



Staff Report

Report Title: Nuclear Waste Management Organization Primary Significant Neighbouring Community Working Group Sept 2023

Prepared By: Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

Department: CAO

Date: Oct. 2, 2023

Report Number: CAO-2023-10-32

File Number: C11 CAO23

Copy to: N05-RES 23

Attachments: None.

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2023-10-32 prepared by Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

Background:

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.

On September 20th, 2021, Township of Huron-Kinloss Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Nuclear Waste Management Primary Significant Neighbouring Community Working Group.

Discussion:

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization Partnership Working Group has had five meetings so far this year. During these meetings, NWMO officials advised us of their ongoing activities in support of a preferred a site for Canada's repository for used nuclear fuels and other developments, described below.

1. DGR Site Visit to Finland, July 2023

NWMO briefed us on the recent stakeholder visit to Finland to tour the DGR in that country. Mayor Murray also attended this trip. The Mayor indicated that the site visit and meetings with senior Finnish official were extremely informative. The DGR in Finland is an example of a successful DGR with significant "buy in" from the local host community. It was also clear that the local community is very supportive on the nuclear industry in general.

2. Community Outreach

NWMO officials updated the Committee on its "door to door" campaign in which NWMO representatives attended various communities in South Bruce/Huron-Kinloss to meet with homeowners directly and drop of informational and educational materials on the DGR. NWMO officials report that this initiative was well received.

NWMO continues to assess various community events in Huron-Kinloss over the summer and fall of this year and anticipated participating in multiple events. NWMO will provide a further update at our fall meeting.

NWMO confirmed that its current timeline to select the host community remains 2024.

A further update by NWMO to Huron-Kinloss Council is also anticipated during the fall, 2023.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time.

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