



Municipality of South Bruce

OFFICE OF THE CAO/CLERK

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Tuesday, December 21st, 2021

Kim Wingrove

Sent via email: cao@grey.ca

Dear Kim,

I hope this finds you healthy and well ahead of the holidays. As 2021 comes to a close, I wanted to reach out again with a brief update on two significant developments for the Municipality of South Bruce, in relation to our participation in the site selection process for the Nuclear Waste Management Organization Project to store Canada's used nuclear fuel.

First, I am happy to share with you for information, an Overview of Studies. This four-page, newsletter style document (*attached*) was recently shared with all ratepayers in the Municipality of South Bruce.

As the title suggests, this communication provides an overview of the study work occurring now, and over the next two years in relation to the Project. It names all the studies that are scheduled to be completed, their year of completion, and who is responsible for each – the NWMO or the Municipality of South Bruce.

If you have any further questions about this document, or the studies taking place, please reach out and our South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Project Team – the municipality's department that is dedicated to the Project.

Secondly, South Bruce Council endorsed a process to determine willingness to host the Project at their meeting last Tuesday.

In summary, Council directed staff to prepare for the submission of a question to voters by way of a by-election after a draft hosting agreement has been negotiated with the NWMO, and studies/peer-reviews have been completed and communicated. Community information sharing and engagement on the Project will continue in the interim.

A media release issued last week provides more information about Council's decision and the path forward for our community. Again, please do not hesitate to reach out if you, your staff, or Council have any questions.

We look forward to continuing an open dialogue with our neighbouring communities in the year ahead as our participation in the process to find a permanent home for Canada's nuclear waste continues.

Take good care,



Leanne Martin

CAO/Clerk, Municipality of South Bruce

Overview of Studies

Fall 2021

The Municipality of South Bruce is one of the final two potential locations that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is considering for a project that includes a deep geological repository (DGR) to store Canada's used nuclear fuel, surface facilities and a Centre of Expertise.

To evaluate the project, there are more than 40 studies and peer reviews underway that speak to the 36 guiding principles developed with community input.

The principles focus on:



**Safety for
people and the
environment**



**Ensuring the
project brings
meaningful
benefits to the
community**



**Ensuring the
community
has a voice in
decision-making**

The studies are in addition to the borehole drilling and geoscience field work studies by the NWMO, which will determine if the rock deep below the surface is safe and suitable for a deep geologic repository.

There are two types of studies:

Municipally led studies:

South Bruce has hired consultants to conduct a range of studies to determine the potential impact of the project in our Municipality.

NWMO-led studies, with peer reviews by South Bruce:

NWMO-led studies tend to have a broader scope, looking at the potential impact of the project regionally.

These studies will be peer reviewed, meaning the Municipality has retained independent experts to confirm that the methodology and findings are valid.

About the Project

Nuclear power is used in several provinces. In Ontario, it supplies about half of our electricity.

The used nuclear fuel from power plants is currently stored securely above-ground at seven sites across Canada. About half is located at the Bruce Power site.

The NWMO is tasked with finding a safe, permanent solution. Globally, storing the waste in a reinforced facility deep underground is considered the safest long-term option.

The proposed facility would be about 660-metres underground, with a Centre of Expertise and other facilities above ground.

Summaries of the studies will be shared with the community, including by mail, and on the [Studies and Reports](#) page of the municipal website, as they are completed over the next two years.

The following chart summarizes the types of questions that the studies are seeking to answer, organized by key themes of the guiding principles.

- Municipally led studies
- NWMO-led studies, with with peer reviews by South Bruce consultants



Safety for people and the environment

To understand the potential effects on our environment and health, we need to know where we are today. Some of the work will review:

- What is the current quality of our lakes and rivers?
- What is the current quality of our soil and vegetation?
- What is the current nature of our groundwater?
- What is the current type and quantity of local wildlife, including birds, aquatic life and species at risk?
- What is our community's health like today?
- What potential supports are needed for those in the community who depend on social programs, such as housing, child care, or income assistance?
- What emergency services would we need?



