



## Staff Report

**Report Title: NWMO Site Selection March 2021 Update**

**Prepared By: Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Feb. 23, 2021**

**Report Number: CAO-2021-03-14**

**File Number: NWMO-1010**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2021-03-14 , prepared by Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator.

### **Background:**

In January 2020, the NWMO announced they had secured the sufficient amount of land in Municipality of South Bruce to continue studies for the DGR. This announcement meant that the Township of Huron-Kinloss was removed from the site-selection process and no longer considered a host community for the project. 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:**

#### **NWMO Environmental Baseline Studies Overview to Huron-Kinloss Council**

At the March 15, 2021 Huron-Kinloss Council Meeting, NWMO Vice-President of Site-Selection Ben Belfadhel will give an update to Council and Joanne Jayck, NWMO Section Manager, Environmental Assessment, will give the Environmental Baseline Program Update that was shared with South Bruce Community Liaison Committee (SBCLC) at the February 4, 2021 meeting.

#### **Comprehensive Study Plan in South Bruce**

At the SBCLC February virtual meeting, attendees learned about the comprehensive study plan that will begin this year for defining partnership. This work will build on

studies completed in 2012 to establish baseline conditions in a number of areas, including employment and workforce, housing, infrastructure improvements, economics, health and agricultural sector effects, property values, and others.

These studies will explore the expectations, aspirations, questions and concerns of South Bruce residents outlined in the project visioning workshop report and the Guiding Principles. They will also assess the potential impacts of the project in the community and broader region.

The studies will either be led by the municipality, the NWMO or in some cases both organizations.

### **Water Well Sampling and Testing Complete**

The NWMO has [completed pre-drilling water well sampling and testing](#) at the potential repository site in Teeswater as part of its preparations for deep borehole drilling in the area this spring.

Construction of the access and pad for the first borehole was completed at the end of 2020, and construction of the access for the second borehole and pad wrapped up in January.

### **Independent Peer Review**

The Municipality of South Bruce will have their studies peer reviewed by independent experts to build trust and confidence from their community.

South Bruce has retained GHD, Redbrick Communications, MDB Insights, Tract, and Burnside and others to provide a variety of expertise in various study areas.

These study results will be shared broadly with the community and provide important information as people consider whether the project is a good fit for the community. Those interested in learning more, or providing input into the studies, are encouraged to contact the Municipality or NWMO Learn More Centre in Teeswater.

### **NWMO/South Bruce Engagement Survey**

The Municipality of South Bruce and the NWMO did a second community survey to better understand how to improve the way the organization and municipality communicates and engages with the public. The Survey closed February 26, 2021.

### **South Bruce Community Liaison Committee**

The next [South Bruce CLC virtual meeting](#) is March 4, 2021 at 7pm. Martin Sykes, Senior Geoscientist at the NWMO, will give an overview of the site preparation to date and outline the upcoming technical program for the borehole drilling at the potential DGR site in South Bruce.

**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.

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