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NWMO Update

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3
The GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION in Treaty #3

Zhaagimaa Waabo

nwmo
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION
SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION DES DÉCHETS NUCLÉAIRES

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Upcoming Events:

Dates of future forums and events will be announced as soon as social distancing guidelines & travel restrictions are removed.

"Stay safe,
Stay healthy, &
Stay home"

NWMO invites public comment on new five-year implementation plan

March 2020 - The NWMO released a new five-year strategic plan entitled, "***Implementing Adaptive Phased Management 2020 to 2024***" and is accepting public comment on this plan until June 10, 2020. The NWMO implementation plans are living documents that are assessed and modified yearly through public feedback, new advances in science and technology, insight from Indigenous Knowledge, changes in societal values, and evolving public policy.

Lisa Frizzell, Vice-President of Stakeholder Relations at the NWMO states, "the implementation of Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel is a collaborative process, and it is important for us to hear from people."

The new plan brings an end to the process the NWMO initiated in 2010 and marks the beginning of a new series of activities, including the implementation of partnership agreements with communities, advancing the safety case for the selected site, and preparing for and participating in the regulatory process.

For a copy of the new plan or assistance with submitting comments to the NWMO on the new five-year strategic plan, please contact Jeffrey Ross, GCT3/NWMO Engagement Liaison at:

nwmo.liaison@treaty3.ca

NWMO offers COVID-19 relief funding to local and Indigenous communities

April 2020 - The NWMO announced that is providing a one-time funding opportunity to local and Indigenous communities to assist with their communities' response to the COVID-19 crisis. This funding is intended to support communities through the pandemic, in areas such as community well-being, health concerns, food insecurities, and other basic supplies that will help community members cope in these challenging times.

Ben Belfadhel, Vice-President of Site Selection at the NWMO states, "All of us have a responsibility to take actions to help flatten the curve, and we have long been committed to supporting the health and well-being of the communities who are in the NWMO site selection process. [NWMO's] commitment to protecting people and the environment includes the health, safety and well-being of the people we work with & the communities where we are active."

Only those communities with existing "Learn More" or participation agreements were offered these one-time funds.

For more information and resources on COVID-19, please visit:

http://gct3.ca/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-information/

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html

Nuclear 101 educational series being developed by the Territorial Planning Unit

April 2020 - The Territorial Planning Unit has begun developing a 7-part educational series entitled, "NUCLEAR 101". This series is a science, technology, engineering, and math focused curriculum that will be used as an educational tool by any interested Treaty #3 member who wants to learn more about nuclear science and energy. It will be a valuable tool and resource for those who participate in "Learn More" forums or other engagement activities related to NWMO's site selection process as it is being designed to provide learners with accurate, unbiased, and up-to-date information on the roles that energy and nuclear science play in our society. This series will include essential, basic principles and concepts of energy science and will be presented in such a manner that it can be understood by middle-aged students or higher.

Each series will include a 30-60-minute pre-recorded video that will use a variety to tools and methods to engage the learner, which will include PowerPoint presentations, videos, lab demonstrations, and other exercises. Each series will be made available to Treaty #3 members on- or off-line. The following modules or series will be included as part of the NUCLEAR 101 curriculum:

ENERGY BASICS
ATOMS & ISOTOPES
IONIZING RADIATION
FISSION AND CHAIN REACTIONS
ATOMS TO ENERGY
WASTE FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
SAFETY & SECURITY

Each series will be designed to allow learners to follow along at their own pace. No special materials or resources—other than access to a computer and internet or CD drive—are required. A guidebook with all presentations, exercises, do-at-home lab activities, and additional resources will also be made available to allow learners to follow along with the videos. The expected release date of the NUCLEAR 101 series is late summer 2020.

The Power Plant of the Future?

April 2020 - While countries like Germany and France are taking steps to decommission their nuclear reactors due rising operating costs and safety concerns, these same countries are switching to other, less clean forms of energy—such as coal power plants—that contribute to global climate change and have environmental justice implications for the poorer, working class neighbourhoods where these plants are often found. With climate change and the race to find cleaner forms of energy, environmental group are calling for the expansion of nuclear fuel both in North America and around the world as a clean form of energy to help mitigate climate change (yes, you read that correctly). However, with increased use of nuclear energy, we are faced with the problem of safely storing used nuclear fuel. Oklo, a California-based start-up company, plans to develop a power plant that can turn nuclear waste into energy and just took a big step to making it a reality.

In 2019, Oklo obtained a permit to build the next-generation power plant at the Idaho National Laboratory in Idaho Falls, USA. Idaho National Laboratory will provide Oklo with the waste products of a nuclear reactor. The initial design of the power plant will provide up to 1.5 megawatts of electricity—enough to power 1,000 homes. This power plant will operate much like a long-lasting battery without the need for a team of operators or refueling for 20-30 years. The design of the plant is based on an experimental reactor that ran for 30 years at the Idaho National Laboratory. Once plant design is approved by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, it will be the first fuel-recycling commercial reactor in the United States that could be in operation as early 2022.

Rendering of Oklo's power plant.

For more information, contact:

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