

Nuclear Energy & Radioactive Waste Management in Canada Policy, Plans and Priorities

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Outline

- Importance of Nuclear Energy in Canada
- Nuclear Players and their Role
- Legislative Framework for Nuclear Energy
- Legislative and Policy Framework for Radioactive Waste
- Long-Term Plans for Radioactive Wastes
- Canada's Evolving Landscape
- Closing Remarks



Canada's Place in the World

- Sixth largest oil producer (~3 MM BPD)
- Biggest exporter of oil to U.S ahead of Saudi Arabia
- Third largest natural gas producer; fourth largest exporter
- Second largest uranium producer and exporter
- Fourth largest producer of hydroelectricity generation
 - 78% of power production is nonemitting
 - 15% of Canada's electricity generation is nuclear





Canada Has a Diverse Electricity Supply Mix



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Nuclear Energy

- Canada has over 60 years of experience in nuclear power
- Canada's self-sustaining nuclear industry
 - Integral to Canada's energy sector
 - Involved in all aspects for peaceful purposes
 - 21,000 direct jobs (source: Canadian Energy Research Institute (CERI) 2008)
 - Safe, efficient nuclear power technology CANDU with refurbishments extending reactor life by 30 years
 - 5000 direct jobs in uranium mining, milling, & fabrication
- Nuclear energy plays an important role in Canada
 - Four power plants 19 reactors are currently operating
 - Six research reactors



Nuclear Fuel Cycle in Canada







Role of Nuclear Players

Federal Government

- Establish comprehensive framework for safe, secure and environmentally responsible application of nuclear fuel cycle, and uranium mines and mills
- Encompasses nuclear R&D
- Natural Resources Canada responsible for Canadian nuclear policy also works with Department of International Affairs on international nuclear policy

Provincial Government

- Own and manage resources
- Uranium exploration
- Decide on providers and mix of energy power supply

Government Agencies

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
 - Canada's Independent Regulator
- Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL)
 - Crown corporation
- Nuclear Industries
 - Includes full spectrum of supply chain mining to reactor vendor/operator
- Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)
 - Implementing agency for Canada's nuclear fuel waste plan





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Canada's Legislative Framework for Nuclear Energy

- Nuclear falls within federal jurisdiction
 - General advantage of Canada
- Four key elements of legislative framework:
 - Nuclear Safety and Control Act
 - Nuclear Energy Act
 - Nuclear Fuel Waste Act
 - Nuclear Liability Act
- Other elements: Acts regarding environmental assessment, transport of dangerous goods, etc.



Radioactive Waste Policy

Federal Role

- ensure long-term waste management is carried out in a safe, environmentally-sound, comprehensive, cost-effective manner
- develop policy, regulate, and oversee waste owners' compliance with legal, financial, and operational requirements
- Waste owners Role (e.g., utilities, AECL)
 - fund and manage their waste
 - develop and implement long-term solutions
- Federal Government is also a waste owner
 - responsible for historic and legacy waste management



Radioactive Waste Classification

- High-level radioactive waste (HLW)
- Intermediate-level radioactive waste (ILW)
- Low-level radioactive waste (LLW)
 - very-low-level short-lived radioactive waste (VSLLW)
 - very-low-level radioactive waste (VLLW)
- Uranium mine and mill tailings



HLW



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ILW



LLW



Uranium mine and mill tailings







Canada

Responsible Agencies for Radioactive Waste Management in Canada







Nuclear Fuel Waste Policy

2002 Nuclear Fuel Waste Act

- Roles and Responsibilities
 - Federal Government
 - Develop policy, regulate activities
 - Provide oversight of waste owners and the NWMO activities for radioactive waste
 - Nuclear utilities
 - Establish Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) to develop and implement a long-term solution for nuclear fuel waste
 - Waste owners
 - Manage, fully fund, and implement solutions for radioactive waste





Canada's Plan for Nuclear Fuel Waste

- In 2007, the Government selected the Adaptive Phased Management approach
- NWMO responsible for its implementation
- Government oversight of implementation



Source: Safe and Secure Transportation of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel, Fall 2012 – NWMO



Canada's Plan for Nuclear Fuel Waste (cont.)

- Phased, adaptive, and community consent-based
 - NWMO Siting Process in Progress since May 2010
 - Seeking a voluntary community with a suitable site willing to host a deep underground facility (21 communities engaged in process)
 - Ongoing consultations with Canadians and Aboriginal Peoples
 - Special relationship within Canada
- National Infrastructure Project
 - \$16 to \$24 Billion investment in waste management facility
 - Significant socio-economic impact for host community and broader region
 - Hundreds of permanent jobs



Plan for Low- and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste

- Ontario Power Generation
 - Proposal to operate a DGR at nuclear site in Kincardine, Ontario
 - Regulatory review process underway
 - January 2012 Joint Review Panel appointed
 - Public hearing in 2013





