

ADVANCING CANADA'S PLAN FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF USED FUEL

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Abstract

This presentation focusses on the activities underway to advance Canada's plan for the safe, long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The plan, which the federal government selected as Canada's approach in 2007, emerged from a three-year dialogue with both specialists and the Canadian public. Known as Adaptive Phase Management (APM), its end point is centralized containment and isolation of our country's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository in an area with suitable geology and an informed and willing host.

The site selection process for APM is now well underway. Through a series of increasingly detailed technical and social assessments, the NWMO has narrowed its focus and is now working in the vicinity of 9 of the initial 22 communities that expressed interest in participating in the process. The NWMO is conducting further technical field assessments and socio-economic studies in these areas, and will commence borehole drilling in 2017. The organization expects to identify a preferred site by 2023.

The NWMO also continues to advance our technical capabilities through the optimization of our Engineered Barrier System (EBS) design and ongoing research and collaboration. Through the NWMO's test facility, proof testing of EBS components and equipment are progressing. The results of our testing program and field assessments support the evolution of the site specific safety case.