

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The NWMO advances Canada's plan for safe, long-term management
of used nuclear fuel; siting process continues in two areas**

TORONTO, Ont., Nov. 26, 2019 – The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is advancing the site selection process for a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel. The organization will narrow its focus from five to two potential siting areas, an important advancement in Canada's plan.

The Township of [Ignace](#) in northwestern Ontario, and Township of [Huron-Kinloss](#) and Municipality of [South Bruce](#) in southern Ontario will continue to be considered potential host areas for the project. In Huron-Kinloss and South Bruce, one of these communities will move forward in the site selection process once a potential repository site is located in the area through an [ongoing process with local landowners](#). The areas around the Townships of [Hornepayne](#) and [Manitouwadge](#) in northern Ontario will no longer be considered.

"As we work towards identifying a single, preferred location for this project, in an area with informed and willing hosts, we need to increasingly focus on specific locations that have strong potential to meet the project's safety and partnership requirements," said Dr. Mahrez Ben Belfadhel, Vice-President of Site Selection at the NWMO. "These are hard decisions and not made lightly, but ultimately, we are working towards identifying one area where we can implement Canada's plan to ensure the protection of both people and the environment."

The site selection process has been underway since 2010. This process started with 22 municipalities and Indigenous communities that expressed interest in learning more and exploring their potential to host the project. The NWMO has gradually narrowed its focus to fewer areas through technical site evaluations and social engagement to assess safety and the potential to build supportive and resilient partnerships, key criteria to assess the suitability of each area.

In the remaining areas, next steps will include working with municipal and Indigenous communities to conduct progressively more detailed technical site evaluations and social studies. This work will further assess safety and explore how the project can be implemented in a manner that will enhance the well-being of municipal and Indigenous communities in each area.

"At the NWMO, we stand on the shoulders of giants," said Dr. Ben Belfadhel. "I want to thank the leaders and people of the many communities that have been so actively engaged in this process. This project is moving forward according to plan, and their forward-looking leadership and contributions to Canada's plan are helping solve a challenge on behalf of all of us, for generations to come."

The municipalities and Indigenous communities exiting the site selection process, as well as their neighbouring communities, will be eligible for [one-time community well-being investments](#) to acknowledge their leadership and role contributing to Canada's plan. These investments will be made in a community well-being reserve fund (or equivalent) and are a way for the NWMO to continue contributing to well-being, even as work continues in other areas.

About the NWMO

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is implementing Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Used nuclear fuel is currently safely managed on an interim basis at existing nuclear generating stations in Canada; however, this is not a long-term management approach. The organization was created in 2002 by Canada's nuclear electricity producers. Ontario Power Generation, NB Power and Hydro-Québec are the founding members, and along with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, fund the NWMO's operations. The NWMO operates on a not-for-profit basis and derives its mandate from the federal *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

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Information on community well-being investments for those exiting the site selection process

The municipalities and Indigenous communities exiting the site selection process, as well as their neighbouring communities, will be eligible for one-time community well-being investments to acknowledge their leadership and role contributing to Canada's plan. These investments will be made in a community well-being reserve fund (or equivalent) and are a way for the NWMO to continue contributing to well-being, even as work continues in other areas.

| Communities no longer in the site selection process | Well-being investment |
|--|------------------------------|
| Constance Lake First Nation | \$700,000 |
| Hornepayne | \$700,000 |
| Manitouwadge | \$700,000 |

| Neighbouring and surrounding communities no longer in the site selection process | Well-being investment |
|---|------------------------------|
| Chapleau Cree First Nation | \$350,000 |
| Ginoogaming First Nation | \$350,000 |
| Missanabie Cree First Nation | \$350,000 |

| Communities no longer in the site selection process that exited in 2017, but continued as a neighbouring community | Well-being investment |
|---|------------------------------|
| White River | \$600,000 |

| Recently engaged communities | Well-being investment |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Long Lake #58 First Nation | \$200,000 |

| Indigenous organizations | Well-being investment |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Red Sky Métis Independent Nation | \$200,000 |