



## Staff Report

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

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

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Sep. 8, 2021**

**Report Number: CAO-2021-09-24**

**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-2021-09-24, 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:**

In August, NWMO President & CEO Laurie Swami was in South Bruce for a working visit.

### **Borehole Drilling Updates**

Work continues on the first borehole drilling site. On August 25th some of the South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Team attended a tour of the two borehole sites in South Bruce. This was a test of a program to have community members see the operation and the core samples that are being pulled from the borehole.

Staff were able to see the facilities that have been set up for documenting and initial testing of both the rock and whenever possible water (large portions of the rock do

not contain water that can be measured at the borehole). At the time of the tour, they were at a depth of approximately 600 meters on their way to the Canadian Shield that is expected to be at about 900 meters.

NWMO plans to schedule tours of three or four people at a time, booking into a periodic tour program due to limitations that exist with entering an active construction site. The NWMO office in Teeswater will take these requests and more information will become available from NWMO. Core samples will be available off-site to show people the different types of rock that exist under that section of South Bruce.

Work on the second borehole has started with some preliminary drilling in the overburden and the move of the major drilling rig is expected later in September.

### **SON Representative Updates CLC**

At the August CLC meeting, April Root-Thompson from the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Environment Office provided an update on the process taking place at SON regarding their Community decision on the NWMO Project.

In her presentation, Root-Thompson highlighted the historical exclusion of SON and other First Nations from decisions in the nuclear industry, while recognizing that progress has been made in the last decade with the clear commitment from the NWMO.

Two SON representatives are monitoring the borehole drilling work on a daily basis and provide updates to the Community frequently. The NWMO and SON also have a Protocol Agreement, which Root-Thompson explained is common for developments taking place in their Territory.

### **Upcoming South Bruce CLC Meetings**

The next CLC meeting is Thursday October 7, 2021. The Committee will hear from GHD Limited, the independent community engagement consultant tasked with gathering input from the community on how they want to measure willingness to host the potential Project

Staff will present the proposed willingness indicators that they have heard from community members through the various community workshops, workbooks and online surveys, for review and confirmation.

This will be a Zoom meeting.

### **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