



Staff Report

Report Title: NWMO Site Selection Status Update – September 2023

Prepared By: Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

Department: CAO

Date: Sep. 27, 2023

Report Number: CAO-2023-10-34

File Number: C11 CAO 23

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2023-10-34, prepared by Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator.

Background:

NWMDER Conference

The 5th Canadian Conference on Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental Restoration was held from August 27-31, 2023, in Niagara Falls, Canada. The theme of the conference was Environmental sustainability through timely waste management and decommissioning.

CLC Meeting – Deloitte Presentation

In early July, households in South Bruce received a postcard inviting them to complete a community survey about the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) Deep Geological Repository Project. Consulting firm Deloitte conducted the survey which helped the Municipality of South Bruce learn how well community members understand the proposed deep geological repository project, what additional information they need and what topics they are most interested in learning about. During the September 7th South Bruce CLC meeting, Deloitte presented their findings.

Huron-Kinloss Job Fair

The Township of Huron-Kinloss is organizing a job and career development fair, to be held Monday, October 23rd from 4-7pm at the Ripley Huron Community Centre Auditorium.

NWMO Discovery and Demonstration Centre Tour

The **NWMO / Clean Energy Frontier** bus trip to tour NWMO's Discovery and Demonstration Centre in Oakville is on October 26th.

Discussion:

NWMDER Conference

The main conference program occurred between August 28-30. It was preceded by registration and a welcome reception on the evening of Sunday, August 27th.

Attendees were treated to an amazing performance by the Strong Water Singers which opened the ceremonies on Monday, Aug. 28. Afterward the Administrative Coordinator attended two plenary sessions, focused on environmental and Indigenous engagement and international progress on deep geological repositories and the transport of nuclear waste. Keynote speakers including Nuclear Waste Management Organization President and CEO, Laurie Swami, stressed the importance of relationship & trust building throughout the process of selecting a suitable site for the proposed deep geological repository.

The third plenary session of the day "The Future of Nuclear: Ensuring Sustainability and Engaging our Youth" included a keynote from the current Miss America, Grace Stanke, a recent graduate of the Nuclear Engineering program from the University of Wisconsin at Madison and an advocate of nuclear power as a safe and clean source of energy. Miss Stanke spoke at length on the positive impact nuclear has had in her own life, citing that her father, a cancer survivor was the recipient of life saving treatments made possible by advancements in nuclear medicine. She also spoke on the importance of having conversations like these with youth, who are at times more open to new thoughts and ideas when we can make the subject matter more relatable.

The first series of breakout sessions were held on Monday afternoon and included presentations on remediation; Indigenous participation; stakeholder engagement and waste management. The Administrative Coordinator attended the Stakeholder Engagement discussion which saw presenters speak on the importance of trust building through effective communication.

On Tuesday, two plenary sessions took place, focused on long-term storage, recycling and near surface disposal, and the status of decommissioning and waste management projects. Moltex Energy, Vice President, Corporate Development, Tristan Jackson spoke on the progress being made in developing the Moltex reactor which would take spent fuel and put it through a process called Waste to Stable Salt (or WATSS), this process leaves behind shorter-lasting, low-level radioactive materials. The second and third rounds of breakout sessions included presentations on decommissioning strategies, waste management, high-level waste management and waste characterization. Tuesday's program finished with a banquet for conference attendees that provided an opportunity for networking.

Wednesday morning's plenary session focused on international decommissioning and waste management with a keynote address and presentation from Sriram Suryanarayan, Director of Innovation at Kinectrics Inc. who spoke about the innovative processes being used and developed to handle mixed waste. The final conference breakout session included presentations on corrosion in used nuclear fuel and high-level waste management; decommissioning strategies and projects; low-level, intermediate level and mixed waste management; SMR waste and used nuclear fuel and high-level waste management.

The conference concluded with a plenary session that was a panel discussion titled “Policy and Science towards Environmental Protection”. This final session saw speakers including Rumina Velshi, President & CEO, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission underscore the importance of relationship building. This was a common theme throughout the entire conference. Trust, transparency, honesty, and patience were key points of discussion during nearly every keynote speech or presentation. Overall, the conference was extremely well run, very informative and a lot of fun, with attendees from across the World coming together to learn about Nuclear Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental Restoration.

CLC Meeting – Deloitte Presentation

Deloitte presented key findings from the South Bruce community survey, conducted July 10th to August 11th, during the September 8th CLC meeting, these findings include:

- 97% of survey respondents said they were at least somewhat familiar with the Project and 88% said they will vote in the referendum.
- Three-quarters agreed that the Municipality had done a sufficient job informing the public about the Project.
- 62% of residents surveyed said they believe the Municipality is taking the right actions to meet future needs of the community and placed a high priority on a progressive and growing economy and the proposed Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Project.

Survey participants said they preferred to receive information through household mailers in the form of flyers and newsletter type publications. Results also showed that people are most interested in learning more about the Project’s impacts on local water sources and the local economy. To view the full 2023 Community Survey please visit:

<https://www.southbruce.ca/en/municipal-government/studies-and-reports.aspx#Community-Surveys>

Huron-Kinloss Job Fair

The Township of Huron-Kinloss is organizing a job and career development fair, to be held Monday, October 23rd from 4-7pm at the Ripley Huron Community Centre Auditorium. The Administrative Coordinator has begun reaching out to businesses and is happy to report that Bruce Power, Gay Lea Foods, and the County of Bruce will all attend. There will also be local businesses attending to showcase employment opportunities. A full report of the Job Fair will be included in the November COW report.

NWMO Discovery and Demonstration Centre Tour

It’s officially time to secure your spot on the **NWMO / Clean Energy Frontier** bus trip to tour NWMO’s Discovery and Demonstration Centre in Oakville on October 26th! NWMO South Bruce reps will be providing a bus to transport all attendees and will be reserving a spot for lunch at the Symposium Café, Oakville. The bus will be departing from Teeswater at 7:30am and will be back around 4 p.m.

Please see the typical itinerary below:

Time	Details
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7:30am	Depart Teeswater (Teeswater-Culross Community Centre) 21 Marcy St E, Teeswater, ON N0G 2S0
~10:00am	Arrive in Oakville NWMO Discovery and Demonstration Centre
~12:00pm	Transfer to Lunch Location (Symposium Cafe)
~1:30pm	Depart for Teeswater (Teeswater-Culross Community Centre)
~4:00pm	Arrive in Teeswater

About NWMO's Oakville Facility

- The NWMO's facility in Oakville is home to our design, optimization, and demonstration program.
- This facility provides an opportunity to test conceptual designs, including materials and technologies, to ensure we can demonstrate a strong technical safety case for our project.
 - E.g., testing used nuclear fuel containers, shaping, and moving fully loaded bentonite buffer boxes, testing potential emplacement methods, etc.
- The Oakville facility is also an excellent way to explain the science at work behind Canada's plan and build confidence in our technical program with key stakeholders.
- Tours of the facility provide an up-close opportunity to see some of the ongoing research and development in support of Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

Please RSVP to the link attached below by EOD October 16th, 2023, or email mmurray@nwmo.ca
<https://forms.office.com/r/sqsEE3MZLp>

Financial Impacts:

None currently.

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