



Ignace Willingness Backgrounder July 2021



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Things You Need to Know About Ignace's Future Willingness Decision

1.0 What is the APM Project About?

In 2007, the Government of Canada determined that Adaptive Phased Management (APM) would be Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Used nuclear fuel is one of the by-products of electricity production in nuclear power plants. It is a compact, solid material that is hazardous and needs to be contained and isolated from people and the environment, essentially indefinitely.

More than 90 percent of Canada's used nuclear fuel is in Ontario. It is currently managed in licensed storage facilities, many of which are located at nuclear power plant sites. This storage is interim and requires active care to maintain. The concrete and steel containers that currently contain the used nuclear fuel need to be replaced every 50 to 100 years. The buildings in which the used fuel sits need to be continuously monitored and maintained.

APM moves towards a goal that Canadians identified: safe, secure, long-term containment and isolation of used nuclear fuel produced in Canada with flexibility for future generations to refine the approach and adapt to experience and societal changes. Canada's plan puts in place a long-term management plan that will safely and securely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel in a passive manner that does not require future generations to take care of waste they did not produce. Canadians have said it is unfair to put the responsibility for taking care of this waste on to future generations when we have the knowledge, capacity and resources to safely and securely put in place a long-term management plan today.

The site selected for the project must ensure long term safety. APM involves placing our country's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository using a multiple-barrier system. The preferred site will be one that can be demonstrated to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel and protect humans and the environment over the very long-term. The project consists of surface facilities as well as the repository, which must be located in a suitable rock formation. The rock formation will have desirable characteristics (geological, hydrogeological, chemical and mechanical), that support containment and repository performance to meet or exceed the regulatory expectations of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, the guidance of the International Atomic Energy Agency and experience in other countries with nuclear waste management programs¹.

The project must also be able to foster long-term community well-being and quality of life of the local community and region. The local community must be willing and the project must be able to be implemented with the involvement of First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area, working in partnership to implement it. A National Centre of Expertise will be an important part of this large national infrastructure project. A fundamental tenet of Canada's plan is incorporating learning, including Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, at each step to guide a process of phased decision-making. APM is designed to be flexible and responsive to new learning, societal priorities and evolving

¹ NWMO, 2015. Description of a Deep Geological Repository and Centre of Expertise for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel. Accessible Online: https://www.nwmo.ca/en/~media/Site/Files/PDFs/2015/11/12/08/10/2798_description_of_a_deep_geological_repository_and_ce.ashx

public policy. Moving to a deep geological repository is recognized internationally as the best approach for the long-term management of used fuel.



2.0 Why Ignace?

Since 2012, Ignace has been learning about the APM project and exploring the potential to implement it in the area. The potential for this area to meet the requirements of the project is strong. Twenty-two communities and areas expressed interest in the project. A series of technical and social studies and narrowing down decisions made by the NWMO were designed to focus on progressively more detailed studies where there is strong potential to meet the requirements of the project. The Ignace area is now just one of two areas being considered to implement the deep geological repository, Centre of Expertise, and other facilities that are part of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

The leadership of Ignace expressed the following two considerations when the community initially entered the site selection process. Ignace leadership wanted to: i) ensure that future generations are protected from the hazards associated with used nuclear fuel by helping to implement sound practices of waste management such as environmental stewardship, safety, accountability, and social responsibility; and ii) advance the long-term well-being of the community through the APM project, including promoting socio-economic growth, environmental sustainability, and well-being of the community and its surrounding area and Indigenous neighbours. Preliminary studies suggest the project can be implemented safely in the Ignace area². The project aligns with the priorities and objectives identified by the community and described in Ignace's Community Strategy³.

