

Long-Term Management of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel



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WM2013 Conference

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES

Presentation

- » Nuclear Waste Management Organization
- » Canada's Plan
- » Progress Update

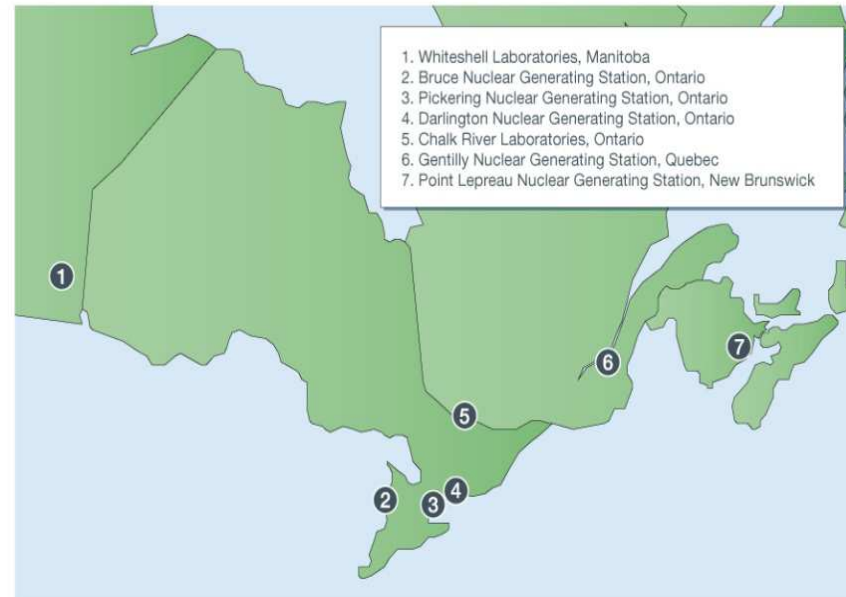
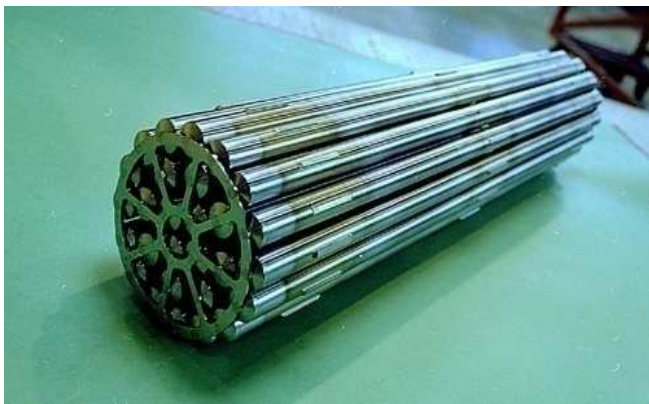
NWMO: Who we are

- » **NWMO Mission statement:** The purpose of the NWMO is to develop and implement 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
- » **Values:** Integrity, Excellence, Engagement, Accountability, Transparency
- » NWMO is a corporation that operates as a not-for-profit organization



Our mandate

- » Federally-mandated under *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*
 - » Established in 2002
 - » Funded by waste owners
- » Long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel
 - » Study options, propose an approach
 - » Implement the approach selected by Government



NWMO Study of Alternatives (2002-2005)

- » NWMO three-year nation-wide study:
 - ◆ 18,000 Canadians including 2500 Aboriginal people
 - ◆ Contributions from 500 experts

- » Canadians told us:
 - ◆ Safety and security is top priority
 - ◆ Take action now
 - ◆ International standards
 - ◆ Approach must be adaptable