Plans for Historic Waste

- A federal responsibility
 - Managed by LLRWMO and PHAI MO
 - Over 90% located in Port Hope area
 - Known wastes under institutional control
- Port Hope Area Initiative
 - Waste and contaminated soils the result of uranium ore processing from 1930s
 - Way forward established between Canada and local Municipalities in 2001
 - Canada to fund cleanup initiative and Municipalities to host planned facilities
 - Planning phase completed in 2011
 - Government launched Implementation Phase in January 2012 (\$1.3 B over 11 years)



Port Hope Area on Lake Ontario

Canada



Program for Nuclear Legacy Liabilities

- Addressing decommissioning, site restoration and legacy waste liabilities at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited sites
- Government adopted long-term strategy, launched NLLP in 2006, renewed it in 2011
 - Total funding of \$959 M over 8 years
 - Current phase ends March 31, 2014
- Good progress to date
 - Waste clearance, processing and storage facilities constructed
 - Disused facilities, infrastructure (21,000 m³ total footprint) removed
 - High-hazard buried waste recovered, selected contaminated areas restored





Canada's Evolving Nuclear Landscape

Provincial Interest in Nuclear

- Quebec Hydro-Québec (shutdown of G2)
- New Brunswick (Point Lepreau on line)
- Ontario new build and refurbishments
- Saskatchewan Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation
- AECL Restructuring
 - Sale of CANDU reactor division to Candu Energy Inc. (October 2011)
 - Phase 2 launched in February 2012 focused on AECL's Nuclear Laboratories
 - Examining the long-term mandate and management model of the Nuclear Laboratories



Closing Remarks

- Nuclear is crucial part of Canada's clean energy mix
- Waste management is vital to continued success of nuclear and to addressing public perceptions
- Government of Canada remains committed to providing the policy, program support and oversight necessary to demonstrate that it takes radioactive waste management seriously
- Continued international dialogue and collaboration is essential, sharing best practices, and lesson learnt in radioactive waste management are key to building and sustaining public confidence and acceptance



Annexes

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Ressources naturelles

Canada's Current Nuclear Energy Profile

Pickering ON				Darlington ON		Bruce ON				Gentilly QC	Point Lepreau
A1	A2	A3	A4	1	2	A1	A2	A3	A4		NB
In service 1971/2005 Mwe 515	In service 1971 Safe storage state	In service 1972 Safe storage state	In service 1971/2003 Mwe 515	In service 1992 Mwe 881	In service 1990 Mwe 881	In service 1971/2012 Mwe 750	In service 1977/2012 Mwe 750	In service 1978/2003 Mwe 750	In service 1979/2003 Mwe 750	Shutdown 2012	In service 1983/2012 Mwe 635
B5	B6	B7	B8	3	4	B5	B6	B7	B8		
In service 1983 Mwe 516	In service 1984 Mwe 516	In service 1985 Mwe 516	In service 1986 Mwe 516	In service 1993 Mwe 881	In service 1993 Mwe 881	In service 1985 Mwe 882	In service 1984 Mwe 882	In service 1986 Mwe 882	In service 1987 Mwe 882		

Total electricity generation

Canada – 14% Ontario – 57.6% Quebec – 0% New Brunswick – 30%

22 CANDU reactors

- 19 operating in Ontario accounts for ~58%
- One recently shutdown in Quebec
- One operating in New Brunswick accounts for ~30%







Potential New Builds in Canada

Darlington New Reactor Project

- Licence to Prepare Site issued by Canada's regulator (CNSC) in August 2012
- OPG request for cost, technical information for AP1000 (Westinghouse) and EC-6 (Candu Energy)
 - Anticipated summer 2013
 - Application for Licence to Construct will follow decision on technology



AP1000





International Involvement in Nuclear

- Multilateral
 - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
 - OECD Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)
 - G-8/G-20
 - International Framework for Nuclear Energy Cooperation (IFNEC)
 - Generation IV International Forum (GIF)
- Bilateral
 - A New Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (NCA) with India
 - 27 Existing NCAs (Argentina, Romania, China, Korea, U.S., etc.)
- Support for Prime Ministerial, Ministerial, and senior management negotiations/visits abroad





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Opportunities & Challenges

- Build and Sustain Public Confidence and Acceptance
 - Maintain an open, fair and inclusive process that encourages citizen involvement
 - Provide ongoing information and education to the public
- Consultations with Aboriginal Peoples
 - Special relationship within Canada
 - Duty to Consult
- Governance
 - Ensure responsible organizations and management structures
 - Appropriate and balanced level of Government oversight
- Safe Transportation of Nuclear Waste
 - Greater public awareness and education
 - Early involvement of transportation agencies
 - Manage and address cross boundary issue (provincial, federal, and municipal)
- Successful in finding a willing community to host a DGR
 - Maintaining momentum with changes in leadership at various levels of government
 - Willingness of communities, including surrounding communities to host
- International dialogue and collaboration is essential
 - Adopting lesson learnt and best practices
 - Sharing and exchanging information
 - Working together through research and development activities