



### Staff Report

**Report Title: Nuclear Waste Management Organization Primary Significant Neighbouring Community Working Group – June 2022 Update**

**Prepared By: Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Department: CAO**

**Date: Jul. 4, 2022**

**Report Number: CAO-2022-07-18**

**File Number:**

**C11-NW19**

**Attachments: n/a**

---

#### **Recommendation:**

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number CAO-2022-07-18 prepared by Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

#### **Background:**

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is implementing Canada's plan for used nuclear fuel, known as Adaptive Phased Management (APM) for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, including, a collaborative process to select a site where Canada's used nuclear fuel can be safely contained and isolated in a deep geological repository (DGR).

Canada's plan will only proceed in an area that can be demonstrated as safe and has informed and willing hosts. To meet this criteria, together with potential siting area communities and Huron Kinloss as a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community (PSNC), NWMO is exploring the potential for partnerships, determining criteria for willingness and looking at how the project could enhance community well-being in these areas.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has selected South Bruce as one of two potential siting communities to host the project for the DGR and has signed agreements to secure over 1,500 acres of land with landowners in South Bruce and the Township of Huron-Kinloss (Huron-Kinloss) (the Secured Lands).

The NWMO lands in Huron-Kinloss are not being considered for the potential repository site, however, NWMO acknowledges that Huron-Kinloss directly abuts

South Bruce and will be particularly directly impacted by the DGR given Huron-Kinloss' immediate close proximity to the DGR site.

Given these principles, outcomes and direct impacts, Huron-Kinloss is considered as a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community for the DGR should South Bruce be selected.

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 a Primary Significant Neighbouring Community.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Township of Huron-Kinloss Council approved the Terms of Reference for the Nuclear Waste Management Primary Significant Neighbouring Community Working Group.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization Partnership Working Group continued its meetings during the winter and spring of 2022. During these meetings, NWMO officials advised of two important new developments:

1. Update of NWMO's borehole testing in South Bruce and Ignace; and
2. Commencement of the roll-out of Community Studies

#### **Discussion:**

1. Update of NWMO's borehole testing in South Bruce and Ignace

The NWMO advised that deep borehole drilling is well underway in both South Bruce and Ignace and the results indicate that the geology and long-term rock stability in both regions are consistent with expectations that either South Bruce or Ignace can be an acceptable site for the DGR. These findings were contained in recently released NWMO reports entitled "Confidence in Safety". In addition to deep borehole drilling, the NWMO is also undertaking seismic surveys that generate a 3D image of the geology. After the drilling is completed, additional data will be gathered of the rock at different depths within the borehole. These Reports represent years of research and fieldwork and contain detailed results why NWMO is confident that either locations can satisfy NWMO and the host communities rigorous safety requirements.

The NWMO also reiterated its commitment to protecting water throughout the drilling process by highlighting the borehole casing program. This involves installing steel casing from the surface into the upper bedrock to protect shallow aquifers. This step prevents mixing between shallower fresh water that local water wells draw their water supply from and deeper water that has different chemistry.

NWMO has extended an invitation to the Huron-Kinloss Committee members to visit the borehole site in South Bruce.

2. Commencement of the roll-out of Community Studies

Representatives also advised that the NWMO has begun to roll-out findings from a series of community studies in South Bruce and Ignace. These studies are intended to provide important information to potential host and neighbouring communities as they consider their decision whether to be willing and informed hosts. Huron-Kinloss provided input into the scope and range of many of these studies for our municipality. The study findings deal with a broad range of subjects including employment and workforce growth, opportunities for local businesses, infrastructure requirements and improvements and the construction of a Centre of Expertise.

Study results will continue to be released over the balance of this year and into 2023.

Finally, the Group discussed several community events and other potential venues within Huron-Kinloss over the summer and fall of 2022 where it is believed that NWMO would benefit from attending in order to further its stakeholder and public outreach.

**Financial Impacts:**

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

**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.

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:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer

**Approved By:**

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer