

March 13, 2026

APM-CORR-00650-302964

Chief and Council
Seine River First Nation

CC:

Shane Curtis Whitecrow, Chief <contact information removed>

Tania Boshkaykin, Acting Director of Services <contact information removed>

Finn MacDonald, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

RE: Follow-up to July 29, 2025 Correspondence – Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada’s Used Nuclear Fuel Project

Dear Chief and Members of Council,

This letter is a follow-up to correspondence sent to Seine River First Nation on July 29, 2025, in which the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) provided an update on the integrated impact assessment and initial nuclear licensing regulatory process for the proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada’s used nuclear fuel Project (Project) and extended an invitation to meet to share more information about the Project and discuss next steps.

What has happened since July 29, 2025

On January 5, 2026, the NWMO IPD was posted on the IAAC registry. Submitting the IPD formally initiates the rigorous integrated IA and nuclear licensing regulatory process for the Project. The IPD also supports IAAC in identifying potentially affected Indigenous communities, informing engagement planning, and establishing the scope of the assessment. There will be numerous opportunities for engagement before a decision is made about the Project. As reflected in the IPD, the Project has been assessed at a screening level, and the risk of residual adverse effects is anticipated to be low with effects primarily associated with localized Project activities.

After receiving NWMO’s IPD, as required by the Impact Assessment Act (IAA), IAAC prepared the Summary of Issues, which the NWMO received on Monday, February 16, 2026. The Summary of Issues outlines the key issues for the federal integrated IA process raised by the public and Indigenous communities during the 30-day comment period on the IPD.

The integrated process follows strict requirements and will include the identification and assessment of potential pathways of interaction and will consider how the Project as described in the Initial Project Description could affect, among other things, the environment, human health, and Indigenous rights before the Project can be approved. As part of this process, the IAAC and the CNSC will develop the requirements for the integrated assessment, requiring the NWMO to engage with the potentially affected Indigenous communities specified by the IAAC and the CNSC.

Future Engagement

The NWMO looks forward to continuing to engage and work with your community with respect to the Project. As the Impact Statement is developed, the NWMO is seeking to engage with Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project to understand community-specific values, interests, and concerns, and to inform the identification of appropriate mitigation, monitoring, and follow-up measures through community-specific engagement.

If you are interested in meeting in this regard, or if you would like additional information regarding the integrated impact assessment and initial nuclear licensing regulatory process and upcoming engagement opportunities, please contact Joe Gaboury, Director, Indigenous Engagement, by email at <contact information removed> or by phone at <contact information removed>.

In the meantime, for additional information regarding the Project, we refer you to the NWMO's response to the Summary of Issues provided by IAAC based on the IPD. The NWMO's response is available on the IAAC's registry website for this Project at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88774>.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Jessica Perritt
Director, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
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