



NUCLEAR WASTE SOCIÉTÉ DE GESTION  
MANAGEMENT DES DÉCHETS  
ORGANIZATION NUCLÉAIRES

Liz Dowdeswell PRESIDENT  
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October 17, 2005

Gary D. Lewis  
108 Silin Forest Road  
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Dear Mr. Lewis:

Thank you for your submission on our Draft Study Report and recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management as Canada's approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. We appreciate that you took the time to review the report and forward your thoughts and comments.

We note that you see the issue of nuclear waste management to be surprisingly simple, that used nuclear fuel exists today, and can be handled in a responsible and reasonable way. You also note that if nuclear power were to be used in Alberta, then it could release more natural gas onto the market and possibly stabilize the price.

Throughout this study we heard many arguments regarding energy policy and the future of nuclear power. We have reflected this discussion in our report, right up front in Chapter one of our draft report. We have not examined nor do we make a judgment about the appropriate role of nuclear power generation in Canada. We suggest that those decisions should be the subject of their own assessment and public process. Used fuel exists today and may continue to be produced to the end of the lives of Canada's existing nuclear facilities. The focus of our study was to recommend a responsible path forward for addressing the used fuel that requires management for the long-term. Our study process and evaluation of options was intended neither to promote nor penalize Canada's decisions regarding the future of nuclear power.

In closing please let me thank you again for your review of NWMO's draft report and proposed management approach, we will consider your comments as we put our mind to the changes that may need to be made to the final report.

Best regards,

Liz Dowdeswell  
President



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December 19, 2005

Mr. Gary D. Lewis  
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Dear Mr. Lewis

Thank you for your correspondence on our Final Study Report and recommendation of Adaptive Phased Management as Canada's approach for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. In your letter you concur that it is important that the NWMO remain neutral on energy policy and keep efforts focused on the management of used nuclear fuel. Further, you find the recommended Adaptive Phased Management approach appealing. We appreciate your comments.

We would also like to thank you for forwarding to us a copy of your completed paper 'Oil Sands, Kyoto and the Nuclear Option'. It is an interesting discussion and analysis. You identify, early in the paper, an issue that we also feel is important i.e. that there is little value in laying a foundation that only leads to confrontation and entrenchment with little room for compromise. Our mission has been to develop collaboratively with Canadians an approach for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. We sought to bring a diversity of views to the discussion, and to search for areas of common ground. This has been an important aspect of our work and the foundation for our recommendation. We understand that there will always be some uncertainties, but are confident that we know enough to take the first steps, with flexibility to allow for new knowledge and societal change. Perhaps it is the common ground that underlies our recommendation of an Adaptive Phased Management approach that you find appealing. Again, thank you for sharing your work.

Best regards,

Liz Dowdeswell  
President