

AUGUST 2024



Informing the Community by Addressing the 36 Guiding Principles

Proposed NWMO DGR Project to Store Canada Used Nuclear Fuel

Questions? Call: 519-392-6623 ext. 238 or Email: csimpson@southbruce.ca

Background

The Municipality of South Bruce entered the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) site selection process in 2012 to learn about and consider the multi-generational opportunities and impacts presented by hosting a deep geologic repository (DGR) to store Canada's used nuclear fuel.

After 12 years of study, community input, and deliberation, South Bruce voters can express if they are willing or not to host the NWMO Project by taking part in a referendum (by-election) from October 21 through 28, 2024.

In October 2020, Council endorsed The 36 Guiding Principles which were informed by community input to help the Municipality explore and fully understand the potential effects of hosting the Project in South Bruce.

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Learn more about:

South Bruce's Participation in the Project - www.southbruce.ca/DGR

The Hosting Agreement - www.southbruce.ca/HostingAgreement

The Guiding Principles - www.southbruce.ca/GuidingPrinciples

The Referendum By-Election - www.southbruce.ca/Referendum

A Comprehensive Exploration of the Project

The principles were based on community expectations, aspirations, key concerns, and questions about the Project expressed at a series of Project Visioning workshops in the winter of 2019-2020, as well as through letters to council, letters to the editor, delegations and other community input.

These principles became the foundation of South Bruce's continued, intensive review of the Project, informing what studies were needed to understand potential impacts, as well as guiding community assessment and municipal engagement with the NWMO. The principles relate to site selection as well as to other phases, if South Bruce is selected as the willing site.

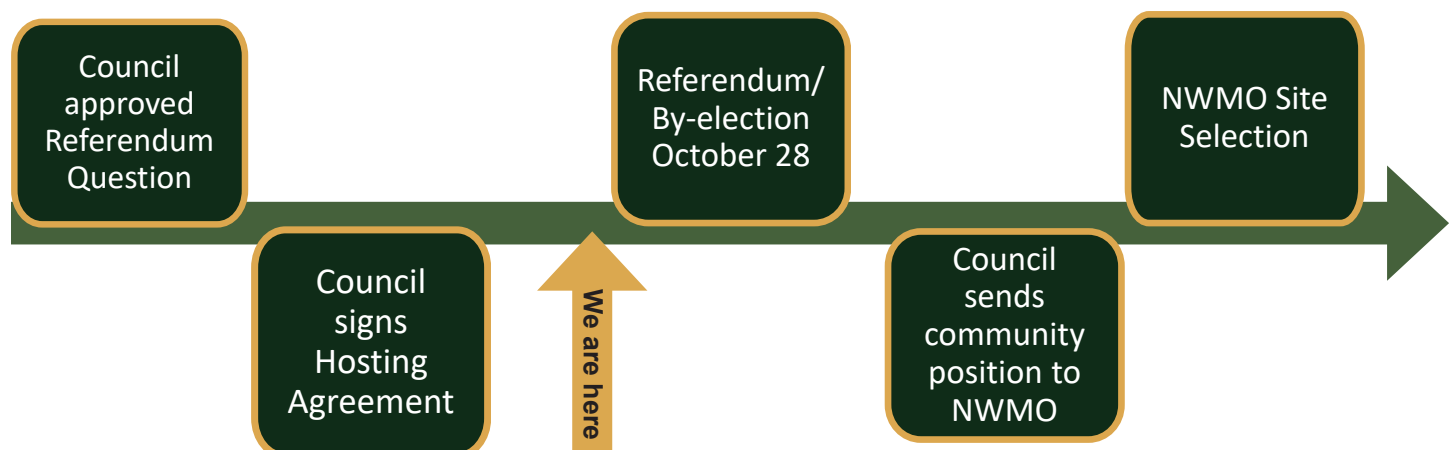
The principles are organized into themes:

- Safety and the Natural Environment (principles 1-7)
- People, Community and Culture (principles 8-19)
- Economics and Finance (principles 20-23)
- Capacity Building (principles 24-27)
- Services and Infrastructure (principles 28-33)
- Governance and Engagement (principles 34-35)
- Regional Benefits (principle 36)

Some principles have been fulfilled while others will depend on future processes. The principles are being considered and addressed in several ways:

