



PRESS RELEASE

The Community Engagement Committee Hosts the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) as they begin their formal Community Engagement Process on the NWMO Deep Geological Repository Project

January 12, 2026, Ignace, ON – The Township of Ignace and its Community Engagement Committee (CEC) in partnership with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will host its first Community Engagement Sessions in Ignace on **January 19th and 20th, 2026**. There will be three scheduled sessions with IAAC and the CNSC taking place in Ignace including a luncheon for 75 people on January 19th, 2026, at 1:00 pm at the Silver Tops Centre and two separate sessions on January 20th at the Ignace Recreation Centre – Upper Hall at 1:00 pm and 6:00 pm.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is proposing a new deep-ground geological repository system designed to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel. Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLON) and the Township of Ignace have been selected as the host communities for the proposed project, which is located 21 kilometres southeast of the WLON and 43 kilometres northwest of the Town of Ignace, Ontario along Highway 17. As proposed, the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project would provide permanent storage for approximately 5.9 million bundles of used nuclear fuel. The project is expected to span approximately 160 years, encompassing site preparation, construction, operation and closure monitoring.

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) announced the Initial Project Description (IPD) for the proposed Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project is now posted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada website. [Deep Geological Repository \(DGR\) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project](#).

This formally initiates the integrated assessment process, marking a pivotal transition from planning to independent review. It is a testament to over a decade of extensive geoscience and environmental studies, confirming the suitability and safety of the selected site. The IPD details the deep geological repository's purpose and needs, provides a preliminary assessment of potential impacts, and outlines measures to avoid or mitigate them. This submission initiates the Integrated Impact Assessment and licensing process, which will also involve the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

The project assessment is being conducted in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission invite Indigenous Peoples and the public to review the summary of the Initial Project Description for the Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project and provide feedback by February 4, 2026. Comments received will be used to prepare the Summary of Issues.

The Community Engagement Committee, a committee of Township Council, is tasked with ensuring appropriate and meaningful engagement on the Deep Geological Repository Project that takes place at the local level.

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For more information and media inquiries please contact:

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