



Staff Report

Report Title: May 2023 – NWMO Engagement Activities

Prepared By: Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

Department: CAO

Date: Apr. 25, 2023

Report Number: CAO-2023-05-10

File Number: N08-LEA-15

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2023-05-10, prepared by Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator.

Background:

Occasionally members of the team here at the Township of Huron-Kinloss can partake in engagement activities. Below I outline two such activities that I have already been able to attend.

Since 2012, the Municipality of South Bruce (MSB) has been involved in the process of learning about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Adaptive Phased Management Project ('the Project') for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The two remaining siting areas in the process are the **South Bruce Area** and the **Ignace Area**. The NWMO plans to complete all preliminary assessment work and to select one community/area to host the Project by 2024. Preliminary studies suggest that the Project can be implemented safely in the South Bruce area for a repository that will contain, and isolate used nuclear fuel from people and the environment for the long timeframes required.

On April 4th and 5th, I attended the South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Forum in Teeswater ON. The forum was an opportunity for members of the public and private sectors to listen to and engage with subject matter experts. Over the two days, guests listened to panelists and presenters discuss topics ranging from agriculture and safety to Indigenous communities and youth engagement. We were able to review reports, watch presentations and engage in Q&A sessions with the panelists and presenters.

Discussion:

Day 1 started off with openings remarks from Mark Goetz – Mayor of the Municipality of South Bruce, Ben Lobb - Member of Parliament for Huron Bruce and Chris Peabody – Warden of the County of Bruce. Afterwards, Katrina McCullough – Stakeholder Engagement Specialist at GHD Ltd. presented guests with a high-level overview of Socio-economic Community Studies and Peer Review Findings. This summary report can be viewed online here:

<https://www.southbruce.ca/en/municipal-government/south-bruce-nuclear-exploration-forum.aspx>

Township of Huron-Kinloss Mayor Don Murray moderated a panel on Agriculture in a Nuclear Host Community that was very well received. Guests then heard from Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) President and CEO Laurie Swami who stressed that safety is always the top priority of the NWMO.

In the afternoon, Tom Isaacs – Former Lead Advisor to the U.S. Blue Ribbon Commission on America’s Nuclear Future spoke with Tiina Jalonen – Senior VP of Development at Posiva Oy (Finnish organization responsible for nuclear waste, currently building the Finnish DGR) and Jacob Spangenberg – Former Mayor of Osthhammar, Sweden. Osthhammar is the host municipality for the Swedish DGR. Both panelists gave great insight regarding the current phases of their DGR projects and offered up thoughts for the Municipality of South Bruce and the NWMO to consider on the importance of community involvement and ensuring the public are making an informed decision.

Day 1 concluded with an enlightening panel discussion about Indigenous communities and the nuclear industry and a presentation from the NWMO covering confidence in Safety.

Day 2 started off very strong, with opening remarks from Mark Goetz, and Lise Morton. Lise is the VP of site selection at NWMO and spoke at length about her history and the importance of safety and making informed decisions. She also reiterated that the NWMO will honour any decisions made by the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) regarding the site selection process.

Afterwards, there were back-to-back panels discussing the importance of youth retention in South Bruce and the need to identify skilled labour resources for the project. Scott Clark – Senior Director, Labour Relations at Bruce Power offered up several key points to the NWMO on the necessity to not only identify how many workers will be needed and from what areas of expertise but to also provide a clear informational path to people interested in those careers. Scott noted that for the MCR project at Bruce Power he had workforce projections released to Union partners 6 years before the project started and worked with several Colleges in the area to ensure potential workers knew how and where to apply to those programs. Bruce Power even worked with several Colleges in Ontario to create new programs to facilitate the uptick in students seeking this specialized training.

Unfortunately, like many communities in the area, South Bruce was hit with a power outage on Wednesday afternoon that disrupted the remaining panels and presentations. The South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Project team was able to set up battery powered lighting and a battery powered speaker for the microphones, but there was no way of showing the slides, videos, and graphics that the panelists and presenters had prepared.

Overall, the Forum was a great success, with hundreds of attendees taking advantage of the opportunity to listen, learn and engage in civil discourse and I learned a tremendous amount about the NWMO's Adaptive Phased Management Project.

NWMO Oakville Demonstration Facility Trip

On April 18th, 9 team members of the Township of Huron-Kinloss, in addition to Ed McGugan, Councillor, Township of Huron-Kinloss were invited by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to tour their Oakville demonstration facility. The tour was extremely enlightening and provided wonderful context as to the current state of the proposed DGR project. We were able to engage with an NWMO engineer and ask questions relating to the project. The tour provided great insights and an opportunity to connect with members of the NWMO team. Overall, it is a wonderful tour and one that we will want to encourage both additional team members and members of the public to take part in.

Financial Impacts:

None

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission. The information contributes to our goals in achieving a spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and by maintaining a sense of connection and cohesion with each other and retaining our youth and engaging in our community.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer