

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EAR FALLS
MINUTES of the Nuclear Waste Community Committee

Ear Falls Council Chambers
October 15, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gerald Kleist called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Gerald Kleist, Dave Wilson, Ron Bergmann, Frank Ray, Ursula DeKeyser, Gary Beardsley, Councillor Vic Robinson, Councillor Rob Eady, Clerk Treasurer Administrator Kimberly Ballance, one member of NWMO (Ann Aiken) and 1 member of public.

3. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

4. DELEGATION & PRESENTATION

4.1. Presentation from Councillor Rob Eady and Councillor Vic Robinson

4.1.1. Report on the 2012 International Conference on Geological Repositories (ICGR), October 1-2, 2012, Toronto

Councillor Vic Robinson attended the IGCR Conference and advised that video of the conference is available online. A number of organizations attended from Canada and internationally. This is the fourth conference since 1999 and it is held every 4 years. Japan was supposed to host the conference last year, but with the problems at Fukushima, it was postponed for one year. The title for this year's conference was National Commitment – Local and Regional Involvement.

The conference allows the international community to take stock of programs that are underway in regard to geologic repositories. A session on International Experiences reviewed shared experiences. There is an international commitment to work together on social and technological issues to solve problems through the examination of social politics, science, knowledge, experience and feedback. There are a number of countries that have progressed further than Canada, and they are being watching closely.

Most countries believe that it is important to take action with waste within one generation from when it was produced. Confidence in the decision-making process is important. Geologic disposal is safe, feasible and reasonable for the

disposal of nuclear waste and this has been deemed the optimum method, despite options associated with recycling.

A session on National Policies and Programs included presentations from a number of international perspectives including Sweden, France, Canada, United Kingdom, USA, and China. Sweden and Finland are the leaders in planning for the development of a DGR, followed closely by France. Sweden has an application in for environmental licensing as of March 2011. Finland is planning to apply within the year. Everyone recognizes that this is a long process and has demonstrated growing acceptance by the public in the projects. Public support is around 80-83%. Countries realize the importance of planning and gaining public support in the plan.

A session on Regulatory Agencies was quite interesting. This session was represented by six different national regulatory agencies from France, Canada, Sweden, USA, Switzerland and Germany. It was recognized that the regulators play an extremely important role in the process in creating regulations for procedures, conditions for development and closure of repositories. Regulations must be clear to the implementers of the plan, and must be transparent. They recognized the importance of periodic international reviews of the regulators as a peer review process in the interest of international public safety. Regulators were deemed to have an important early role in the process as they play an important part in gaining public confidence in the process.

A panel discussion titled Learning from Indigenous Peoples was quite good and included Phil Fontaine, former National Chief, Assembly of First Nations, Fred Kelly, Onigaming First Nation (Canada), Joanne Barnaby, Co-founder, Dene Culture Institute (Canada) and Richard Arnold, Chairman, Pahrump Paiute Tribe (State of Nevada, USA). The emphasis was on the importance of relationship building and involvement in the project. The panel members discussed that Indigenous People have a unique relationship to the land and in Canada, that the process for the development of a deep ground repository will not take place without the informed participation and consent of Indigenous People. Vic indicated that he understood from this session, that Indigenous People recognize the problem with nuclear waste and that something does have to be done, but they want to make sure they are part of the process from the beginning, so they have the opportunity to provide meaningful input into the planning and decision making process.

Rob Eady

Translation/Language was an issue throughout the conference due to the number of international representatives. Some sessions were quite difficult to understand.

A session on the second day of the conference was on the different approaches that Implementers have taken regarding nuclear waste.

France - they have 59 nuclear ships and legacy wastes. They are developing a deep geological repository in clay rather than rock. Siting started in 1992 with their first licence in 1998. They will start their public debate in 2013 with commissioning starting in 2020.

Sweden - all engineers from all countries represented can agree on the methodology of what the challenges are and what to do. The problem that they all have is to get the citizens of all the countries to agree to the methods and the site selection after decades of work. Sweden started 1977-1986 looking at rocks. 1990 regional studies, 1993-2002 feasibility studies, 2002-2008 site investigations they expect to build a repository and have a trial operation by 2025. Feasibility studies occurred in eight communities. They have different cultures in the north and south of the countries and are now focusing on answering the public's questions.

Finland - in the late seventies the public felt that the plutonium market would take care of the waste. This did not happen. In 1978 they started to look at a repository. In 2001 construction started at Onkalo which is on an island. They are learning from others and had some early difficulties developing methods and most of their training was hands. They are submitting their licence application in 2012. The most difficult decision they had to agree upon was the color of the surface building. There are still lots of challenges to overcome.

