



Community Engagement Committee Committee of Ignace Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2026

In Person Meeting/Zoom

6:00 pm CST

Attendance:

Chantal Moore

Roy Fuller

Diana Baril

Councillor Janet Lett

Jake Pastore - Staff Resource

Absent:

Maddison Hazelaar

Heidi West

Yvonne Dungey

Dana Caines - absent

Danine Chief (NWMO)

Councillor Jodie Defeo – Co-Chair

Chantelle Gascon (NWMO)

NWMO – Defined as Nuclear Waste Management Organization

DGR – Defined as Deep Geological Repository

1. Meeting began at 6:02 with Co-Chair Chantal Moore opening the session with a land acknowledgment.
2. Review of the February 12, 2026 minutes, **approved and passed unanimously**. Jake will send to Keith to post on website.

Community Engagement Committee Meeting Setup

The Community Engagement Committee meeting began with introductions and land acknowledgments.

CEC, Jake, Chantel, and other committee members welcomed guests Charlene and Mike from NWMO.



Community Engagement Committee

Committee of Ignace Council

Meeting Minutes

DGR Project Regulatory Update

Mike Pahor, Director of Regulatory Strategy, and Charlene Easton, Manager of Socioeconomic Programs, presented an update on the DGR project and the federal regulatory process for impact assessment. They outlined the five-phase process, focusing on the current 180-day planning phase, which began on January 5th with the submission of the initial project description. The presenters explained key activities within this phase, including public and indigenous comment periods and the development of planning documents by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

Project Regulatory Process Update

Mike provided an update on the regulatory process for the project, explaining that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Summary of Issues has been submitted and posted on the registry. He outlined the timeline for upcoming milestones, including the confirmation of a review panel assessment on March 26, the release of draft tailored impact statement guidelines in April, and the finalization of guidelines by July 4. The team discussed the next phase of the impact assessment process, which will involve ongoing engagement opportunities and the collection of baseline data, valued components, and project pathways.

NWMO Engagement Program Overview

Charlene presented on the NWMO's engagement program, which includes two working groups (environmental and human) that kicked off March 5th with township representation. The program will focus on impact assessment and licensing studies over the next two to two and a half years, as well as Nuclear Fuel Waste Act monitoring and reporting. Key upcoming activities include working group meetings in June, open houses in Ignace and Dryden on June 16-17, and continued engagement through 2027-2028 with baseline studies, effects assessment, and safety studies on land use and diet.

Nuclear Project Public Consultation Process

The meeting focused on the public consultation process for nuclear projects, including the handling of public feedback and its integration into the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's (NWMO) decision-making process. Jake confirmed that the public feedback document had been made public and would be shared with CEC members. Mike explained that the submission was made a week early to allow the agency sufficient time to review the feedback without delays. Charlene provided examples of mitigation strategies, including land use compensation and monitoring of social and health services. The discussion also covered the evolution of impact studies over time, with



Community Engagement Committee

Committee of Ignace Council

Meeting Minutes

Charlene explaining the difference between desktop studies from 2015 and more recent community studies conducted between 2020 and 2022.

Regulatory Processes and Provincial Involvement

The meeting focused on discussing regulatory processes and provincial involvement in a project. Charlene explained her role in socioeconomic programs, which involves monitoring impacts of various programs and reporting on them. Jake inquired about the provincial role in the regulatory process, particularly regarding environmental and forest habitat controls. Mike agreed to follow up with their regulatory affairs team to provide a comprehensive response about provincial permits and licenses required for the project. The group also discussed the need for information to be shared with the community engagement committee, including slides and key messaging for an upcoming public engagement event on June 16th.

Member Recruitment Strategy Planning

The committee discussed recruitment for new members, deciding to run a parallel process of contacting previously applied candidates while also opening applications to the public. They agreed to use the same application criteria to ensure diversity, including students and different age groups. Jake announced he would start the recruitment process on April 1st and run it through April 30th, with results to be presented at the April meeting. The committee also addressed concerns about a current student member who may not meet regulatory requirements, deciding to follow up with her regarding her continued participation.

Youth Involvement in Committee

The committee discussed the role of a representative from NWMO, clarifying that she is not a voting member but will provide information as needed. They explored ways to increase youth involvement in the committee, considering either creating a youth subcommittee or inviting younger participants (ages 15-18) to attend meetings. The group also discussed the possibility of connecting with an existing youth advisory group established through the youth engagement strategy.

Community Engagement and Project Updates

The meeting covered several updates and upcoming activities related to community engagement and project developments. Chantelle provided updates on the Center of Expertise, including geotechnical investigations starting in March, and announced upcoming visits from NWMO executives and the legal team. The group discussed plans for an environmental presentation scheduled for April 21, with Antoine Boyer set to present on the Human Health and Ecological Risk



Community Engagement Committee

Committee of Ignace Council

Meeting Minutes

Assessment (HHERA) study. The team also reviewed plans for a community celebration event, tentatively scheduled for July 11, and discussed the potential involvement of consultant Annabella Hall Tompkin during her visit from May 4-8.

Jake mentioned an upcoming billboard unveiling at the Center of Expertise site, which will be shared with the community as more information becomes available.

3. Closed Session: None

4. Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting – Key Presentation NWMO

April 21, 2026, 6:00pm in the Multi Purpose Room and Zoom

5. Adjournment at 7:19 pm.