



## Staff Report

**Report Title: NWMO General Updates**

**Prepared By: Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Jun. 22, 2023**

**Report Number: CAO-2023-07-22**

**File Number: C11 CAO 23 100NWC**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2023-07-22, prepared by Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator.

### **Background:**

In early 2020, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) narrowed down the options for locating the deep geological repository to the two remaining areas – the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation-Ignace area and Saugeen Ojibway Nation-South Bruce area, both in Ontario. With this narrowed focus, the NWMO was able to start building capacity and investing in infrastructure.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused significant delays for many; these delays meant a significant loss of time for the meaningful, face-to-face engagement that is so critical to the success of the deep geological repository project. The NWMO made the important decision to shift the timeline for site selection. They now anticipate identifying a preferred site by fall 2024, instead of 2023 as previously planned. However, they do not expect this shift to impact the overall schedule for Canada's plan. Making this small adjustment in timing also gives the potential host communities additional time to review and absorb new information as they consider if hosting the project aligns with their vision and priorities.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Community Well-Being Program**

Since 2018, the Community Well-Being program has invested \$400,000 back into the community and supported numerous projects by local organizations and community groups.

There were 20 successful recipients of the 2023 Community Well-Being Program. The full list is available on the Huron-Kinloss website (<https://www.huronkinloss.com/en/live-here/community-well-being.aspx>) and was featured in many news outlets.

### **Early Investment in Education in Skills Development**

Huron-Kinloss received \$55,000 from the NWMO to support the Early Investment in Education and Skills program for 2023. It is through this program that the Township will be able to support programs such as continuing skills development, workplace training, youth enrichment in schools and more. The Administrative Coordinator is working to get the word out regarding the programs available and helping Huron-Kinloss residents, organizations, and businesses find the right program to benefit them. For additional information on the Early Investment in Education and Skills program, please visit the Huron-Kinloss website (<https://www.huronkinloss.com/en/townhall/funding-programs.aspx>).

### **NWMO Adaptive Phased Management 2023-2027**

In March 2023 the NWMO released "Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2023-27". This is the rolling five-year strategic plan for the NWMO as they implement Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The plan covers everything from the NWMO's commitment to transparency and planning timelines to key components of the repository and cost and funding information. It also included the results of the NWMO's 2022 survey which saw total participation of 757 partial and completed surveys. Key takeaways were that over half of the respondents said they were "confident" or "very confident" in the NWMO after reading the plan. With a strong majority saying they found the plan understandable, clear, and transparent. On the other hand, less than a third of respondents found the plan unclear, too technical, or not understandable. Many respondents shared that Reconciliation is a priority and want the NWMO to communicate more about the steps being taken in their Reconciliation journey. Safety was a common theme among respondents with 42% of respondents stating it was their top priority. Respondents expressed concerns over the possibility of collisions and inadequate transportation infrastructure in the community selected. These concerns lead the NWMO to release several documents addressing the wide range of priorities, questions and concerns heard to date from Canadians and Indigenous peoples about the transportation of used nuclear fuel. Overall, the survey showed that most respondents understand and feel positive about the NWMO's engineering. The NWMO's geotechnical expertise and robust engineering approach and Canada's engineering leadership were cited in respondents' comments as some of the reasons for their confidence and positive sentiments. The full "Implementing

Adaptive Phased Management 2023-27" document can be viewed on the NWMO website and is attached.

### **July SBCLC Meeting**

The July South Bruce Community Liaison Committee Meeting (SBCLC) was moved to July 13<sup>th</sup>, due to the Finland/Onkalo tour. At the time of writing this report the meeting agenda has not been released. Meeting agendas are usually released on the Friday before a SBCLC meeting, so we expect to see the agenda and prior meeting minutes released on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Here is [the link](#) where you will be able to find the meeting agenda once posted.

### **Financial Impacts:**

Funding for these programs was provided by the NWMO.

### **Strategic Alignment / Link:**

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission and to the goals in achieving a prosperous community and an accessible community.

### **Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

### **Report Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer