

Working together to develop a transportation planning framework



What we are hearing

The safe and secure transportation of used nuclear fuel is an important component of Adaptive Phased Management, Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. The ability to transport used fuel to the repository site in a safe and socially acceptable manner is a key factor that will need to be addressed in the selection of a preferred repository site. This will need to be addressed along with safety of the repository site and the ability to implement the project in partnership with those in the area.

Although the transportation of used nuclear fuel to a repository site is not expected to begin before 2040 – in fact, the site has not yet been selected – it is a key focus of interest and conversation among communities, and interested individuals and groups about Canada's plan.

Together, we are exploring the basis for confidence in safety of the transportation of used nuclear fuel, the questions that need to be asked and answered, and the values and objectives that should guide future transportation planning. Together, we are considering the strong Canadian and international track record for the safe transportation of used nuclear fuel, and exploring the design of the transportation container, oversight, and the needed processes and practices that will build confidence.

To date, the NWMO has engaged thousands of Canadians to learn their perspectives, suggestions, questions, and concerns.

Some key questions

1. What basic requirements does the plan need to meet?
2. Which objectives, principles and key questions should guide the plan's development?
3. How can we ensure the design and implementation of the plan is sufficiently inclusive to ensure good decisions are made?
4. What information will we need from technical specialists?
5. What factors should we consider in future decisions about modes and routes?

What people are saying

Across all these conversations, whether they be at open houses, at conferences or gatherings, or through focus groups and workshops, some key considerations are emerging. Understanding and addressing these interests and concerns begin to form a framework for future transportation planning. And conversations are continuing.

Primary consideration is safety and the protection of people. Safety, including workers, people transporting the used nuclear fuel, and people along the route, needs to be a primary consideration.

We must protect the environment during transportation, including watersheds and other environmentally sensitive areas.

We must have in place strong procedures to secure shipments from threats such as terrorism or theft.

Emergency response plans must be developed and be in place in case of emergencies along transportation routes. First responders and other emergency response personnel need to be equipped and supported.

The costs associated with the transportation of used nuclear fuel must be fully covered, and not fall on taxpayers and future generations.

Transportation plans need to be independent of politics and changes in government. Jurisdictional roles, responsibilities and authorities must be clearly articulated and understood.

People will have concerns. Education, communication and engagement are fundamental to overcoming people's natural tendency towards nimbyism, and fears and misconceptions about nuclear energy and the transportation of used nuclear fuel.

For more information, you may wish to see:

- » Planning Transportation for Adaptive Phased Management – Discussion Document
- » Safe and Secure Transportation of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel – Brochure
- » Safe and Secure Transportation of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel – Questions and Answers
- » NWMO website (www.nwmo.ca/transportation)

nwmo

NUCLEAR WASTE
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION
DES DÉCHETS
NUCLÉAIRES