

# Developing a Roadmap for a Future Willingness Decision in Ignace

Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison  
Committee Meeting

May 18, 2021



# Background

- Two siting areas left in the siting process focused on: Ignace and South Bruce
- Each community needs to determine whether they are willing to support the APM project
- Multiple indicators of willingness preferred
- An informed community decision:
  - Good understanding of the project, including risks and benefits to community and area safety and well-being

# Creation of a Roadmap for Willingness

“This is how we will determine whether we are willing to host the APM Project”

“We will then assess willingness in 2022 or early 2023”

# Developing the Roadmap

- The Township of Ignace and NWMO have come together to develop an initial schedule for the work
- A consultant (Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited) has been retained to assist in developing the engagement program and materials, and in leading engagement activities and reporting out on what Ignace residents said
- The goal is to have a process developed by end of year

# Roles and Responsibilities

- A partnership of four parties to lead this process:
  - Township of Ignace
  - NWMO
  - ICNLC
  - Consultant team member (Hardy Stevenson and Associates Limited)



# Study Components

## Community Engagement Activities

- Online and in person, where permitted, to gather community input on the willingness decision from a broad cross section of the community

## Workbook

- Provides a framework to facilitate discussion (questions to be asked of the community), available in hardcopy or online

## Resource Document

- Background educational materials and a record of decisions

## Report

- Documents key findings about the process



# Materials

## What We Did (Our History)

- **2009** - Mayor and Council approached NWMO to learn more about APM and initiated outreach and educational activities.
- **2010** - Council passes a resolution requesting information about potential project
- **2011** - Council passes a resolution expressing interest to learn more about APM. They establish the *Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC)* to help facilitate community learning and dialogue.
- **2012** - Council, ICNLC and NWMO undertake technical and social studies, community engagement, and early outreach with neighbouring municipal and Indigenous communities. ICNLC launches a local community office, monthly public meetings, website and newsletters.
- **2013** - 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** - Council passes resolution expressing interest in continuing to learn about APM and initiate and plans for *Phase 2 Preliminary Assessment Studies*.
- **2015** - Ongoing discussions with Ignace and area residents as well as Wabigoon Lake Ojibwe Nation to identify technical 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 NWMO develop a set of guiding principles for potential partnerships.
- **2019** - NWMO publishes findings from *Phase 2 Preliminary Assessment Studies* and selects the Township of Ignace the Municipality of South Bruce area as the two preferred areas for more detailed study.
- **2020** - Through virtual workshops and other engagement activities, Ignace and 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 end of 2022.

## Why We Did It? (Our Rationale)

- We want to 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.
- We want to help advance the long-term well-being of the community through the APM project, including promoting socioeconomic growth, environmental sustainability, and community well-being.

## What Is Now Needed (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 they support the project and are also developing a plan for how they will make that decision.
- Other communities in the area will need to be involved to understand and address their concerns about the project.
- NWMO will identify a single preferred site in 2023, either in Ignace or the South Bruce area. Additional work will be required to complete the studies needed to support regulatory review and licence application.
- The regulatory review and assessment process will be completed before a government decision.



## Community Conversations on Partnership: Planning for a Community Decision on the APM Project

### 1. What is the Project?

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. 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.

### 2. Why is Ignace interested in this project?

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 the socioeconomic growth, environmental sustainability, and well-being of the community, its surrounding area and indigenous neighbours. Safety is paramount for both our community partners and NWMO. The project is a national infrastructure project and is subject to a high level of independent regulatory review, assessment, and ongoing oversight.

### 3. 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. Ignace is now just one of two remaining areas in Ontario being considered to host 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. Preliminary studies conducted to date 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.

**4. How are we planning for a Community Decision?** Once the community and NWMO have completed more detailed technical and social studies in late 2022 and discussions about a partnership agreement with 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 which builds on our community's work to date to explore the project to help get the discussion started.

### 5. Share your thoughts

We need your input to develop the plan our community will use to make a decision in late 2022 after we have more information about the project and how it would be implemented in the area. Please share your thoughts on the comment form, join in on upcoming 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.

HARDY  
STEVENSON  
AND ASSOCIATES

# Work to Date

- Ignace has completed a community vision for the project
- Ignace prepared Principles that capture the project vision
- This study will build on previous work and direction from the community





# Project Vision – Key Priority Areas

1. People
2. Economics and finance
3. Infrastructure
4. Community and culture
5. Natural environment



# Key Points

- The time is right
  - It's time to make a decision
- We will make the decision *about whether we are willing that's right for us. In our own way.*
- Ignace residents will know we have said our piece
- We will be confident the whole community has been involved in the decision
- Here are the communication and engagement approaches we will use to make the decision....

# Key Points

- The rationale for why we are considering the APM project needs to be sharp – *“will help us to achieve our vision”*
- The decision needs to come from the heart of Ignace residents
- As many residents as possible need to be engaged (young, new, older residents, cottagers and camp owners)
- We’re continuing to learn about the safety aspect to ensure are informed
- It could be a once in a generation opportunity for us
- We are now unmasking the community to allow for dialogue

# Ignace Engagement Activities

- Participation will involve a cross section of the community
- Communications and engagement activities advertised through social media, website and radio (e.g. CKDR)
- Interactive and fun (e.g. pop-up's on the Lake)
- Street signage, graphics for maximum publicity
- Leverage opportunities that the “Symposium” might provide
- Mobile Learn More Centre in various neighbourhoods



# Using Imagery

- **Symbolic and Iconic Imagery**
  - Use people sitting on camp chairs having a discussion
  - Logo, tagline and watermark
  - Embrace Ignace's natural character
  - Agimak Lake background



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AND ASSOCIATES



# Approach

- **Approach**
  - Different than past engagements: neighbour-to-neighbour conversations
  - Compelling message – “*we need to decide how we will make the decision*”
  - Simple and short





# Participation Campaign

- **Momentum for Participation**
  - Everyone gets involved
  - Go to where people are
  - People are invited to sit down and chat – at grocery store, ice rink, golf course etc.
  - Indications of participating e.g. stickers, pens, sunglasses



**HARDY  
STEVENSON  
AND ASSOCIATES**

# Online Engagement Considerations

- Online engagement will be through formal channels (e.g. Project specific website), not over Facebook (existing Facebook groups only to be used to notify people)
- Workbook available online
- Digital and social media
  - Who hosts and gets access – needs to be managed
  - “Ask a question” portal
- HSAL led online engagement, such as workshops and other outreach

# Next Steps

- Finalize engagement materials
- Announcement/presentation at regularly scheduled Council meeting
- HSAL to provide feedback on the draft materials, now that information has been gathered from the community on how to proceed
- HSAL to design an approach to reach out to a cross section of the community