Ultimately, the project requires a site that can safely and securely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel for the long time period needed, as well as a supportive partnership involving the municipality, First Nation and Métis communities and others in the area. A single preferred site for the project is expected

²NWMO, 2013. Preliminary Assessment for Siting a Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel The Corporation of the Township of Ignace, Ontario. FINDINGS FROM PHASE ONE STUDIES Available Online: https://www.nwmo.ca/~media/Site/Reports/2015/11/20/07/16/2242_ignace_preliminary_assessment_report.ashx?la=en

³ Township of Ignace, 2019. Township of Ignace Community Strategy.

to be selected by the NWMO in 2023. Once the NWMO has selected a preferred site in 2023, it will need to complete more detailed studies as required by Canada’s regulators and the regulatory review process. The project will not proceed without undergoing a process of regulatory review, assessment, and licensing.

3.0 Why is Ignace Discussing ‘Willingness’ Before Making a Decision?

Ignace is continuing to learn about and explore the project but has not decided whether or not it is willing to see the project implemented in the area. As part of the siting process in late 2022 or early 2023, Ignace will need to decide and demonstrate willingness in order for the project to be able to proceed. By this time, Ignace and the NWMO will have completed more detailed technical and social studies, and discussions about the possible content of a partnership agreement with NWMO will have advanced. Additional studies will also have been completed to explore the suitability of the rock at the site to ensure safety. Before making the ‘willingness’ decision, Ignace leaders want to hear from residents about, ‘how to make the decision’.

The objectives for the Ignace Willingness project are:

- 01 Through dialogue with community members, outline a process for Ignace to determine its level of willingness to implement the APM project in their area;
- 02 As part of this process, identify and describe multiple indicators that will be used to assess Ignace’s willingness; and
- 03 Include a range of methodologies to ultimately engage and assess the willingness and support of community members in the future.

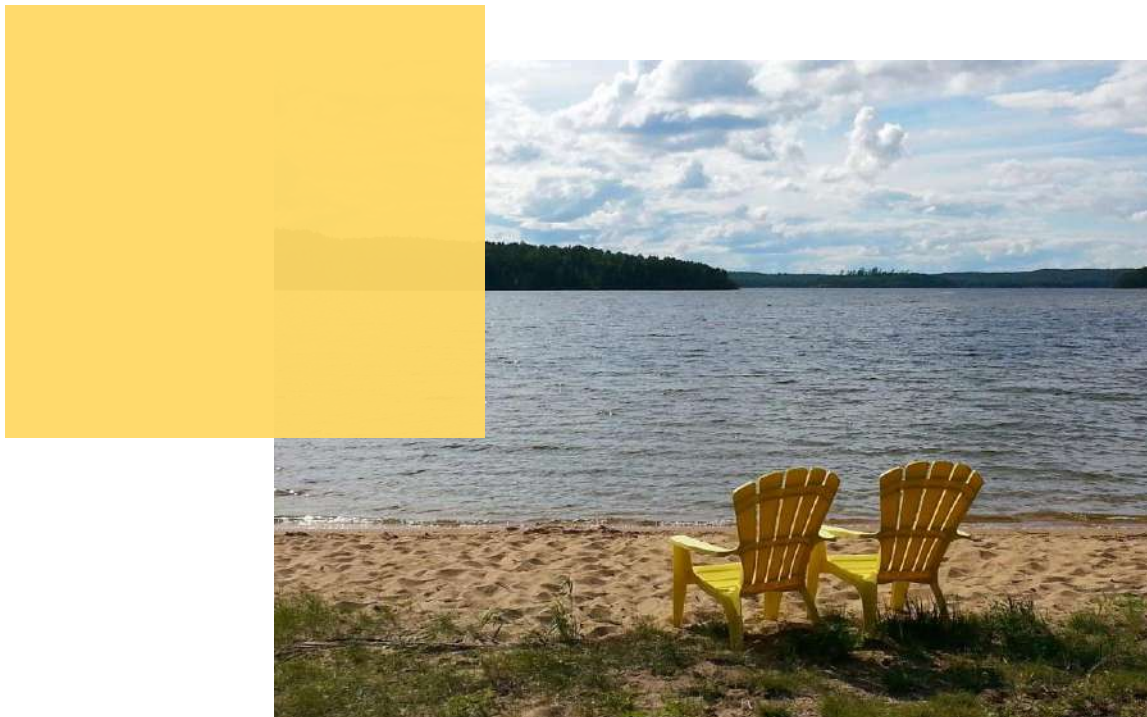
When talking about willingness what are Ignace residents being asked to think about? The Township wants to understand what willingness means to the residents of Ignace in the context of the APM project being sited in the area. The Township wants to know how people feel about the decision they will be asked to make and how they would like to see it made. The Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) has provided a letter to the community to introduce the Willingness project and encourage the community to participate (see **Appendix A**).

4.0 Residents are Being Asked, “What Should the Decision-Making Process Look Like?”

The Township has prepared material to provide information and obtain feedback from the Ignace community on how residents would like to see the decision made (see **Appendix B** – Willingness comment form). Questions include:

- 01 Which decision-making activities should be part of our community’s decision-making process about the APM project? Which activity is most important and why?
- 02 The ICNLC and the Township have been working to ensure the community is informed about the project. Before any decision is made, what additional information is needed to ensure you and your neighbours are informed?
- 03 Before Ignace decides whether they are or are not willing to support the project being implemented in this area, what are you most interested in learning more about?
- 04 The ICNLC has laid out a plan for how Ignace could decide on its support for the project which builds on our community’s work to date to learn about and explore the project. Do you think this is a good plan? What changes, if any, would you like to see made to this plan?

How should community members be involved in the decision? What role should the ICNLC and Council play? Should the ICNLC make a recommendation to Ignace Township Council? Should Ignace Township Council make a decision on behalf of the community? Should special events be held for Ignace residents to voice their opinion about the project? Should community surveys be conducted to hear resident’s views? Please share your views!



5.0 Questions and Answers

The following Q&A's address potential questions regarding the Willingness process that may be helpful.

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| Will other communities be asked to participate? | <p>Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation will also need to decide if it is willing to see the project proceed.</p> <p>There is also ongoing engagement of municipal and Indigenous communities in the surrounding area by the NWMO to understand questions and concerns that need to be addressed about the project and will be considered by NWMO in selecting a site.</p> |
| How have we defined the Ignace community? | <p>The community is defined by the municipal boundaries of the Township of Ignace. That said, the Township is interested in hearing from people living in the area who wish to complete the comment form to share their views.</p> |
| Who is a resident? | <p>Those people living in the municipal boundaries of the Township of Ignace. Residents are further defined in the same manner that Statistics Canada defines a resident⁴.</p> |
| Who is leading this discussion? | <p>The ICNLC, Township of Ignace and NWMO are leading this discussion with support from a third-party independent consultant – Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited.</p> |
| Why were the questions on the comment form open-ended? | <p>The open-ended questions allow the Township to get detailed and unique information from each individual on their perceptions of how a decision on willingness should proceed in Ignace.</p> |
| What is the role of Council? | <p>Township Council is seeking the views of community members. In the future they may be asked to make and pass a resolution.</p> |

⁴ Statistics Canada (2016) Ignace Township Census Subdivision. Available Online: <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=3560001&Geo2=CD&Code2=3560&SearchText=Ignace&SearchType=Begin&SearchPR=01&B1=All&TABID=1&type=0#map-popup>

6.0 Opportunities Ignace Residents Have to Provide Their Views

The Township of Ignace will be conducting a series of engagement activities to obtain community members' input on the Willingness process. Staff are going to where people live, work and play to ensure that we hear the perspectives of community members. Some of the engagement activities include:

- Mobile Learn More Centre;
- Pop Up booths;
- Open Office events;
- Willingness Workshops (facilitated by Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited); and
- One-on-one discussions with community members.

