

March 13, 2026

APM-CORR-00651-302965

Chief and Council
Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation

CC:

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,

Further to our letter of July 29, 2025, this letter acknowledges that the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) is now formally in the Integrated Impact Assessment and initial licensing regulatory process for the proposed Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada’s used nuclear fuel Project (Project) and concurrently participating in WLON’s Regulatory Assessment and Approvals Process (RAAP). Work is already being undertaken to harmonize the NWMO-led Impact Statement with WLON’s RAAP. This letter focuses on the next steps for the federal regulatory process.

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.

In this context, the NWMO looks forward to continuing engagement with WLON, including through the harmonization of the NWMO-led Impact Statement and the WLON RAAP. As the Impact Statement is developed, NWMO is seeking continued participation from your community to better understand Anishinaabe values, shared areas of focus, and concerns, to harmonize studies and assessment methodologies in order to reduce duplication, and to inform the identification of appropriate mitigation, monitoring, and follow-up measures for the project through the WLON RAAP process.

For additional information on the federal process, 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 now 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 continuing our relationship.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

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Director, Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

<contact information removed>