Meaningful benefits to the community

- What kind of workforce do we have and what would we need in the future?
- How could the project affect our tourism industry?
- What is the potential economic impact for our youth?
- How could the project affect municipal finances?
- How could the project affect our recreational resources and needs?
- What are the spin-off benefits in terms of local economic development?
- How could our housing market change? What about property values?
- What is the potential effect on specific sectors, like agricultural and aggregates?
- What infrastructure would be needed?
- What educational programs would be needed to support the local workforce?
- How could our social services be affected?
- What's the potential impact on regional economic development?



Community has a voice

- How do people want to measure their willingness to host the project?
- Does the community want to continue with the NWMO process to determine if the project is safe, feasible and beneficial?

2021

Municipal Economic Development Update

Municipal Strategic Plan

Willingness Process Consultation and Study

Work on many studies has begun and will be completed over the next couple of years. The final reports will be published on the [Studies and Reports](#) page of the municipal website and updates will be distributed by mail.

● Municipally led studies

● NWMO-led studies, with peer reviews by South Bruce consultants

2022

Local Hiring Effects Study and Strategy

Tourism Industry Effects and Strategy

Local Economic Development Study and Strategy

Economic Development Program – Youth

Agricultural Business Impact Study

Effects on Recreational Resources

Recreation Master Plan

Infrastructure Baseline and Feasibility Study

Local Traffic Effects Study

Road Conditions Effects Study

Aggregate Resources Study

Vulnerable Populations Baseline & Effects Study

Local/Regional Education Study

Social Programs Study

Housing Needs and Demand Analysis Study

Emergency Services Study

Land Use Study

Regional Economic Development Study

Labour Baseline Study

Baseline Socio-Economic Conditions – Methodology & Report

Effects on Community Safety

Community Health Programs and Health Infrastructure Study

Well-Being Study

Property Value Monitoring Program

Workplace Development Study

2023

Fiscal Impact and Public Finance

Community Report Back – Environmental Program

Local Hydrology and Water Quality – Baseline

Local Geology including Groundwater and Soils – Baseline and Effects

Local Atmospheric Conditions – Baseline

Local Terrestrial Species – Baseline

Local Aquatic Species – Baseline

Local Avian Species – Baseline

Species at Risk – Baseline

Ambient Radioactivity – Baseline

Effects on Surface Water Study

Ecological Effects Studies

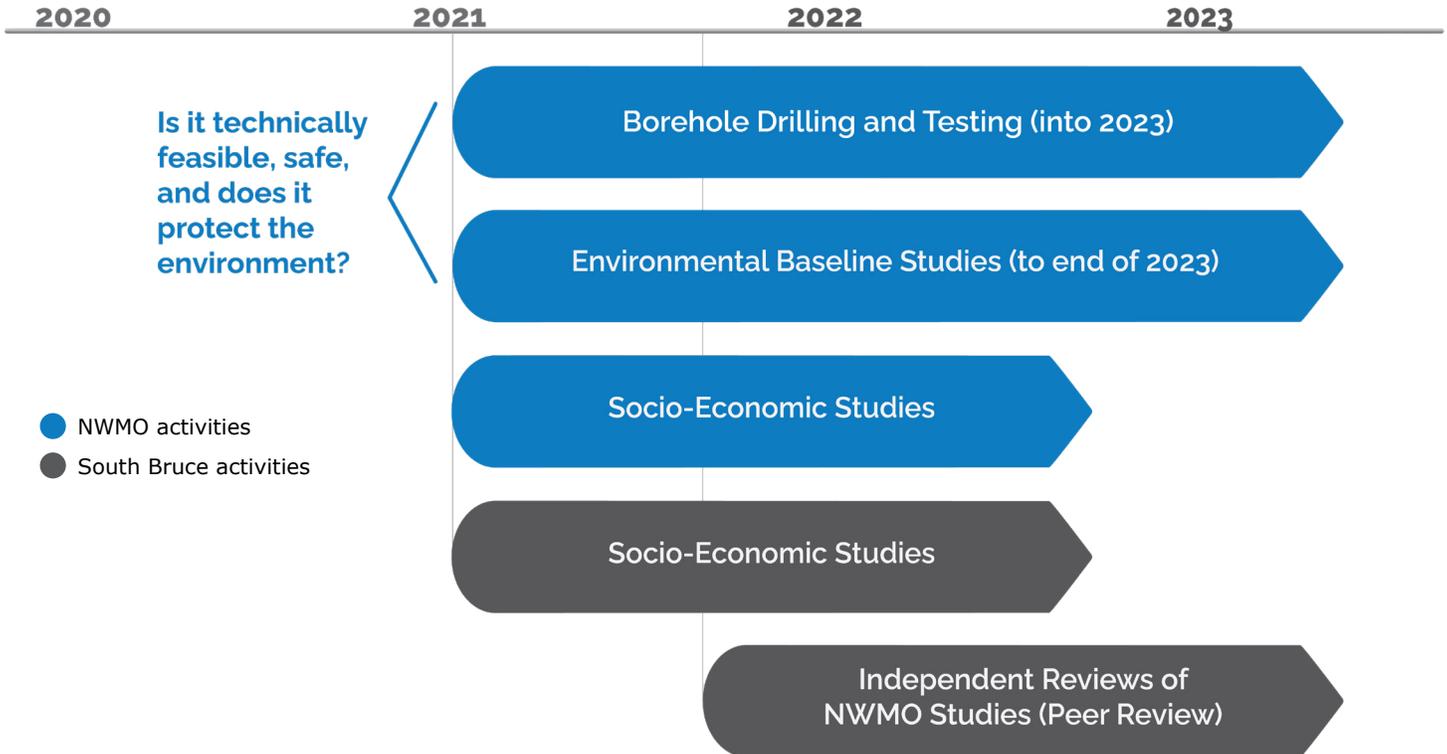
Environmental Effects Study

NWMO Borehole Drilling and Geoscience Field Work

Timeline of Studies

NWMO narrows the site selection to South Bruce and Ignace.

NWMO identifies preferred site



Reach out anytime with your questions, comments, concerns, or if you are seeking more information. We would be happy to hear from you!

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Visit our website:
www.southbruce.ca

Visit our community engagement tool:
www.southbruceswitchboard.ca

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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 15, 2021



Council endorses process to determine willingness to host NWMO Project