Japan - they have been doing literature surveys and preliminary surveys. Toyo Town applied to permit a repository in 2007 and due to strong opposition the Mayor was voted out of office. The new Mayor withdrew the permit application and there have been no new applications since. After the Fukushima Daiichi incident, people became more concerned with the nuclear cycle. They have started with grassroots style workshops and developed a feedback system to gather opinions from the public. They have developed public relations activities to assist the public in gaining a better understanding of the industry. They are using progress from other companies as a template to continue. The Fukushima disaster has made this more difficult. They have learned the importance of involving neighbouring communities. They keep themselves humble facing these needs with most sincerity.

UK - their government geological disposal policy does not cover Scotland and they have a similar siting process to Canada. Their wastes include spent nuclear fuel, separated plutonium and separated uranium. A safety case was launched in 2011. They do not have a site at this time so all design work is generic. They hope that by 2040 some of this waste will be contained in a facility. Phase two work is also underway to develop a credible option. They are fully engaged with their regulators.

Switzerland - they have five reactors and five interim storage facilities. Two geological repositories are planned. Parliament has decided to get out of the nuclear generation of electricity by the year 2020. They have a plan to dispose of their nuclear waste that was approved by the national government in April of 2008. They are using a fair, transparent and participatory process. It's a small

country but they have a large variety of rock and at this time are favouring sedimentary rock. They have 20 propositions for siting of surface facilities. Stage 2 decision from federal council is expected 2015-2016. Stage 3 2020 apply for licence. Start of operation 2035. High level waste repository should be in operation 2045.

There were some round table discussions on when the regulators should be involved in the process. Finland and Sweden felt they should be involved from the start whereas Switzerland said the average citizen does not understand nuclear systems so they rely on the regulator to look out for their interests.

There was also a panel discussion on social expectations and adaptation to change. There were a number of perspectives in regard to this topic.

Ivo Kaplan (Czech Republic) - they have two nuclear station, one research reactor, one uranium mine and one low level repository at Dukovany. In 1997 they created the Nuclear Act and by 2015 they expect to have two locations picked out. One will be the main site and one will be a backup. They expect approval by 2025 and by 2030 they hope to construct an underground laboratory. The Czech Republic is favoring Granite rock.

Jo-Anne Facella (Canada) - reviewed the process and path that we are familiar with, that is, Adaptive Phased Management and the NWMO's site selection process.

Philippe Lalieux (Belgium) - outlined how they have twenty years' experience in research and development of geological repositories in clay.

Dr. Michael Aebersold (Switzerland) - stated that this process is like a game of snakes and ladders. The public wants a high level of life and benefits and with this comes high level waste that society does not want to deal with. In 1969 the Swiss had their first power plant. In 1972 they created the Nagra Swiss Corporation for disposal. The rules were simple:

- The waste must stay in the country
- The generator or polluter must pay all of the costs.

They have a disposal concept that has a period of observation, monitoring, surveillance, maintenance and then recoverability. The plan was approved in 2008. They have regional participation, it is time consuming but necessary to gather information, opinions, a representation of interests. They have six regions and twenty propositions. Their challenges are, different state of knowledge of all the participants, tight time schedules, workloads, trustworthy sources of information (various perceptions by the public), influences from a higher level and National and Regional interests.

Another session was about the experiences of local communities and regions and included representatives from Sweden, France, Belgium, New Mexico (USA) and Kincardine (Canada). The most memorable speaker on this topic was John Heaton

Former Representative from the House of representatives for New Mexico. Rob recommended that the NWCC consider contacting him to be a speaker at a Special Meeting. They have been operating for thirteen years at Carlsbad, New Mexico the repository is 2100 feet deep in a salt bed. The salt heals itself with heat or geological movement. At this point they are storing low level and military wastes. It was a potash mining town with a lot of experience working in the salt. The Mayor of the day worked hard to get it established. The Attorney General tried to get it stopped at one point but failed because of the overwhelming support. It was anticipated that this was going to be used for high level waste when it was constructed but the high level waste was assigned to Yucca Mountain. Carlsbad started with the first shipment in 1999 and their number one issue was safety. The benefits were 1000 jobs and 220 million dollars annually. There are also more engineers and people with PhD's than anywhere else in the USA. The town's culture has changed due to the large number of highly educated people that now live there. The transportation system is second to none and their accident rates are zero.

The Mayor of Kincardine outlined his community's association with the nuclear industry and their attempts to get a low and intermediate deep geological repository located there.