When and where these activities will take place will be advertised on the Township of Ignace's project specific website (www.ignace.ca). The material and comment form can be downloaded online on the project webpage. The webpage provides a means for community members to learn about the Willingness project and enables access to additional project communications materials (e.g. pamphlet, etc., see **Appendix C – Additional Communications Materials**).

7.0 What Will be Done with the Information Received?

The information gathered from Ignace residents during the engagement process in the coming months will be used to define a willingness assessment process for 2022 and 2023 leading up to NWMO's selection of the preferred site for the APM project. The Township has hired an independent consultant, Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited (HSAL) to help implement the engagement process, as well determine what Ignace residents have said about the willingness project, and how the Township should proceed.

8.0 Next Steps

After hearing what the community has to say, HSAL will be providing a summary report that captures all the information gathered over the six-month period. The report will summarise how the dialogue was designed and delivered, what was heard and the key findings from the dialogue. The report will culminate with a 'Roadmap' that sets out the preferred approaches for measuring and assessing willingness in Ignace.

The report will be presented to Council and will be subject to a Council review which is expected by end of year.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Letter from the ICNLC

Appendix B – Willingness Comment Form

Appendix C – Additional Communications Materials

Appendix A – Letter from the ICNLC

Planning for a community decision on the APM Project

Dear neighbours,

Ignace residents are continuing to learn about and explore the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project and siting it in this area. Before we make the decision, we first need to decide *how* to make the decision.

The project, called Adaptive Phased Management, is the core element of Canada's plan for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The used fuel is a byproduct of electricity production from Canada's nuclear power plants. The decision to manage used fuel underground was selected by the Government of Canada in 2007 after a nationwide dialogue about a range of approaches. The dialogue involved a broad cross-section of citizens, Indigenous peoples and technical specialists. Canada's plan is consistent with the international consensus and best practice for managing used fuel.

In late 2022 or early 2023, we will have more information about the project being implemented in the Revell area based on detailed technical and social community studies and insight on what a partnership agreement with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) would include. We need to think now about how we will make that decision and to put a plan in place for our future decision-making.

Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation is also exploring the project and is developing its own plan for decision-making. Other municipal and Indigenous communities are also learning about the project. It will be important to ensure their questions and concerns are addressed.

We need your involvement in developing a plan for Ignace's decision-making. The Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) has laid out draft components of the plan, as presented for discussion on the next page. What community dialogue and engagement should be included in this plan? Share your thoughts in the comment form, join in on upcoming community workshops, roundtable discussions and events, or reach out to us directly, so we can refine the plan together.

As always, we look forward to speaking with you and hearing your thoughts. As well as carrying on the conversations on this very important proposal, we want to ensure that you are heard, engaged and understood.

Sincerely,

Brad Greaves, ICNLC Chair
Township of Ignace
icnlc.office@gmail.com

Join the discussion and share your thoughts by participating in upcoming community discussion sessions, by calling to share suggestions, or by dropping off your completed comment form at the municipal office (34 Hwy 17 W., Ignace). Electronic versions are also available by emailing icnlc.office@gmail.com.

Appendix B – Willingness Comment Form

Share your thoughts

In late 2022 or early 2023, we will need to decide if Ignace is supportive of the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project being implemented in this area. We are planning now for how we will make that decision.

1a. Which of the following activities should be part of our community's decision-making process about the APM Project? *[Please check all that apply.]*

- The Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) should decide and make a recommendation to the Ignace Township Council
- The Ignace Township Council should make its decision on behalf of the community
- A special event should be held for Ignace residents to voice their opinion about the project
- Community surveys should be conducted to hear our residents' opinion about the project
- Other suggestions:

1b. Which of the activities you checked above is most important, and why?

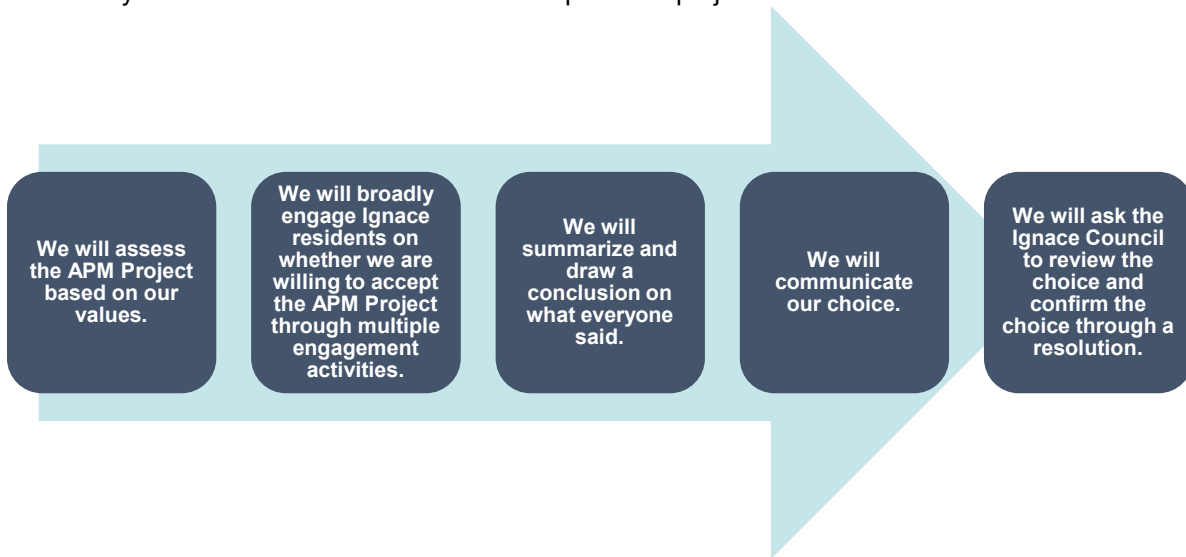
2a. The ICNLC and the Township have been working to ensure the community is informed about the project. However, before any decision is made, let us know what else is needed to ensure you and your neighbours are informed. *[Please check all that apply.]*

- Newsletters and letter mail-outs to all community members
- More face-to-face open houses to answer questions
- Additional workshops, seminars or other learning events
- Coffee chats and drop-in sessions
- Learning circles
- Briefings and update presentations to community groups
- Other suggestions:

2b. Which of the activities you checked above is most important, and why?

3. Before we decide whether we are willing to support the project being implemented in this area, what are you most interested in learning more about?

4. The ICNLC has laid out a plan for how Ignace could decide on its support for the project, which builds on our community's work to date to learn about and explore the project.



Do you think this is a good plan? What changes, if any, would you like to see made to this plan? Please refer to the "Draft plan for a future community decision" document (enclosed in package) for more details.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and shaping our community's decision-making plan! We are seeking the views of Ignace residents, so please provide your name and address to confirm your participation. Your views will be treated as confidential. We will be preparing a consolidated summary of all comments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.: _____

Email: _____

Community organization (affiliation) if any: _____

Age: Less than 15 15-34 35-64 65 or older

Gender: _____

Appendix C – Additional Communications Materials

Let's talk: Community conversations on partnership – Planning for a community decision on the APM Project

After many years of learning about the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project, Ignace has come to the point when we need to make a decision. It is a decision that will be of interest to all of us and all Canadians. Canadians are interested not only in the decision we make, but also how we made the decision.

We are asking for your help today to develop the plan that our community will use to make our decision in late 2022.

1. Planning to make a community decision

Once the community and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) have completed more detailed technical and social studies in late 2022 and discussions about a partnership agreement with the NWMO have advanced, we will need to decide if Ignace is supportive of this project. We are developing a plan and activities for how we will make that future decision, and we need your input. We have laid out a possible plan that builds on our community's work to date to explore the project to help get the discussion started.

2. What is the project?

In 2007, the Government of Canada determined that APM would be Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The NWMO has been federally mandated to implement the project. APM involves placing our country's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository using a multiple-barrier system. The project consists of surface facilities, as well as the repository, which must be located in a suitable rock formation. Part of Canada's plan is incorporating learning, including Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge, to guide a process of phased decision-making. APM is designed to be flexible and responsive to new learning, societal priorities and evolving public policy. Moving to a deep geological repository is recognized internationally as the best approach for the long-term management of used fuel. A national Centre of Expertise will also play an important part of this large national infrastructure project.

3. Why is Ignace interested in this project?

After a Canada-wide site selection process, two communities remain interested in the project: Ignace and South Bruce. The leadership of Ignace expressed the two following considerations when the community initially entered the site selection process. The Ignace leadership wanted to: i) ensure that future generations are protected from the hazards associated with used nuclear fuel by helping to implement sound practices of waste management such as environmental stewardship, safety, accountability and social responsibility; and ii) advance the long-term well-being of the community through the APM Project, including promoting socio-economic growth, environmental sustainability, and well-being of the community and its surrounding area and Indigenous neighbours. Safety is paramount for both our community partners and the NWMO. The project is a national infrastructure project and subject to a high level of independent regulatory review, assessment and ongoing oversight.

4. What has been Ignace's involvement to date?

Ignace is continuing to learn about and explore the project, and has not decided whether it is supportive of implementing it in the area. Ultimately, the project requires a site that can safely and securely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel for the long time period needed. As important, it requires a supportive partnership involving the municipality, First Nation and Métis communities, and others in the area to implement the project together. A single, preferred site for the project is expected to be selected by the NWMO in 2023. Preliminary studies suggest the project can be implemented safely in the Ignace area, and the project aligns with the priorities and objectives identified by the community and described in Ignace's Strategic Plan.

5. Share your thoughts

We need your thoughts and ideas to develop the plan for our community. Please share your thoughts in the comment form, join in on upcoming community workshops, roundtable discussions and events, or reach out to us directly, so we can refine the plan together. We look forward to speaking with you and hearing your thoughts.

What we did (our history)

- **2009** – The Mayor and Council approached the NWMO to learn more about APM, and initiated outreach and educational activities.
- **2010** – The Council passes a resolution requesting information about potential project.
- **2011** – The Council passes a resolution expressing interest to learn more about APM. It establishes the **Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC)** to help facilitate community learning and dialogue.
- **2012** – The Council, the ICNLC and the NWMO undertake technical and social studies, community engagement, and early outreach with neighbouring municipal and Indigenous communities. The ICNLC launches a local community office, monthly public meetings, website, and newsletters.
- **2013** – The NWMO completes **Phase 1 Preliminary Assessment** activities and shares findings with the community with respect to the potential of suitable geological rock and fostering local and regional well-being.
- **2014** – The Council passes resolution expressing interest in continuing to learn about APM, and initiates and plans for **Phase 2 Preliminary Assessment** studies.
- **2015** – Ongoing discussions with Ignace and area residents, as well as Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, to identify technically and socially suitable sites for initial borehole drilling and testing.
- **2016** – The Learn More Centre opens in the Ignace Plaza to house NWMO staff, as well as support detailed studies, regional engagement, and ongoing learning about the project.
- **2018** – Through community workshops and engagement activities, Ignace and the NWMO develop a set of guiding principles for potential partnerships.
- **2019** – The NWMO publishes findings from **Phase 2 Preliminary Assessment** studies and selects the Township of Ignace and the Municipality of South Bruce as the two preferred areas for more detailed study.
- **2020** – Through virtual workshops and other engagement activities, Ignace and the NWMO collaboratively develops a project vision that aligns with community values, priorities and project expectations.
- **2021** – Ignace and the NWMO develops a list of community studies to be completed by the end of 2022.