SOUTH BRUCE, ON – The Municipality of South Bruce Council has endorsed a process to determine the community’s willingness to host the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (NWMO) Project to store Canada’s used nuclear fuel.

Council directed staff to prepare for the submission of a question to voters by way of a by-election (referendum), after a draft hosting agreement has been negotiated with the NWMO, with community information sharing and engagement on the Project continuing in the interim.

This timeline will also allow for a variety of studies and peer reviews about the Project to be completed. This work has started and will be ongoing throughout 2022 and 2023. More than 40 studies are planned or underway that will address important topics such as health, safety, financial benefits, environmental, and socio-economic impacts and more.

A referendum after the next municipal election will give time for the community to fully understand the safety of the Project and potential impacts and benefits it would have, based on the study results. The Municipality also plans to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NWMO to put in writing how it will address the 36 Guiding Principles developed with the community. The MOU would then be the basis for a future draft hosting agreement, which would outline the NWMO’s responsibilities, and the benefits of the Project to the Municipality if it were to come to South Bruce.

The NWMO plans to identify a single, preferred site by the end of 2023 in a community that expresses willingness to host the Project.

“Council’s decision was informed by the feedback received during an extensive, community consultation process on how residents wanted to measure willingness,” said Mayor Robert Buckle.

The Municipality retained GHD Limited to conduct the independent consultation which included in-person and virtual sessions, an online survey, and printed workbooks to engage South Bruce residents and ratepayers in a way that they were comfortable.

After receiving GHD’s report on November 9, Council requested that staff prepare a report outlining the options to measure willingness based on the results in GHD’s report.

GHD’s report showed that most participants in the consultation favour a referendum as the method to determine willingness, however there were a variety of opinions on the

timing. Other themes that emerged in the report included the importance of having a process that is open and transparent, giving all of the community a voice, and ensuring that information and studies are widely available and communicated.

In choosing to continue with the studies and information sharing, followed by a referendum, Council has endorsed a process that will satisfy the factors that are important to the community in this major decision for the future of South Bruce.

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For more information:

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South Bruce is one of two remaining communities that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization is considering for the site of a deep geological repository for Canada's used nuclear fuel, a Centre of Expertise and many supporting facilities. The Municipality of South Bruce is working towards an informed decision for the community through the South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Project team, the Community Liaison Committee, and independent reviews to determine if the site is safe for people and the environment, offers positive benefits and if the community is willing to host the site.

Municipality of South Bruce

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