



# The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

---

## Staff Report

**Report Title: NWMO Site Selection Update and Regulatory Engagement Opportunities**

**Date: Aug. 7, 2024**

**Report Number: CAO-2024-08-26**

**Department: CAO**

**File Number: C11 CAO 24**

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

**Attachments: None**

---

### **Recommendation:**

THAT the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report CAO-2024-08-26, prepared by Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator.

### **Background:**

#### **Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Deep Geological Repository (DGR) Site Selection Process**

In 2010, NWMO initiated a process to select a site for the DGR Project, and 22 communities proactively expressed an interest by the end of 2012. Since then, NWMO has been engaged in a multi-year, community-driven process to identify a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained. In 2020, NWMO announced that it had narrowed down the potential host site to two, the WLON-Ignace area, and the Saugeen Ojibway Nation-South Bruce area.

In March and May of 2024, the Corporation of the Township of Ignace and the Corporation of the Municipality of South Bruce released their Hosting Agreements with the NWMO. These agreements set out the benefits to, and obligations and rights of, each Party in respect of the Project if the Project Area (Ignace or South Bruce) is or is not selected as the site for the Project.

#### **Regulatory Engagement Opportunities**

As part of the Municipality of South Bruce's continued efforts to engage with their neighbours and provide information about their participation in the site selection process for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Project, they have highlighted several upcoming educational opportunities with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) that may be of interest to our Council, staff, and community.

If South Bruce is willing and selected as the site for the deep geological repository, several years of intensive work will begin which include an Impact Assessment and licensing. An Impact Assessment (IA) examines environmental, economic, social and other impacts that the Project may have.

## **Discussion/Analysis/Overview:**

### **Nuclear Waste Management Organization Deep Geological Repository Site Selection Process**

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Township of Ignace confirmed they are willing to move forward to the next phase of the site selection process to host a deep geological repository to safely contain and isolate Canada's used nuclear fuel for the long-term.

Ignace is the first of four communities engaged in the final stages of the site selection process to confirm their willingness. You can read details about their decision here: <https://www.nwmo.ca/News/Township-of-Ignace-confirms-it-is-a-willing-host-community-for-Canadas-repository>

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) continues to work closely with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, and the Municipality of South Bruce as they continue to consider if the project is a good fit for their communities. The Municipality of South Bruce has a planned referendum to determine willingness scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### **Regulatory Engagement Opportunities**

The CNSC is Canada's nuclear regulator. In addition to participating in the integrated IA, the CNSC inspects and evaluates how a proponent such as the NWMO would ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. They issue licenses, perform inspections, and review and follow up on the work of the proponent.

Recognizing the critical role these organizations may have in our region over the coming years, the Municipality of South Bruce is facilitating virtual and in person engagements through the month of August and have invited members of the public in South Bruce and the surrounding areas to participate.

#### **August 8, 2024: Community Liaison Committee (CLC) Meeting**

Staff from the CNSC and IAAC will be presenting at the special meeting of the CLC on Thursday, August 8 at 7pm. Anyone can join the virtual meeting and submit questions following the presentation, which will detail the roles and responsibilities of the two organizations, and address community concerns and priorities.

#### **August 16, 2024: Breakfast with the Regulators**

Join the regulators for a free breakfast and conversation at the Teeswater Town Hall from 7:00am-10:00am. All are welcome to ask questions, learn about the work of the CNSC and IAAC, and enjoy a complimentary breakfast. Short presentations by the CNSC and IAAC will be given at 7:30am, and 9:00am, respectively. Registration is not required but is welcome to assist in preparation for the event.

The regulators will remain in the community and participate in the Teeswater Fair on the weekend following the Breakfast with the Regulators. For more information, please visit: <https://calendar.southbruce.ca/Default/Detail/2024-08-16-0700-Breakfast-with-the-Regulators>

**Financial Impacts: N/A**

**Performance Measurement: N/A**

**Strategic Area:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Embrace a thriving rural lifestyle      | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance Municipal Service Delivery |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prepare for Inclusive Growth | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure Financial Stability         |

**Strategic Goal: Build Community Capacity**

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

Mike Bartlett, Administrative Coordinator

**Report Approved By:**

Jodi MacArthur, Chief Administrative Officer