



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: September 27, 2021

Title: The Nuclear Waste Management Organization and The City of Dryden: Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group, Draft Terms of Reference

Prepared By: Marshalina Reader, Special Projects and Communications Manager

Department: Administration

Report Number: Administration-2021-21

Recommendation:

- 1) **THAT** Council receives this report titled, '*The Nuclear Waste Management Organization and The City of Dryden: Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group, Draft Terms of Reference*', dated 20 September 2021, as information.
- 2) **THAT** Council endorses the Terms of Reference for the term of September 2021 to December 2023, as attached to this report dated 20 September 2021.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's comments and endorsement of the proposed Terms of Reference for the Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and the City of Dryden.

Background:

Since 2010, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) has been advancing the Site Selection process for a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The process started with twenty-two (22) municipalities and Indigenous communities expressing interest in learning more and exploring their potential to host the project.

In November 2019, the NWMO narrowed its focus from five (5) to two (2) potential siting areas; the Huron-Kinloss or South Bruce area, and the Ignace area. In the Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce area, it was communicated that one community would move forward once a potential repository site was located through an ongoing process with local landowners. In January 2020, the NWMO signed agreements with landowners in South Bruce, and it was concluded that the Township of Huron-Kinloss would no longer be considered a potential host for the project.

In September 2020, recognizing Dryden's position as a regional medical, retail, service and transportation hub, the NWMO and the City introduced more formal and intentional stakeholder learning, engagement and communication activities for the community of Dryden. These actions advanced the entering into a Learn More Funding Agreement in January 2021, which has ensured that the City is not financially burdened for fulfilling our municipal leadership responsibility in more appropriately understanding the impacts and benefits of a DGR development near the Dryden municipal boundary. We continue to actively pursue meaningful learnings of the science and social impacts of the proposed project, including seeking out and hearing diverse perspectives and voices.

In late 2020 / early 2021, discussions with Dr. Ben Belfadhel, former Vice President Site Selection, NWMO, commenced regarding the establishment of a partnership working group to further represent Dryden's interests as an independent and unique neighbouring community to the NWMO's Adaptive Phased Management (APM) project. The proposed Terms of Reference for the Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group have been developed in accordance therewith.

It is important to acknowledge that the current Learn More Funding Agreement and the Terms of Reference for the Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group do not constitute Dryden's community support for either the APM project or the selection of Ignace as a final host community pursuant to NWMO's Site Selection Process.

Discussion:

The NWMO wishes to engage the City of Dryden, as a significant neighbouring community, in advanced dialogue of the APM project. Opportunities shall be identified for the City to contribute to the strategic vision of the APM project, which shall include community well-being considerations.

The working group shall be convened at the call of the Co-Chairs. The Chief Administrative Officer and Special Projects and Communications Manager shall provide administrative support and coordination.

The working group may invite additional organization representatives to attend meetings and provide technical or other required information and guidance. Dryden and the NWMO may jointly agree to invite a representative from the Township of Ignace to select meetings of the working group.

The Terms of Reference (attached hereto) outline the context, mandate, goals / deliverables, membership, and structure of the Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group, and shall not be repeated here.

Notice Provisions:

This Staff Report and Terms of Reference have been submitted to Council and Dryden residents in accordance with the public notice provisions of Chapter 47 - Council Procedures, By-Law Number 2804-2001.

Financial Implications:

Expenses incurred by the City for their involvement in the working group meetings shall be compensated by the NWMO.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

The intent and constitution of the Significant Neighbouring Community Partnership Working Group are well-aligned with the following goals of City of Dryden's Community Strategic Plan 2020-2025:

- Community Safety and Wellbeing
- Infrastructure
- Fiscal Sustainability
- Economic and Investment Diversity
- Communications and Our People

Attachments (Reference Material):

Draft NWMO and Dryden SNCPWG ToR, September 2021