

## Working Towards an Informed Community Decision

The Municipality of South Bruce is one of the final two communities that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is considering to securely store Canada's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository (DGR).

### Why is a deep geological repository needed?

- In Ontario, nuclear power supplies about half of our electricity every single day. The resulting used nuclear fuel, in the form of solid rods, is currently stored securely above-ground at seven sites across Canada. About half of the used fuel will come from the Bruce Power site.
- CANDU reactors have been operating in Canada for 60 years, and the push for zero emissions is increasing demand for clean electricity. Nuclear will continue to be a major source of power generation to provide reliable energy without carbon emissions that cause climate change.
- Regardless of where the site is located, it is in the community's interest to find a long-term solution to safely store the used fuel.

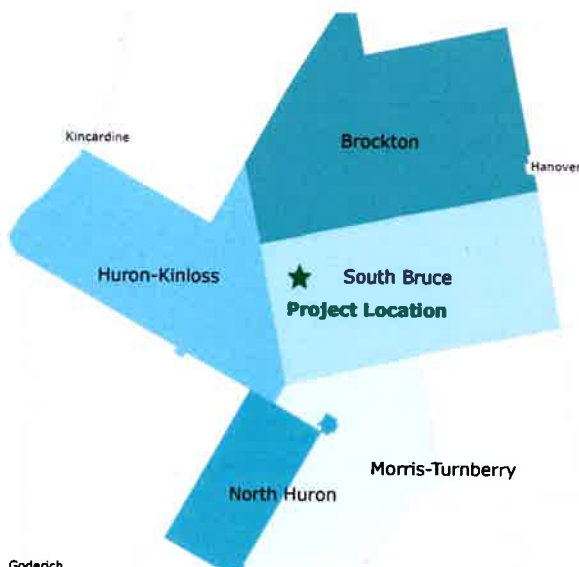
### Securing our future

The federal government tasked the NWMO with finding a safe, permanent solution for Canada's used nuclear fuel. Globally, storing the waste in a reinforced facility deep underground is considered the safest long-term option.

The proposed facility would be about 660-metres underground, with a Centre of Expertise and other facilities above ground.

### How and when will the NWMO select a site?

- The NWMO expects to select a site to build a DGR by the end of 2024. The selected site must be deemed safe for people and the environment.
- The NWMO has said the Project will only proceed in an area with informed and willing hosts, including the municipality, First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area.



### How will South Bruce decide if it is willing to host the Project?

- After extensive community consultation in 2021, South Bruce Council endorsed holding a referendum during the 2022 – 2026 term of Council.
- The newly elected South Bruce Council reaffirmed this decision to measure community willingness to host the Project via referendum.

## How will people in South Bruce make an informed decision?

This effort has been ongoing with a number of activities to engage and inform the public:

1. Over the past decade, a Council-appointed Community Liaison Committee (CLC) has aimed to increase community awareness through regular public meetings with guest experts to address questions and concerns.
2. From 2019 to 2020, South Bruce staff engaged the community to develop guiding principles that outline the community's expectations and aspirations for the project. A total of 36 guiding principles are now embedded in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the NWMO last spring.
3. Over the last two years, the NWMO and/or municipally hired consultants conducted dozens of studies which independent consultants peer reviewed. The studies explore the potential social and economic effects of the project on the community. Summaries of the studies were shared with the public via householder mailings and CLC presentations. Full studies are available on the municipal website and South Bruce libraries, to help inform the community.
4. Based on the guiding principles and insights from studies, the Municipality is negotiating a hosting agreement with the NWMO:
  - The hosting agreement will lay out what the community expects if it is willing to host the Project and the community benefits the NWMO would deliver. The hosting agreement will help the municipality make an informed decision based on clear understanding of the NWMO's commitments and obligations.
  - The agreement would not come into effect unless the municipality was willing and selected to go to the next steps of the process.

## What happens after the referendum?

If the referendum shows a willingness to host the project, then the Municipality will move to the next stage of the site selection process. Once the NWMO selects a host community, there will be an extensive federal review and licensing process.

## Save the Date: South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Forum → April 4-5, 2023

South Bruce will host a forum to offer area residents and municipalities an opportunity to learn more about the Project at no cost. This is an in-person, interactive opportunity to become better informed about the Project. Through presentations, panel discussions and a tradeshow, Canadian and international experts will share their knowledge, provide insights into various studies, and answer participant questions.

*Your presence is important to us. Municipal councils and staff are encouraged to attend.*

**Questions?** Contact our Community Engagement Officer Steve Travale at 519-392-6623 ext. 239 or [stravale@southbruce.ca](mailto:stravale@southbruce.ca)

