



NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

The Search for Effective Engagement

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The NWMO Mission

The purpose of the NWMO is to develop collaboratively with Canadians a management approach for the long-term care of Canada's used nuclear fuel that is **socially acceptable, technically sound, environmentally responsible** and **economically feasible**.

Overview of the Study Process

Phase 1: Conversations About Expectations	Listen & learn.
Phase 2: Exploring the Fundamental Issues	Are we asking the right questions?
Phase 3: Evaluating Management Approaches	Understanding the choices – what are the strengths and limitations of the options?
Phase 4: Finalizing the Study and Recommendation	Receiving comment on the Draft Study Report and finalizing the Recommendation.



A Range of Engagement Approaches

Conversations About Expectations	Citizen Comment and Submissions	Roundtable on Ethics	National Stakeholder & Regional Dialogues	Background Papers
National Citizens Dialogue on Values	Aboriginal Dialogue	Elders' Forum	Traditional Knowledge Workshop	Dialogue on the Draft Study Report
Roundtable Dialogue with Youth	Sustainable Development Workshop	Environmental & Technical Aspects Workshop	International Panel	Public Information & Discussion Sessions
Assessment Team	Coast-to-Coast Telephone Surveys	Focus Groups	Nuclear Site Community Dialogue	Open Houses
Future Scenarios	E-Dialogues	Website	Nature of the Hazard Workshop	Meetings, Briefings & Presentations

Engagement Participants

- ❖ 120 information and discussion sessions - every province and territory
- ❖ Partnership with 6 National and 9 Regional Aboriginal organizations resulting in the contribution of 2,500 Aboriginal people
- ❖ 500 specialists from technical disciplines and the natural and social sciences
- ❖ A conservative estimate that more than 18,000 citizens, coast to coast contributed to discussion
- ❖ 50,000 people expressed interest by visiting our website

Common Ground

- ❖ Canadians told us that now is the time to act decisively. We owe it to this and to succeeding generations.
- ❖ Approach must be fair to current and future generations.
- ❖ Approach must be safe and secure, for people and the environment
- ❖ Approach must be adaptable; Canadians want an approach that will allow succeeding generations to make improvements based on new knowledge or changing societal priorities.

The Recommendation: Adaptive Phased Management

Adaptive Phased Management consists of both a technical method and a management system.

A Technical Method

- ❖ Ultimate centralized containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel in an appropriate geological formation
- ❖ Optional shallow storage of used nuclear fuel at the central site as a contingency
- ❖ Provision for retrievability

A Management System

- ❖ Phased and adaptive decision-making, with explicit decision points to incorporate new social learning and technological innovation
- ❖ Continuous monitoring
- ❖ Citizen engagement throughout all phases of implementation

Adaptive Phased Management –Responsible and Responsive

- ❖ Commits this generation of Canadians to take the first steps now to manage the used fuel that we have created.
- ❖ Employs the best available science and technology in pursuit of safety and security.
- ❖ Provides genuine choice and promotes continuous learning.
- ❖ Allows sequential and collaborative decision-making, providing the flexibility to adapt to experience and societal and technological change.
- ❖ Is rooted in values and ethics.

Observations and Insights

1. Citizens have a right to be engaged.
2. Citizens are both capable and pragmatic.
3. Citizens gravitate towards a precautionary approach.
4. Trust is built through inclusiveness and diversity.

The Path Forward

We are resolute in our belief that the knowledge we have today is more than adequate to start down this path, yet humble enough to acknowledge that the future will unfold in ways that may redirect the path to our end goal. We have an ethical obligation to act.

NWMO Final Study