Canada's Plan: Adaptive Phased Management

Plan emerged from dialogue with citizens and experts – best met key priorities

A Technical Method

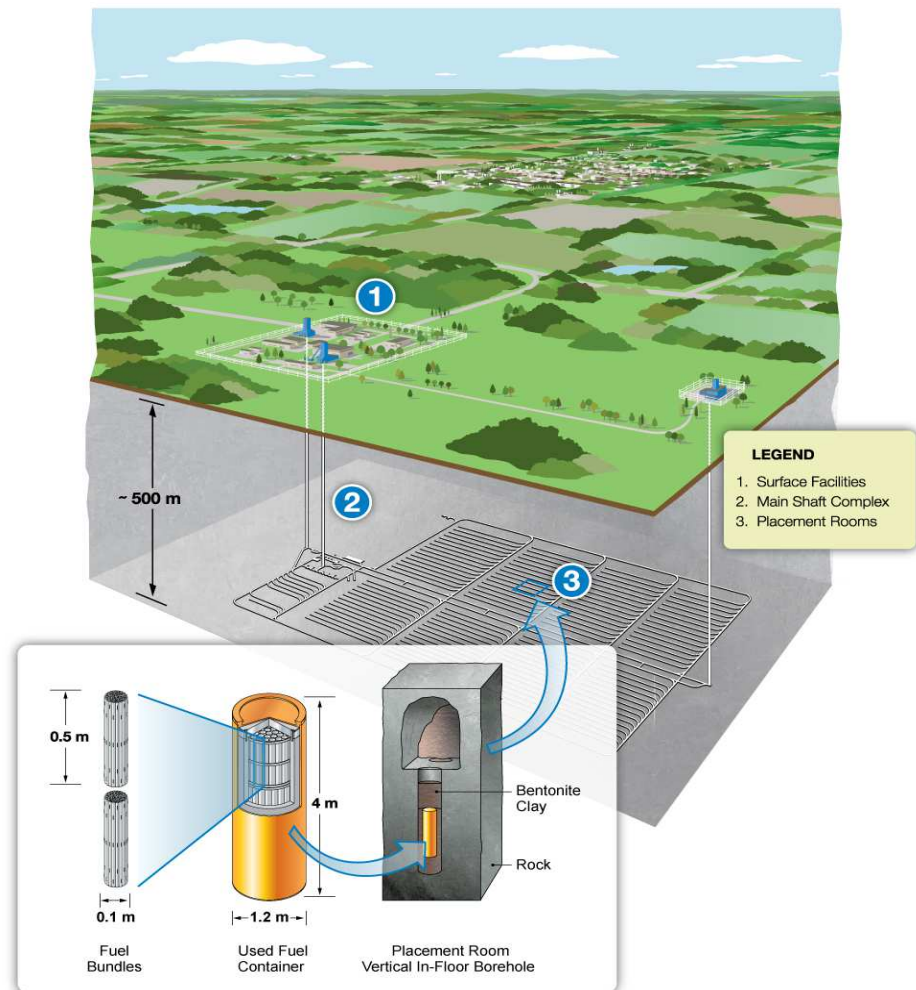
- » Isolation in deep geological repository
- » Continuous monitoring
- » Potential for retrievability

A Management System

- » Flexible implementation
- » Responsive to new knowledge
- » Siting process: open, inclusive, fair
- » Sustained engagement

National Infrastructure Project

- » Protect health, safety and environment
- » High technology
- » Strongly regulated
- » Informed, willing host community
- » Long-term partnership between NWMO and community



Collaborative Development of a Site Selection Process

- » **2008**
What is important for a site selection process?
- » **2009**
Review of proposed process
- » **2010**
Initiated siting
 - ❖ Invitation to communities to *Learn More*
- » **Foundation of process:**
 - ❖ Safety
 - ❖ Community-driven process
 - ❖ Informed, willing host community



Guiding Principles

- » Focus on Safety
- » Meet or exceed regulatory requirements
- » Informed and willing host community
- » Focus on the nuclear provinces
- » Right to withdraw
- » Siting process led by interested communities
- » Respect Aboriginal rights, treaties and land claims
- » Shared decision-making
- » Inclusiveness
- » Support capacity building
- » Informing the process
- » Community well-being
- » Ongoing engagement of governments

People said the siting process needs to be grounded in principles that reflect their values, concerns and priorities.

Communities Engaged in Learning More



2013-02-06

» 21 communities engaged in learning about the project

» 18 have requested Preliminary Assessments (Step 3)

» 3 considering interest in proceeding on (Step 2)

» “Expressions of Interest” phase suspended in September 2012

Multiple Stages of Assessment and Dialogue

Initial Screening (complete)
~ 3 months



**Preliminary Assessment:
Phase 1 (Desktop) (in progress)**
~ 18 months



**Preliminary Assessment:
Phase 2 (Field Work)**
Multi-year work
(with short list of communities)
(may begin 2014)



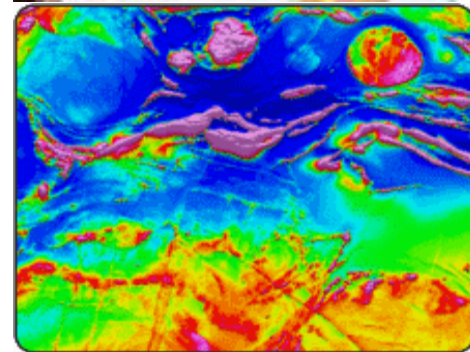
**Detailed Site
Characterization**
~ potentially 3-5 years

(followed by regulatory approvals)

**Engagement, Dialogue,
Mutual Learning,
Collaboration...**

Preliminary Assessments

1. Potential to find a safe site?
2. Potential to foster well-being of community?
3. Potential for citizens' continued interest ?
4. Potential to foster well-being of surrounding area ?



Implementation of the Plan Continues

- » Technical repository design

- » Continued research, and confidence building, international collaboration

- » Ongoing advice and guidance
 - » NWMO Advisory Council
 - » Council of Aboriginal Elders
 - » Municipal Association Forum

Engagement, Transparency, Accountability

» Involving Canadians in decision-making

- ◆ Local communities in siting process
- ◆ Aboriginal people
- ◆ Surrounding areas, regions
- ◆ Municipal associations
- ◆ Nuclear host communities
- ◆ All levels of government
- ◆ Diversity of interests

» Five-year Strategic Plan

- ◆ Developed through engagement and revised through annual public review

» Regular reporting on progress

- ◆ Annual and Triennial Reports submitted to Minister of Natural Resources, and made public

Dialogue Continues

