Overview of the Sub-Surface Geology in Southern Ontario



Geological Features of Southern Ontario



Contours represent thickness of the sedimentary sequence in metres



Earthquakes Map of Canada 1627-2012



Regional Surface Bedrock Geology



Regional Geological Cross-section -Eastern Section of Michigan Basin



Section is about 150 km long with a 45x vertical exaggeration



Precambrian

OGSRL Wells and Cross Sections





Cross Sections N-S and E-W







Characterization of the bedrock geology at the Bruce nuclear site





Hydraulic Testing at the Bruce Nuclear Site



Hydrogeological studies seek to understand groundwater migration and mass transport of through the subsurface



Rock Strength Testing from Bruce Nuclear Site



Laboratory tests reveal the high strength of the Cobourg argillaceous limestone



Groundwater and Porewater at the Bruce Nuclear Site

Consistent with Regional Hydrogeochemistry for S. Ontario (NWMO-DGR-TR-2011-12)

A shallow system (<200 mBGS) with fresh through brackish waters. Waters in this system have stable isotopic compositions consistent with mixing of dilute, recent or cold-climate (glacial) waters with more saline waters.

An intermediate to deep system (>200 mBGS) containing brines with elevated TDS values (200-400 g/L). The stable isotopic compositions of these waters are typical of sedimentary basin brines.





Groundwater and Porewater at the Bruce Nuclear Site

Groundwater Age Estimates

The ages of shallow Devonian and Upper Silurian groundwater have been investigated by 14C dating. Although uncertainties exist, the ages range between about 4000 and 8000 years BP, suggesting the groundwater is relatively old Holocene groundwater.

Based on isotope analyses (¹²⁹I, He) from porewaters in Ordovician shales and the Cobourg Formation, groundwater ages are greater than 80 million years.

Adapted from NWMO, 2011. Descriptive Geosphere Site Model, NWMO DGR-TR-2011-24.





Potentially Suitable Host Rock Formation

- Data from the OGSRL well database indicates that the bedrock geology beneath this part of southern Ontario consists of a laterally extensive and predictable Paleozoic sequence.
- The initial screening reports (2012) identified the Upper Ordovician shale and limestone units as potentially suitable host rock formations.
- Based on available geoscientific information, the Ordovician Cobourg Formation (argillaceous limestone) would be the preferred host rock as it has sufficient thickness and volume and favourable characteristics of very low hydraulic conductivity and high geomechanical strength.
- The approximately 200 m thickness of Upper Ordovician shale formations overlying the Cobourg Formation, would act as an additional hydraulic barrier.