- Socio-economic and Environmental Studies, with independent reviews, to better understand potential effects of the Project, how to mitigate risks and maximize opportunities
- The 2022 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Municipality and the NWMO, which set the foundation for negotiating the Hosting Agreement, based on the Guiding Principles
- The 2024 Hosting Agreement between the Municipality and the NWMO, which lays out commitments and obligations for different site selection scenarios
- Federal/Provincial legislation and processes including the impact assessment
- South Bruce bylaws and Council motions
- The existing Multi-Year Funding Agreement between the Municipality and the NWMO

Key Milestones to Site Selection



Safety and the Natural Environment: Principles 1-7

While intensive study work has informed these principles, and commitments have been described in the MOU and Hosting Agreement, the principles will be addressed more fully through a federal impact assessment through the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and/or the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) licensing processes that would follow site selection.

Before the NWMO can move ahead with the Project, IAAC and CNSC must be satisfied that, among other criteria, the health and safety of people and the environment will be protected during Project construction and operations.

Safety provisions also include the transportation of the used fuel. The CNSC has stringent rules regarding the transportation of nuclear waste which are outlined through regulatory documents, like 'Packaging and Transport of Nuclear Substance Regulations.' These regulations address packaging and planning for transportation routes.

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi-year Funding Agreement with NWMO
1	Project subject to the highest standards of safety	*	*	*	*	*		
2	Natural environment protection	*	*	*	*	*		
3	Safe and secure transportation of used fuel to site	*	*	*	*	*		
4	No international nuclear waste			*	*	*		
5	Project consistent with natural/agricultural character		*	*		*		
6	Keep Teeswater River access, minimize facility footprint		*	*	*	*		
7	Mitigate construction/operation impacts	*	*	*	*	*		

Through the Hosting Agreement, the NWMO makes several key commitments if the Project comes to South Bruce:

- Only solid, Canadian used nuclear fuel will be stored or processed at the DGR site. Under no circumstance will liquid nuclear fuel waste, or nuclear waste originating outside of Canada, be considered or accepted at the DGR.
- The Project will be implemented in a way that is consistent with the unique natural and agricultural character of South Bruce.
- The NWMO will investigate the potential for a trail system through NWMO-owned property, including a possible canoe and kayak launch site. This trail system would be located on NWMO-owned property either at the Centre of Expertise or on unused land near the DGR site.
- The NWMO will be responsible for general site stewardship, including the containment of works, equipment, and material on site, as well as dust, litter, noise, and light control.

People, Community and Culture: Guiding Principles 8-19

Principles 8 and 9 speak to community support for the Project. At the outset of the Project, the NWMO committed to only siting the DGR in a community that has demonstrated willingness.

In 2021, the Municipality hired an independent consultant, GHD, to complete a Willingness Process Consultation and Study. GHD asked how residents of South Bruce would like to express whether they are willing to host the NWMO Project. GHD sought broad input from the community, with a total of 230 South Bruce residents participating.

The consultants learned that a referendum was the preferred process for measuring willingness. As a result, South Bruce Council directed staff to prepare for the submission of a question to the electors by way of a by-election at a time when the Municipality of South Bruce had negotiated a hosting agreement addressing the 36 Guiding Principles with the NWMO, with continued public engagement on the Project in the interim.

The Municipality will hold a referendum vote from October 21 through 28, 2024, for voters to answer:

“Are you in favour of the Municipality of South Bruce declaring South Bruce to be a willing host for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR)?”

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi-year Funding Agreement with NWMO
8	NWMO demonstrates broad support in South Bruce			*		*		
9	MSB and community develop willingness process		*			*	*	

Principles 10-19 focus on local social and economic impacts, including protecting businesses and property values, and promoting tourism and agriculture. Over the past few years, the NWMO and the Municipality have conducted dozens of studies and peer reviews on the potential social and economic impacts of the Project, including effects on demographics and community growth, roads and traffic, municipal infrastructure, the labour market and workforce, housing market, municipal finances, regional services and programs, youth, health, safety, and the environment.

The studies identified actions and mitigations for potential impacts. Many of the suggestions are covered in the Hosting Agreement through NWMO programs, policies, and funding commitments. These include the Property Value Protection Program, a Business Loss Protection Program, a Business Opportunities Working Group and a Local Employment and Training Program.

If South Bruce is selected, the Hosting Agreement commits the NWMO to constructing a Centre of Expertise in the Municipality. The Centre could include space for training and include a Visitor Centre that promotes local history and culture. The Centre would also provide space to the Municipality and the County for programming and the promotion of local tourism.

Both the NWMO and the Municipality of South Bruce acknowledge the importance of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and agree to support reconciliation efforts with Indigenous communities, including the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. These efforts are grounded in learning, action, and meaningful relationship.

The Municipality acknowledges Indigenous stewardship of the land. South Bruce is educating staff on Truth and Reconciliation and is continuing its dialogue and relationship building with local Indigenous communities.

Community benefit payments to South Bruce, agreed to in the Hosting Agreement, would provide \$132 million to support socio-economic efforts to help the community capitalize on Project opportunities and mitigate Project impacts. The funds will be allocated over 138 years, allowing the Council of the day to determine how to apply it in ways that are beneficial to the community.

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NWMO identify/mitigate socioeconomic impacts		*	*	*	*		
NWMO establish Property Value Protection Program		*	*		*		
NWMO establish business protection program		*	*		*		
NWMO/MSB promote local agriculture		*	*		*		
NWMO/MSB promote local tourism		*	*		*		
NWMO/MSB support youth investments/opportunities		*	*		*		*
NWMO promotes diversity, equality, inclusion		*	*				
MSB recognize Indigenous stewardship and Reconciliation					*	*	
NWMO to relocate majority of employees to South Bruce		*	*		*		
NWMO to establish Centre of Expertise in South Bruce		*	*		*		

Economics and Finance: Guiding Principles 20-23

The Hosting Agreement commits the NWMO to facilitating Project-related employment opportunities for residents of South Bruce. This includes a Local Employment and Training Program to be implemented by a Training and Employment Working Group. The program would see the NWMO and the Municipality work together to foster local employment opportunities; utilize existing training, college and university programs and develop new training courses.

The agreement commits the NWMO to facilitating opportunities for local businesses through a Business Opportunities Working Group, among other efforts. The group would provide recommendations and advice on contracting opportunities for local companies and facilitate engagement by local businesses in connection with such contracting opportunities offered by NWMO and its contractors during the relevant Project phases. The NWMO may also provide certain contracting opportunities and/or work scopes to Indigenous businesses on a priority basis.

The NWMO, through the Hosting Agreement, also provides \$51 million in Community Services funding to the Municipality, should the Project be sited here, in response to Guiding Principle 23. The Council of the day could earmark the fund towards any socio-economic initiatives of their choice.

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi-year Funding Agreement with NWMO
20	NWMO implements local employment/training strategy		*	*		*		*
21	NWMO provide opportunities for qualified local businesses		*	*		*		
22	NWMO procure local suppliers		*	*		*		
23	NWMO provide community benefit payments to MSB		*			*		*

Capacity Building: Guiding Principles 24-27

Participating in the site selection process requires hiring outside expertise and added capacity beyond what municipal taxpayers could support. This work is important for the Municipality to understand the potential effects of the project locally.

Principles 24-27 speak to how the NWMO compensates the Municipality for these costs, now and in the future. The current Multi-Year Funding Agreement addresses costs such as the hiring of consultants to peer review studies, the execution of municipally led studies and the cost to develop the Municipality’s Housing Growth Strategy.

If the South Bruce site is selected, the Hosting Agreement requires the NWMO to fund future Project-related operations in the Municipality. This funding includes both the post-site selection impact assessment and licensing processes, as well as any future processes because of potential scope changes as explained in the Hosting Agreement.

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi-year Funding Agreement with NWMO
24	NWMO covers costs for wellbeing and assessing willingness							*
25	NWMO funds engagement of experts for studies/reports					*		*
26	NWMO covers cost of participation in regulatory process			*		*		
27	NWMO funds MSB Housing Plan		*	*		*		*

Services and Infrastructure: Guiding Principles 28-33

To address these principles, the Hosting Agreement includes the following commitments:

- The NWMO will enter into a mutual aid agreement, for emergency services, with the Municipality and/or Bruce County, as needed.
- The NWMO will enter into a road-use agreement, site services agreement, and other agreements that offset Project incurred costs. This means NWMO will pay for additional services and infrastructure upgrades required in South Bruce for the Project, such as road, water, wastewater infrastructure – over and above the funds committed in the Agreement.
- The NWMO will complete a Traffic Analysis Study and prepare a Traffic Management Plan.
- The Road-Use Agreement will describe relevant infrastructure upgrades and maintenance costs. The agreement will include roads around the Project site as well as potential haul routes within South Bruce.
- The NWMO will provide funding to the Municipality to support the community throughout the lifecycle of the Project. This includes previously mentioned funds for Community Services, Community Facilities, and People, Community and Culture. Council will be able to direct the funds to help ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, childcare, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project.
- The NWMO agrees to comply with the applicable official plan, zoning, site plan control and other land use planning and development requirements as needed.

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi-year Funding Agreement with NWMO
28	NWMO reviews/funds emergency service requirements		*	*	*	*		
29	NWMO funds necessary infrastructure upgrades		*	*		*		
30	NWMO funds necessary road network upgrades		*	*		*		
31	NWMO/MSB enter into road-use agreement		*	*		*		
32	NWMO provide strategy for demographic impacts		*	*		*		
33	NWMO complies with Official Plan and zoning		*	*		*		

Governance, Community Engagement and Capacity Building: Guiding Principles 34-36

Principles 34 and 35 refer to governance and engagement – the voice and rights of the Municipality in decision making related to the Project.

The Hosting Agreement describes the role the Municipality will have in the governance of the Project, specifically its presence on the Leadership Table and Implementation Committee. The Municipality would have a voice through the following processes:

- Licensing: The Municipality would support the NWMO in federal licensing for the project as currently described in the Hosting Agreement and would also reserve the right to express concerns for any Project scope changes.

- Governance: Communication will be maintained through the Implementation Committee, comprised of Municipal and NWMO staff; The Leadership Table with the Mayor and the NWMO CEO. If necessary, independent arbitration will uphold South Bruce’s voice.
- Emerging Technology and Project Scope Modifications: A minimum of three years of community engagement/education is required before the NWMO can apply for any Project scope changes, including modifications such as storing new types of used Canadian nuclear fuel.

Principle 36 requires the NWMO to demonstrate Project benefits to the region beyond South Bruce. The NWMO has agreed to form a Business Opportunities Working Group to offer support to regional businesses for Project-related opportunities. Potential opportunities include manufacturing, procurement, and housing.

Principle #	Principle Summary	Safety/ Environment Studies	Socio-economic Studies	Memo Of Understanding	Federal, Provincial Leg./ Impact assessment and licensing	Hosting Agreement	Municipality of South Bruce Responsible	Existing Multi year Funding Agreement with NWMO
34	NWMO provides MSB role in governance			*		*		
35	NWMO continues stakeholder/community engagement			*		*		
36	NWMO demonstrates Project will benefit the region		*	*		*		

Conclusion

The commitments described in the MOU and confirmed in the Hosting Agreement, study work, current funding agreements, and future regulatory processes demonstrate action or commitments on all of South Bruce’s 36 Guiding Principles. These continue to serve an important purpose by representing community interests.

The Hosting Agreement provides meaningful community benefits and ensure the Municipality has a voice in decision-making processes for the Project, while regulatory processes will uphold safety requirements for people and the environment.

The Municipality’s lead peer review consultant, GHD, concluded that there are no significant concerns identified to date that would cause the Peer Review Team to advise stopping the process. Similarly, GHD has confirmed that, regarding socio-economic impacts, the studies have shown that the identified potential Project effects can be managed with proper planning and resources. They also show that the Municipality and the NWMO have a significant role to play in preparing the community for the Project, enhancing the positive effects, and mitigating the negative effects.

Now it is up to community members to say if they are willing or not to host the Project in a referendum (by-election) with a voting period running October 21 through 28.

For voting and other information on the referendum, please contact the Municipality of South Bruce Clerk’s Department. Call 519-392-6623. Email elections@southbruce.ca

For questions or more information on the Project, please contact the Nuclear Exploration Team. Call 519-392-6623 ext. 238. Email csimpson@southbruce.ca

You can also contact the NWMO for questions about their work, commitments, technical details of the Project and more. Call 519-392-6966. Email southbruce@nwm.ca