In closing the Conference, Jean-Paul Minon from the Nuclear Energy Agency Radioactive Waste Management Committee said "We came from the past. We live in the present. We are planning for the future."

There was also protester at the event that was removed from the conference.

Questions from the committee for Councillor Eady and Councillor Robinson:

Is there an international safety regulator or international review association? An organization called EDRAM (International Association for Environmentally Safe Disposal of Radioactive Materials) exists and is a peer reviewer of regulatory agencies.

Is the NWMO reviewing repositories in non-granitic rock?

Some international experience was discussed and indicated that different countries are looking at clay, granite, sedimentary, salt and combinations of these materials (multi-barrier approach).

Are all areas looking at the same depth?

Yes they all appeared to be at around 500 m deep.

4.2. Presentation from NWMO

4.2.1. NWMO Update

Ann presented a brief update on the NWMO. There are now 21 communities that are involved in the site selection process. And this number will not increase any further at this time because the process has now closed to new communities. Some communities are in stage 2, and some are in stage 3. The NWMO may open the process again if required. The process has closed to ensure that the NWMO has adequate use of resources to support communities in the process.

NWMO is on target to screen down communities by the end of 2013. About 4 communities will remain in the process beyond that point, resulting in additional desktop studies and on the ground research in those communities.

The NWMO is holding an Open House today and tomorrow.

Ear Falls was the first community to have an NWCC website and the second community to distribute the Newsletter.

4.2.2. Science North Schools Program

The NWMO is obligated to ensure corporate social responsibility through education of youth in Canada. The Science North Schools program has been developed to focus youth engagement in communities. It is a contracted program. The NWMO does not develop the curriculum, but provides funding for hands on programming for grades JK/SK - 8 science and engineering. A letter from Science North will be sent to the principal of the Ear Falls Public School to offer free programming for students.

High school programs may be rolled out next year following a review by the elementary school principals.

4.2.3. Learn More Visit to OPG's Waste Management Facility - 2013

One more item that the NWMO has committed to providing to communities is the involvement in the Learn More Visit in early 2013. Ann will work with the Committee to select the people that will be in attendance.

The committee requested information on how the open house was proceeding. Ann advised that the attendance has been slow, but the timing during hunting season may be a reason. This experience has been common in many communities.

In the spring, the NWMO will plan another open house. Ann advised that they are currently working to bring in a transportation container to this event (as well as the NOMA conference). This hands-on perspective is important. 3D models of the above ground facility is still under consideration, but there is some fear by the NWMO that the information may result in misconceptions if the facilities change due to the learned best practices from other countries.

5. REVIEW OLD BUSINESS

5.1. Review of September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Committee concurred with the Minutes as presented.

5.2. Review of September 18, 2012 Special Meeting Minutes

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

5.3. Youth Engagement / Pizza Party

An event will not be held in conjunction with today/tomorrow's Open House. A future event will be considered and planned for a future date.

5.4. Meeting Time

The Committee discussed the new meeting start time of 6:30 p.m. and indicated some difficulties with this time due to the availability of the committee members. Meetings on the first Monday of the month have also been difficult for some members. The committee concurred that the meetings would be moved to the second Monday of each month beginning in 2013 and that they would begin at 7:00 p.m. as of the November 5th meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Nuclear Waste Administrative Assistant

6.1.1. Resignation of Haley Gushue

6.1.2. Job Posting

Two applications have been received. Interviews are pending.

6.2. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Presentation to the NWCC - November 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers

The Committee requested an outline of the presentation.

6.3. Posting the Video of the September 18, 2012 Special Meeting to the NWCC Website

The committee concurred with the Recommendation to Council. The committee recommended that the procedure for recording be defined as follows:

- Video will be focused on presenters subject to their approval
- Privacy of the public will be respected
- Announcement will be made at the outset of each meeting
- Q&A sessions should be recorded but the camera will not be focused on the public.
- Only the Open House / Speaker Series presentations at the committee's Special Meetings will be videotaped

6.4. Next NWCC Newsletter – Timeline and Content

The newsletter sub-committee will define content for review by the Committee. A sub-committee meeting will be set once new staff person is selected. A quarterly newsletter is planned with the next one being issued to the public in January of 2013.

6.5. Next Meeting – November 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers

7. INFORMATION RESOURCES

The committee thanked Haley for all her hard work.

7.1. Email Correspondence dated October 9, 2012 from Councillor Willy Liebigt

The Committee reviewed this correspondence.

7.2. September 27, 2012 - Media Advisory – Toronto to Host International Conference on Geological Repositories (including Webcast Information)

The Committee reviewed this correspondence.

The committee requested an updated budget report for the next meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Chair

NWAA