



## Staff Report

**Report Title: Nuclear Waste Management Organization Near-Term Investment Funding Program**

**Prepared By: Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Feb. 6, 2023**

**Report Number: CAO-2023-02-5**

**File Number: C11 CAO23**

**Copy to : N05-NWMO Near-Term Investment Funding Program**

**Attachments:**

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**Recommendation:**

THAT Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby authorizes the execution of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization Near-Term Investment Funding Agreement;

AND FURTHER directs Staff to create a reserve fund; "Near-term Investment reserve fund" to facilitate receipt of the applicable NWMO funds, thereby meeting requirements of the Near-term Investment Funding Agreement;

AND FURTHER directs Staff to bring the appropriate by-laws forward.

**Background:**

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is working with communities to build capacity for participation in the Adaptive Phased Management project.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is implementing Canada's plan for used nuclear fuel, known as Adaptive Phased Management (APM) for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, including, a collaborative process to select a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained and isolated in a deep geological repository (DGR).

Canada's plan will only proceed in an area that can be demonstrated as safe and has informed and willing hosts. To meet this criteria, together with potential siting area communities and Huron-Kinloss as a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community (PSNC), NWMO is exploring the potential for partnerships, determining criteria for willingness and looking at how the project could enhance community well-being in these areas.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has selected South Bruce as one of two potential siting communities to host the project for the DGR and has signed agreements to secure over 1,500 acres of land with landowners in South Bruce and the Township of Huron-Kinloss (Huron-Kinloss) (the Secured Lands).

The NWMO lands in Huron-Kinloss are not being considered for the potential repository site, however, NWMO acknowledges that Huron-Kinloss directly abuts South Bruce and will be particularly directly impacted by the DGR given Huron-Kinloss' immediate close proximity to the DGR site.

Given these principles, outcomes and direct impacts, Huron-Kinloss is considered as a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community for the DGR should South Bruce be selected.

Huron-Kinloss is committed to carrying out its due diligence on the DGR project to determine how its municipality, residents, farms, tourists and businesses will be best protected and served in determining whether Huron-Kinloss can support the DGR as a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community.

### **Discussion:**

In 2023, NWMO is offering its Near-term Investment (NTI) funding program to Significant Neighboring Communities. The fund is intended to be used for qualifying near-term activities over the 2023/2024 period. Qualifying projects would need to meet the following criteria:

1. Broad benefit: The community or Municipality has demonstrated how the proposed project will benefit the community or area at large, and not just one group within it.
2. Sustainability: The community or Municipality has demonstrated how the proposed project will benefit the long-term sustainability of the community or area.
3. Benefits are clear and reasonable: The expected benefits to the community or area have been clearly articulated, and quantified where appropriate, and there is a reasonable expectation they will be delivered should the proposed project proceed.
4. Project is achievable: The community or Municipality has demonstrated that the project can be successfully implemented, taking into account: the extent to which the project's planning and implementation are well-defined and understood, the adequacy of the financial resources and capacity required to implement the project,

supported by detailed cost estimates developed by subject matter experts, and the schedule for project completion

5. Alternative funding: The community has explored additional sources of funding and partnerships to leverage funding provided by the NWMO.

6. Future costs are managed: The advancement of the project will not create an unreasonable future burden on the community, such as commitment to unfunded stages of work, ongoing costs of operation and/or costs of continued financing.

It's important to note that NWMO acknowledges that entering into this Agreement by the municipality does not constitute community support for the DGR or the selection of South Bruce as the final host community in the APM Site Selection Process.

NWMO will provide a maximum funding amount of \$2,000,000.00 to Huron-Kinloss to carry out Near-Term Investment Activities which must be accessed by December 31, 2024.

Eligible projects will be brought forward at the budget meeting for Council's consideration.

**Financial Impacts:**

2023/2024 NTI Program funding total \$2,000,000

**Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The recommendations contribute to the goals in achieving a prosperous community and an accessible community. Projects in this report assist staff in achieving the following projects in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan

Action Plan: P2.4 Continue to learn about the NWMO DGR Project.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer