



Staff Report

Report Title: NWMO Site Selection Status Update March 2022

Prepared By: Elyse Dewar

Department: CAO

Date: Mar. 7, 2022

Report Number: CAO-2022-03-10

File Number: NWMO-100

Attachments:

Property Value Protection Program

PVP Property Owner Letter and Program Summary

Huron-Kinloss Questionnaire - Agriculture Business Impact Study

Environmental Baseline Data Collection Program Invitation

NWMO DRAFT Support for Environmental Research Resident Letter

Updated Multi-Year Funding Agreement Media Release

NWMO Project Study Meeting Schedule

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2022-03-10, prepared by Elyse Dewar, Project Coordinator.

Background:

Although lands in Huron-Kinloss are not being considered for the potential repository site, the NWMO acknowledges that Huron-Kinloss directly abuts South Bruce and will be impacted by the DGR if South Bruce becomes the chosen community.

Huron-Kinloss is committed to carrying out its due diligence on the DGR project to determine how its municipality, residents, farms, tourists and businesses will be best protected and served in determining whether Huron-Kinloss can support the DGR as neighbouring community.

We are working with the South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Team on current Project Studies related to the NWMO Project the effects it could have on regional communities.

Discussion:

Property Value Protection Program

The NWMO has developed a program to protect property values for owners in close proximity to Canada's deep geological repository for used nuclear fuel. The Property Value Protection (PVP) Program was developed in response to community feedback and will be activated should South Bruce be selected as the hosting site. The PVP program will come into effect should the Municipality of South Bruce be selected as a host community for the deep geological repository.

The PVP Program contains several elements, as well as other considerations which create a fair and comprehensive framework to work with the community and address concerns of property owners near the potential repository site in the Municipality of South Bruce and the Township of Huron-Kinloss. This will also work to satisfy the requirements of Principle 11 of the Municipality of South Bruce Resolution for the NWMO Site Selection Process, which states:

"The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will establish a property Value protection program to compensate property owner(s) in the event that Real Property values are adversely affected by the NWMO's site selection process and the development, construction and/or operation of the Project."

The elements are described in detail in the **Property Value Protection Program** documents, attached to this report.

Agricultural Business Impact Study Questionnaire – Huron-Kinloss

The Municipality of South Bruce and the NWMO created the Agriculture Business Impact Study that will identify:

- the existing agricultural/agri-business profile of the local area
- the potential for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) Project to change the agriculture/agri-business operations in the area
- potential strategies for use of the NWMO lands to facilitate new agri-business entrants
- potential strategies, if needed, to address a potential change in the value of the agricultural products.

Recognizing that the proposed site in South Bruce is near the Township of Huron-Kinloss, the scope of the Agriculture Business Impact Study was adjusted so to allow agriculture/agri-business stakeholders from Huron Kinloss, that live within a 5km radius of the South Bruce site, the opportunity to provide input that will inform this study.

The Agricultural Business Impact Study Questionnaire was mailed to 84 Huron-Kinloss agriculture/agri-business property owners.

The deadline to return these questionnaires is March 11, 2022. MDB Consultants will collect the data and create a report based on answers from both South Bruce and

Huron-Kinloss. The **Huron-Kinloss Questionnaire - Agriculture Business Impact Study** is attached to this report.

There will also be a workshop hosted by MDB Insight on **Thursday, March 10, 2022** at 1:00pm for agriculture and agribusiness stakeholders in Huron-Kinloss to develop a draft vision for agriculture business in the region taking the NWMO Project into consideration. Those interested in participating are asked to either complete the registration form created by the consultants at MDB Insight at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/huronkinloss2022> or register by calling MDB Insight at 1-855-367-3535 ext. 242.

Environmental Baseline Data Collection Program

The NWMO has invited organizations and residents of Huron-Kinloss to participate in their Environmental Baseline Data Collection Program. The **Environmental Baseline Data Collection Program Invitation** is attached to this report.

The NWMO will be sending letters to property owners in the area of focus for environmental research, which will help to develop a deeper understanding of ecosystems in the Saugeen watershed and support broader environmental protection efforts across the region.

To complete the work, NWMO contracted teams of biologists and soil scientists and may need limited access to natural areas of specific properties (not agricultural or residential). All participating landowners will be offered an honorarium in recognition of their valued cooperation, which will help to grow knowledge about the local environment and advance environmental initiatives for years to come.

The **NWMO DRAFT Support for Environmental Research Resident Letter** for property owners is attached to this report for more details.

Multi-Year Funding Agreement

The NWMO and the Municipality of South Bruce have signed a Multi-Year Funding Agreement that provides South Bruce with funds as a potential host community in the site selection process for the NWMO's Project. The **Updated Multi-Year Funding Agreement Media Release** is attached to this report.

For more details, the Multi-Year Funding Agreement Report can be found in the [February 8th Council Agenda](#) on the South Bruce Municipal website.

Regional Project Study Meetings

Monthly Regional Project Study meeting continue with NWMO, Huron-Kinloss, South Bruce, Brockton and North Huron. The NWMO has developed a **Project Study Schedule**, which is attached to this report.

Please let staff know if there is an interest in attending one of these meetings.

South Bruce Community Liaison Committee Meetings

The next South Bruce Community Liaison Committee meeting is April 7th, 2022 at 7pm. Details can be found on the [South Bruce website](#).

Financial Impacts:

None.

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