

## **Hornepayne Moving to Next Step in NWMO Site Selection Process**

The Township of Hornepayne has resolved to continue involvement with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) and learn about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term. Council passed a resolution at its December 21<sup>st</sup> meeting approving moving forward to the next step, Preliminary Assessment of Potential Feasibility – Feasibility Studies (Step 3), in the NWMO process. The process for identifying an informed and willing host community for a deep geological repository is expected to take seven to ten years.

Council's expression of interest in moving forward does not commit the Township to becoming a host community.

The NWMO site selection process is designed to ensure above all, that the site selected is safe and secure. The repository facility is not expected to be in operation until 2035 at the earliest. Mayor Forster states "Since no reasonable decision can be made in the absence of specific, detailed information about the geology of the area and the effect on the socio-economic status of our community and since we remain with NO obligation on the part of the community, we have decided to continue with the LEARN MORE programme of the NWMO in order that a full, comprehensive assessment can be placed before council and the community."

"Any community that reaches the final stages will be required to demonstrate its willingness in a compelling way before it can be identified as a potential host. If Hornepayne reaches that step, any decision will involve our entire community," added Mr. Forster.

Step 3 involves a two-phase feasibility study that sets out to determine whether Hornepayne has the potential to meet the detailed requirements for the repository project.

Community delegations have visited a nuclear waste management facility and met with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. In June 2011, Council invited the NWMO to hold community sessions. The sessions gave the NWMO an initial opportunity to provide information, answer citizen's questions and discuss areas of concern. An initial screening did not identify any conditions which would exclude Hornepayne from the siting process. Hornepayne established a Community Liaison Committee in October 2011.

The NWMO will begin conducting Step 3 feasibility studies in collaboration with interested communities beginning in 2012. The first phase of the study, which could take a year or more, will explore four key questions:

- Is there the potential to find a safe site?
- Is there the potential to foster the well-being of the community through the implementation of the project, and what might need to be put in place to ensure this outcome?

- Is there the potential for citizens in the community to continue to be interested in exploring the project through subsequent steps in the site selection process? And,
- Is there the potential to foster the well-being of the surrounding area and to establish the foundation to move forward with the project?

The NWMO will provide resources to the Township as it continues to explore its interest in the repository project. Importantly, neighbouring communities and potentially affected Aboriginal communities will be engaged during the feasibility step of the siting process. They will also be eligible for funding, as appropriate, to support their participation.

For more information about the NWMO, and the site selection process, please visit:  
[www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess](http://www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess)