

Mapping Our Future

Summary of Hosting Agreement

Spring 2024



For complete information, please see the full hosting agreement on the South Bruce website.



About the Project

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) plans to permanently secure Canada's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository (DGR) more than 600 metres underground. There is a broad international scientific consensus that this is the safest way to manage used nuclear fuel long-term. Along with the DGR, the NWMO Project includes above ground facilities and a Centre of Expertise.

The NWMO is committed to selecting an informed and willing community to host the DGR. In 2012, 22 communities, including the Municipality of South Bruce, expressed interest in learning more about the Project. In 2020, sites in South Bruce/Saugeen Ojibway Nation and in Ignace/ Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in northern Ontario were identified as the final two in the NWMO process.

The NWMO is in discussions with and is seeking willingness from South Bruce, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, the Township of Ignace and the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation.

The NWMO plans to decide on its preferred site by the end of 2024.

Supporting an informed community decision

After 10 years of scientific, social and economic studies, peer reviews, and public engagement, the Municipality of South Bruce has negotiated a comprehensive Hosting Agreement with the NWMO. This helps the community to make an informed decision on its willingness to host the Project.

The Hosting Agreement maps out what will happen if the community decides it is a willing host for the Project and is selected by the NWMO as the site for the Project. The Agreement also sets out a path for South Bruce to exit the site selection process if the community decides it is not a willing host or is not selected by the NWMO.

A commitment to the community's Guiding Principles

Addressing the 36 Guiding Principles is important to South Bruce. The Hosting Agreement addresses many of the Principles. As of April 2024, all have either been addressed or there is a commitment in place to address them at a later stage of the Project. The principles cover top priorities related to:

- ensuring the safety of people and the environment
- having an ongoing municipal voice in the Project, and
- having a plan that manages and reduces impacts, as well as providing benefits to the community.

Referendum to Determine Community Willingness

- If approved by South Bruce Council, the Mayor and Clerk will sign the Hosting Agreement on behalf of the Municipality.
- Based on community consultation, South Bruce will hold a referendum to determine whether the community is a willing host on October 28, 2024.
- South Bruce will provide notice of the community's decision to the NWMO in November 2024.

Not Willing

South Bruce declares it is not a willing host community and exits the site selection process. South Bruce to receive a \$4 million exit payment.

Willing – Not Selected

South Bruce declares it is a willing host community but is not selected as the site. South Bruce to receive an \$8 million exit payment.

Willing – Selected

If South Bruce and Saugeen Ojibway Nation both say they are willing hosts, and NWMO selects the South Bruce site, the Hosting Agreement outlines long-term commitments related to the Project. The funding package is anticipated to be worth \$418 million to the Municipality over the 138-year life of the Project.

Safety and the Environment

- The NWMO presented its safety case and studies to the community describing how the facility will operate safely and securely.
- On behalf of the Municipality, consultants from GHD independently reviewed NWMO studies and agreed with the safety case.
- The DGR will only store used Canadian fuel and a small amount of radioactive waste created by the operation of the Project.
- The federal Impact Assessment and licensing by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will review site specific design and confirm safety of operational practices for people and the environment.

Regulatory

- The NWMO will be solely responsible for the Project and fulfilling regulatory requirements.
- Specific funding will ensure the municipality has resources to take part in the regulatory process.
- The Municipality will support NWMO in the federal licensing process, reserving its right to express concerns related to local matters.

Governance and Oversight

- A **Leadership Table** including the Mayor and NWMO CEO would meet twice per year during planning, design and construction and annually during operations.
- An **Implementation Committee** comprised of staff from the Municipality of South Bruce and NWMO would oversee day-to-day implementation of the Agreement.
- Differences that are not resolved by the Leadership Table will be referred to an independent arbitrator.
- The Municipality will have the right to review and comment on major regulatory applications before they are filed by the NWMO.
- The NWMO must conduct at least three years of community engagement and education before applying for approval to store used Canadian nuclear fuel from an emerging technology.
- South Bruce maintains authority over matters within municipal jurisdiction with no special treatment for the NWMO.