Why we did it (our rationale)

- We can be leaders and do our part for Ontario and Canada. We see the opportunity.
- We can advance the long-term well-being of the Ignace community through the APM Project, including promoting the socio-economic growth, environmental sustainability and community well-being.
- We can help ensure that future generations are protected from the hazards associated with used nuclear fuel by ensuring it is contained and isolated from people and the environment.

What is needed now (our direction)

- In late 2022, Ignace will decide if we support the implementation of the project in the area. Today, we are planning for how we will make that decision.
- Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation will also decide if it supports the project and is also developing a plan for how it will make its decision.
- Other communities in the area will need to be involved to understand and answer their concerns about the project.
- The NWMO will identify a single, preferred site in 2023, either in the Ignace area or South Bruce. Additional work will be initiated to complete the studies needed to support regulatory review and a licence application.
- The regulatory review and assessment process will be completed before a government decision.

Draft plan for a future community decision

The Township of Ignace and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) continue to explore the Adaptive Phased Management (APM) Project. Community workshops and conversations are also continuing for community members to help guide each aspect of this work. We have worked together over the past 10 years to learn about and understand the APM Project, and work continues. Recently, we have planned together and are implementing community studies. We are also preparing to explore what a hosting agreement would contain, guided by the project vision established by Ignace residents. Now the community is being asked by the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC) for its thoughts/input on the next steps in our work to assess our community's willingness.

In late 2022 or early 2023, with information from the current program of community studies and a draft hosting agreement developed with the NWMO in place, we will need to decide if our Ignace community is supportive of implementing the APM Project in our area. We are now developing a plan for how we are going to make that decision. To start the conversation, we propose some thoughts on what a decision-making plan could include. This plan builds on what we heard from our community members and the steps we have built together to lead us here today. Please get involved and share your thoughts as we continue to develop our community's plan.

| Steps | Involves | Includes |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1 We will assess the APM Project based on our values.</p> | <p>Examining the project against the objectives and values that community members identified in workshops. We would consider the extent to which the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures safety of people and the environment for our community and communities and people in the area; • Supports the overall well-being of our local, regional and Indigenous communities; • Promotes community growth that celebrates the heritage and culture of our “small-town” community embracing both current and new residents with varying backgrounds, cultures, peoples, and age groups; • Sustains and complements local businesses while supporting the growth of mixed development opportunities for our local economy; • Supports development of infrastructure and services, enhancing, complementing and investing in new and present community facilities/developments; and • Respects Ignace’s strong connection to the outdoors and natural resources, being environmental stewards who protect and enhance the local and surrounding area, as well as support a variety of economic and recreation activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICNLC reviews and discusses its assessment of the project against our community’s vision and values, and seeks expert support as needed. |

| Steps | Involves | Includes |
|---|---|--|
| <p>2 We will broadly engage Ignace residents on whether we are willing to accept the APM Project through multiple engagement activities.</p> | <p>Discussing the extent to which we are supportive, or not, of the project being implemented in our area, considering the assessment of the project against our community's vision and values.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICNLC involves community members in assessing the project. • This includes meetings with community groups, interviews with community members, and community workshops. • A third-party consultant team will lead activities and discussions. |
| <p>3 We will summarize and draw a conclusion on what everyone said.</p> | <p>Comments will be assessed and consolidated. Conclusions will be drawn about whether the comments indicate that the community is willing or not.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the help of a third-party consultant, the ICNLC and the Township of Ignace report on what was said in community conversations, including publishing a summary of comments – both solicited and unsolicited. |
| <p>4 We will communicate our choice.</p> | <p>Based on the community discussions and conclusions drawn about willingness, the decision will be shared with neighbouring communities and the NWMO.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ICNLC meets to reflect on the consultant summary of what community members have said and makes a recommendation to the Council. |
| <p>5 We will ask the Ignace Council to review the choice and confirm the choice through a resolution.</p> | <p>The Council determines whether the community supports the implementation of the project in the area. Our decision is reflected in a Council resolution.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council passes a resolution and communicates its support, or lack of support, to the NWMO and neighbours. |