

## Canada's plan for the management of used fuel

By Greg Plain, Senior Engagement Advisor, Aboriginal Relations, NWMO.

*This is the second of six columns.*

In the last installment, I talked about how nuclear energy is a significant source of electricity in Ontario, and that a byproduct of this type of energy generation is used nuclear fuel. To develop and carry out a plan for managing the country's used nuclear fuel, the NWMO was created in 2002.



After talking to thousands of Canadians, the NWMO submitted its proposed approach, called Adaptive Phased Management (APM), to the Government of Canada.

The plan – to contain Canada's used fuel deep underground in an area that has suitable rock as well as informed and willing hosts – was selected by the government in 2007. APM is one of Canada's largest and most long-term infrastructure projects. Ultimately, it will only proceed at a site that can safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel and with the involvement of the interested community, First Nations and Métis peoples and other surrounding communities. Currently, there are nine areas learning more about the project.

By law, the NWMO's project must meet rigorous safety standards. Among my colleagues at the NWMO are some of the country's, and even the world's, leading experts on safely managing nuclear waste over extremely long time periods.

In my next column, I'll introduce you to how used nuclear fuel bundles would be stored deep underground.

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