decision-making processes of Aboriginal peoples.
- Open and honest relationships are built on a foundation of trust and sharing of knowledge and information.
- The NWMO acknowledges that Aboriginal peoples are holders of ATK and recognizes the value that ATK can bring to decision-making processes.
- The NWMO acknowledges, respects and honours the unique status and rights of Aboriginal peoples — Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada — as recognized and affirmed in s.35 of the *Constitution Act* (1982), and is committed to respecting the Aboriginal rights and treaties of Aboriginal communities potentially affected by its work.

The NWMO works with interested communities to build and strengthen relationships with the Aboriginal peoples in their area in order to foster dialogue and shared learning, assessment of the suitability of the project for the area, and decision-making

Aboriginal Engagement - Approach

- NWMO has sought to learn about acceptable approaches to manage used nuclear fuel over the long term from the perspective and worldview of Aboriginal peoples in Canada
- Our work with Aboriginal peoples in Canada has influenced NWMO's approach and the insights and perspectives are reflected in plans, policies and processes



Principles, values and learning

Implemented in approach in engagement with Aboriginal peoples

- Sought to lay a foundation for ongoing consultations and engagement that are respectful of traditional practices and approaches to decision-making
- The building of long-term relationships with Aboriginal peoples and the establishment of processes that will “stand the test of time” are critical aspects of NWMO engagement
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown
- NWMO Aboriginal Policy
- Collaborative development of programs that meet the needs of all parties



Aboriginal Engagement: The APM Site Selection Process

- Commitment to early involvement of affected Aboriginal people to work collaboratively with the NWMO in developing capacity
- Respect Aboriginal rights and treaties and will take into account that there may be unresolved claims between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown.
- Recognize and honour that Aboriginal peoples have a special relationship with the natural environment and have unique stewardship responsibilities that are part of this relationship; will look to holders of Traditional Knowledge to be active participants and to share that knowledge to the extent they wish.
- Potential host communities encouraged to involve surrounding communities, regions and potentially affected Aboriginal governments as early as possible
- Resources available for Aboriginal communities to participate in the process -- as an interested and potentially willing community, or as a community that is nearby an interested community (as one of the surrounding communities).
- Through a regional study (Step 4) ensure that those who are potentially affected will have the capacity and the opportunity to be involved in planning how the project will be implemented.

Involving Aboriginal People in Preliminary Assessments

- Aboriginal peoples can contribute, provide input and be engaged in the assessment of safety and the appropriateness of a site:
 - the design of the facility
 - design of the assessment framework
 - the selection of a site
 - the identification, measurement and assessment of potential effects
 - the design of plans to foster long-term well-being

Contributions and unique perspectives

- Over the course of the Site Selection Process, involvement of Aboriginal peoples and, in particular, Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge is sought in:
 - Scoping the project and the assessment
 - The collection of baseline information
 - Consideration of the effects of the project
 - Evaluation of effects and the determination of their significance
 - Evaluation of any cumulative effects of the project
 - Evaluation of the effects of the environment on the project
 - Identification or modification of mitigation or impact management measures; and
 - Design and implementation of any follow-up programs

Council of Elders



Protect and preserve all creation: air, land, water, fire, plants, medicine, animals and human kind - guided by the seven universal teachings of love, trust, sharing, honesty, humility, respect and wisdom.

- An advisory body to provide counsel on the application of Indigenous Knowledge in the implementation of APM.
- Provides advice on issues that could enhance the development and maintenance of good relations with Aboriginal communities.

Preliminary Assessment Engagement

- Continue to build relationships with local Aboriginal communities in siting areas
 - understanding of the goals, issues and concerns of communities in development in their areas and goals in building a partnership with NWMO in APM should the facility be sited in their area
- Continue to build relationships with regional organizations, Treaty organizations and Tribal Councils and Métis regional groups in siting areas.
 - understanding of the regional goals and partnership with NWMO in APM should the facility be sited in their area
- Seek advice and input and regular updates during the siting process with national and provincial Aboriginal organizations.
- Seek advice from the Council of Elders in the inclusion of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in APM and in understanding national, provincial and international issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in Canada.
- Develop information and understanding of Traditional Knowledge of Aboriginal peoples in siting areas and apply this information to the Preliminary Assessment where applicable.

Step 3 Phase 1 Resource Program

LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND REGIONAL ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VICINITY OF COMMUNITIES INVOLVED IN STEP 3

- To open dialogue and engage in information exchange to ensure NWMO's work is done in a way that reflects their rights and sense of well-being.
- To understand the traditional laws, practices, decision-making processes and protocols.
- To develop through dialogue a partnership approach that will assist in appropriate planning and agreements with affected communities.
- To begin to understand their perspectives in answering the question:
“How might traditional and contemporary views regarding land stewardship help us understand how a major development project, such as that proposed by the NWMO, must be implemented?”

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