Community Wellbeing

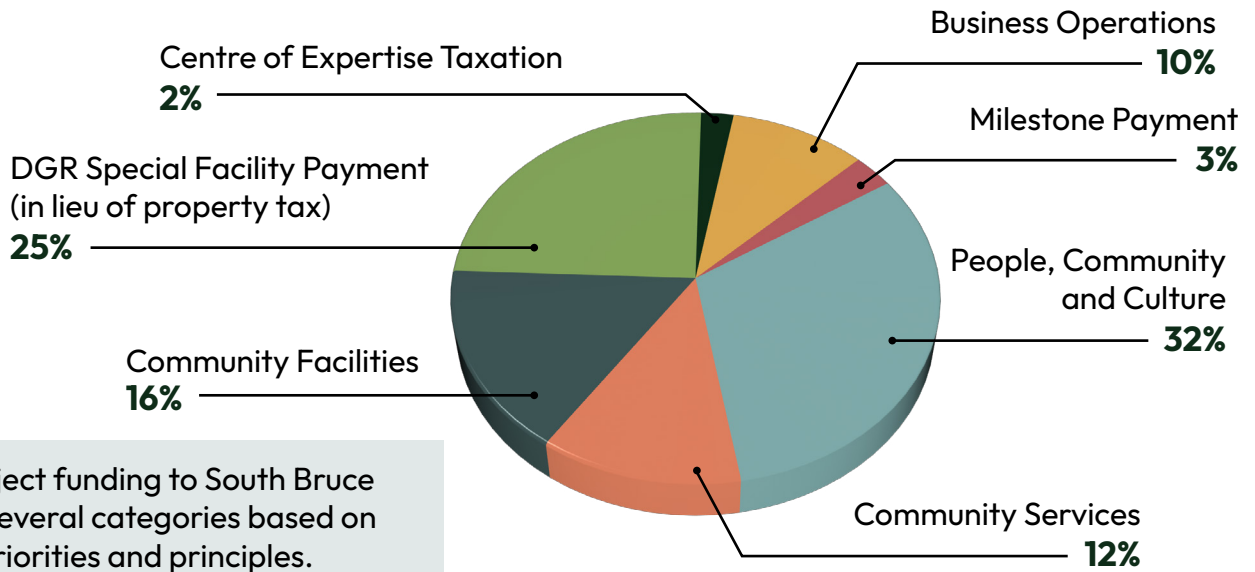
Infrastructure & Services

- NWMO will pay costs for any infrastructure upgrades needed to serve the Project. A road-use agreement will be negotiated to cover the related costs as outlined in the Hosting Agreement.
- Based on site design, NWMO will decide if it will supply their own water and wastewater services, or if they will enter into a servicing agreement to pay for municipal services required by the Project.
- Similarly, NWMO will pay for any additional municipal emergency services, that may be required for the Project.

Other community benefits

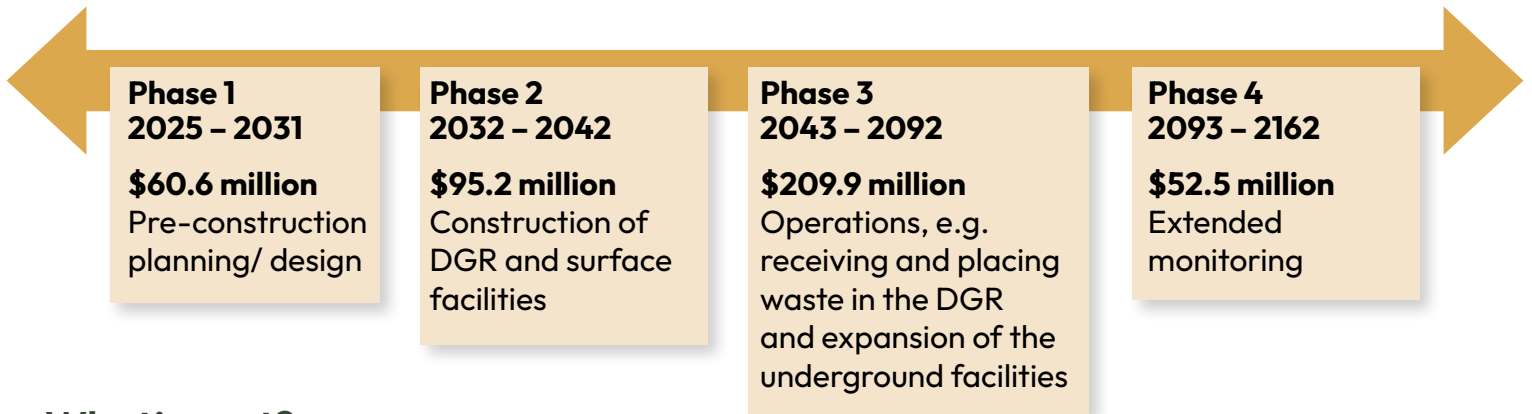
- The Centre of Expertise will feature: local history, culture and tourism displays; a multi-purpose community space; scientific information on the DGR; and agricultural science. It will also include space for education and skills training.
- The NWMO and South Bruce will explore recreational opportunities on the lands that NWMO will own if the Project goes ahead, like canoe and kayak launch sites.
- The NWMO and South Bruce will form joint working groups on training and employment, and business opportunities to seek to improve local opportunities.
- The NWMO has created a Property Value Protection Program at the request of the Municipality.

NWMO Funding Categories and Timeline



NWMO Project funding to South Bruce falls into a several categories based on municipal priorities and principles.

The \$418 million will be spread out over the 138-year life of the project. All payments in the Hosting Agreement will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index.



What's next?

After South Bruce and the other potential hosts express if they are willing to host the site and the NWMO chooses a preferred location, it will begin the advanced engineering and site-specific design.

The Project will only proceed if approved by the federal regulatory authorities. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will work together to review the Project. The CNSC will use the Impact Assessment, existing and site-specific work to issue separate licences for site preparation and construction, operations, and decommissioning.

Potential for multi-generational prosperity

- 700 long-term NWMO operational jobs in South Bruce
- 1,100 additional indirect and induced jobs (suppliers and local businesses)
- Increase in South Bruce's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to \$680 million in 2046, almost doubling the community's economic productivity.