



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: June 13, 2022

Title: NWMO Significant Neighboring Community Definition MOU

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Department: Administration

Report Number: Administration-2022-025

Recommendation:

It is recommended that:

1. Council resolves to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and the City of Dryden which further defines the term "Significant Neighboring Community" as it relates to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Adaptive Phased Management Project.
2. Council's resolution to accept this Memorandum of Understanding clearly states that the Memorandum of Understanding is intended to address certain implications for the City of Dryden resulting from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's Adaptive Phased Management Project and that acceptance of the Memorandum of Understanding does not constitute the City of Dryden's support for the Deep Geological Repository or the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's selection of the Township of Ignace as a final host community.
3. Council authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

Background:

On September 27, 2021, the City of Dryden Council approved the Terms of Reference ("ToR") for the Significant Neighboring Community Partnership Working Group ("Working Group").

The ToR acknowledged that Dryden is a significant neighboring community that may receive benefits and be impacted due to the Adaptive Phased Management ("APM") site selection process and potential siting of a deep geological repository ("DGR").

In the ToR, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization ("NWMO") and the City agreed to develop a collaborative and mutually agreeable approach to the implications of Dryden being considered a "significant neighbouring community" to aid and inform future funding considerations, and commercial opportunities.

Discussion:

The Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") being submitted for Council's consideration by the Working Group further defines the term "significant neighboring community" by again recognizing that the NWMO's activities have and will impact Dryden as a community and that Dryden's roll in the APM Project is significantly important, some may say critical, should the NWMO select the northwest region as the preferred single site for the DGR.

As part of our municipal leadership's due diligence pertaining to the NWMO APM project, City staff and Council continue to endeavor to be engaged with the NWMO and support efforts to learn about the proposed DGR as well as offer engagement and learning opportunities to Dryden residents. Municipal leadership remains committed to understanding and planning for any positive and negative impacts as a result of this project and ultimately mitigating any adverse impacts that such a large project could have on our community and surrounding area.

These actions are summarized in the MOU as the following:

1. Remain an active, engaged community with the NWMO in respect to the DGR.
2. Provide NWMO the results of any DGR-related studies, or pertinent planning documents once public, or unless agreed otherwise to by Dryden.
3. Discuss community capacity building, community engagement, community studies, ongoing baseline work and partnership development with NWMO.
4. Evaluate and undertake Dryden community-specific baseline studies in advance of the formal impact assessment process to identify mitigation measures to minimize adverse effects and improve community well-being.
5. Support continued development of those studies undertaken by Dryden and funded by NWMO.
6. Enter discussions towards a benefits agreement in respect to the DGR. A Benefits Agreement would support collaboration throughout the development of the APM Project, the impact assessment process and support long term operational goals.

The MOU also speaks to the principles and topics that are important to the City of Dryden when addressing any such Benefits Agreement. These are closely aligned with

Dryden's Community Strategic Plan and are stated in the MOU as including but not being limited to the following:

1. **Community Safety and Well-being:** To demonstrate safety for our people, the community, and the environment and to protect and improve the safety and well-being of the community and its residents. Protect our quality of life by championing environmental stewardship, protecting our natural beauty and our access to nature.
2. **Infrastructure:** To maintain and strengthen our community's infrastructure and municipal service delivery to maximize our opportunity for growth.
3. **Fiscal Sustainability:** To provide ongoing, sustainable funding and taxation.
4. **Economic and Investment Diversity:** To support local businesses while promoting diversified development opportunities and provide supports for workforce development.
5. **Communications and Our People:** To engage our residents with meaningful, factual, respectful, and transparent communications.
6. **Community Diversity and Inclusion:** To support a diverse and inclusive workforce, economy, and community. Acknowledge the importance of Dryden and area and Treaty 3 cultural relevance and work to celebrate this rich and historically significant culture.
7. Potential collaboration on shared priorities, such as joint environmental or regulatory reviews, where multiple parties agree to do so in the future.

It's important to note that the MOU specifically states that both the City of Dryden and the NWMO acknowledge that the MOU itself, discussions towards a Benefits Agreement, or the actual development of a Benefits Agreement does not constitute the City's support for the DGR or the NWMO's selection of Ignace as a final host community.

Through the MOU, both parties acknowledge that Dryden will be impacted by the DGR if NWMO selects the northwest location. A Benefits Agreement would seek to address any increased pressure on municipal resources from the likely influx of employees, contractors and commercial entities deciding to locate in Dryden, minimize adverse effects felt in Dryden, and improve community well-being.

Financial Implications:

Current Budget Allocation:

Account #:

Attachments (Reference Material):

- Terms of Reference for the Significant Neighboring Community Partnership Working Group
- Memorandum of Understanding – Significant Neighboring Community