



Staff Report

Report Title: NWMO Site-Selection Update

Prepared By: Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator

Department: CAO

Date: Sep. 9, 2020

Report Number: CAO-2020-09-30

File Number: NWCAC-100

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2020-09-30 prepared by Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator.

Background:

Two communities remain in the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) site-selection process to find a suitable location to store Canada's used nuclear fuel – the Township of Ignace and the Municipality of South Bruce.

Discussion:

Guiding Principles for Site-Selection Process

Recently, the [Municipality of South Bruce Council endorsed](#) a [report](#) that proposed a draft list of [thirty-four guiding principles](#) to assist the Municipality in their continued engagement of the site selection process and evaluate the potential benefits and/or impact of the project if it were located in South Bruce. Residents can provide feedback on these draft principals between September 4 and September 18. South Bruce expects to present the principals to the NWMO by the fall.

Draft Transportation Framework – Public Feedback Welcome

The NWMO has released their draft [Transportation Planning Framework: Moving Forward Together – An Invitation to Review](#) and over the coming months, will be asking for public feedback and input from Canadians and Indigenous Peoples to help guide and shape plans for the transportation of used nuclear fuel.

Information sessions, online virtual presentations, and conversations about transportation will provide insights in addition to comment forms and an [online survey](#).

Caitlin Burley, NWMO Manager of Transportation Engagement will be at the October South Bruce Community Liaison Committee meeting to discuss this draft report. The NWMO plans to launch local engagement in October.

Bat Research in South Bruce

The Toronto Zoo's Native Bat Conservation Program (NBCP) has partnered with the NWMO to research the native bat population. In July, NBCP installed acoustic monitors in and around South Bruce, allowing researchers to study and support conservation efforts for endangered bats. This research program will address knowledge gaps in the ecology of bat species in Ontario.

Study in Ignace on Impacts of Climate Change to DGR

The NWMO and Golder Associates LTD have [studied and researched possible scenarios of climate change](#) and the potential impact of increased precipitation on a Municipality of Ignace.

The study found precipitation is likely to increase in the future and provided recommendations to ensure that any repository built in the Ignace area would be built with increased precipitation in mind. This increase would impact the watershed in each area, resulting in flooding or other extreme climate events.

The climate change study for South Bruce is not yet complete. The NWMO expects it to be completed by early 2021.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

The information provided in this report is consistent with and in keeping with the Municipality's Vision & Mission.

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:

Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer