



## Staff Report

**Report Title: NWMO Site Selection August Status Update**

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

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Aug. 4, 2021**

**Report Number: CAO-2021-08-23**

**File Number: NWMO-100**

### **Attachments:**

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### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2021-08-23, 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:**

#### **South Bruce CLC Education**

The next South Bruce CLC meeting is Thursday, August 5, 2021 starting at 7pm. The presentation will feature Hannah Guo - Manager, Used Fuel Packaging Plant at the NWMO. Hannah leads a team of engineers that focuses on the design and development of the Used Fuel Packaging and will provide an overview of the current conceptual design of the Used Fuel Packaging Plant including the general plant layout and planned hot cells.

In September, the Committee will hear about the Swedish experience to date regarding their Deep Geological Repository. This joint presentation will be presented by the Mayor of Osthhammer in Sweden, Jacob Spangenberg and Saida Engstrom,

Senior Advisor at Vattenfall. Mayor Jacob Spangenberg will discuss their community's experience as a potential Deep Geological Repository host and Saida Engstrom will speak about the Deep Geological Repository program.

### **Borehole Drilling**

Borehole drilling and testing is continuing at the potential deep geological repository site near Teeswater.

At borehole site one (BH01), three of four total planned casings have been installed, at a depth of about 150 metres below ground surface. Later this summer, drilling and testing of the second borehole site (BH02) will begin.

In addition to borehole drilling, the NWMO is planning additional field activities to further characterize the geology of the potential site. These activities include the installation of micro-seismic monitoring stations across the region to monitor for seismic activity, such as low magnitude earthquakes, and the installation of shallow groundwater monitoring wells to further study the hydrogeology of the area.

A 3D seismic survey is also planned for the potential repository site and nearby area. The 3D seismic surveys are a geophysical technique that is used to generate an image of the subsurface layers of rock. The seismic surveys will be conducted on NWMO owned and optioned land, and we have also reached out to neighbouring landowners to potentially participate in these studies. The survey field work is planned for the fall. The exact timing is flexible to accommodate landowners and to minimize impacts on crops.

### **Updated Environmental Baseline Monitoring Process Diagram**

At the March 15, 2021, Huron-Kinloss Council meeting, NWMO's Joanne Jack, provided an update on the Environmental Baseline Monitoring program. Huron-Kinloss Council commented that the process diagram did not show an off-ramp for communities to exit the process and could fuel fears that the project was a 'done deal'. The NWMO has updated their Process Diagram to include an exit option. Please see the attached diagram to this report.

### **NWMO Partnership with SVCA**

[Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority \(SVCA\)](#) and the NWMO are partnering to collect water quality, water levels, and flow data to track conditions in the watershed. Both SVCA and the NWMO intend to work closely with the community to ensure thorough oversight of the environmental monitoring efforts.

### **NWMO Staff**

The NWMO has hired two staff members for their regional engagement team. Chris Hachey is the new NWMO Partnership Manager and will be supporting NWMO and South Bruce's work to explore the potential for partnership in our area.

Morgan Murray is the NWMO's engagement team's new office support staff and will be stationed at the Learn More Centre in Teeswater.

**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