

2025 Survey of Public Views on NWMO Operations

JUNE 2025



Introduction

The [Nuclear Waste Management Organization](#) (NWMO) is comprised of Ontario Power Generation, Hydro Quebec and New Brunswick Power, who were mandated under the [Nuclear Fuel Waste Act](#) (2002) to investigate and recommend a long-term management option for all of Canada's high level nuclear fuel waste. The NWMO's "[Adaptive Phased Management](#)" approach includes a site selection process to locate a deep geological repository for all of Canada's high-level radioactive waste and then development of the repository and associated operations. NWMO launched their siting process in 2010. A total of 22 municipalities were the subject of NWMO investigations between 2010 and 2020. In 2020 the NWMO short-listed to two candidate sites.

On November 28th the NWMO announced their selection of the Revell site - in the heart of Treaty #3 territory in northwestern Ontario and in the headwaters of the Wabigoon watershed – as their intended site. In December, Eagle Lake First Nation announced their legal action against the NWMO selection of the Revell site.

The NWMO proposal is still in the concept stage. NWMO says they will initiate the assessment process in 2025 and submit a full proposal in 2028.

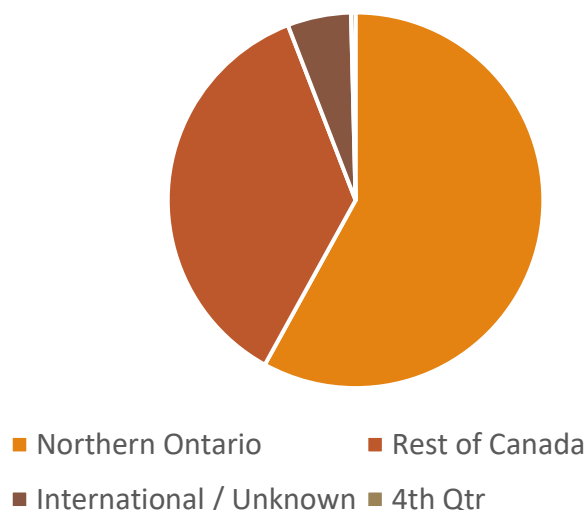
Every year the [Nuclear Waste Management Organization](#) (NWMO) releases their [annual report](#) and a five year "[implementation plan](#)" which – according to the NWMO – sets out what the nuclear waste corporation will be doing over the coming years. The NWMO also invites feedback through a [survey](#). WTNNFN had heard from many that they are reluctant to provide the NWMO with their personal information, and they are uncertain how the NWMO will use their responses. Providing an alternative means for Canadians to express their views motivated the deployment of an alternate survey.

We the Nuclear Free North is a not-for-profit organization that tracks a nuclear waste burial project proposed for northwestern Ontario. *We the Nuclear Free North* has released the results of a recent survey gauging public attitudes towards the Nuclear Waste Management Organization and its project. *We the Nuclear Free North's* survey results show an overwhelmingly negative response to the NWMO's project and communications.

An invitation to complete the survey was distributed by email and through social media on a wide variety of sites. Over 300 responses were received in the ten-day survey period. Just under 60% of respondents were from northern Ontario (northwestern and northeastern), 36% were from the rest of Canada, and the remainder international or unknown.

Respondents include nuclear industry employees, Indigenous people, residents of Ignace and members of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and residents from across northern Ontario and across Canada.

Location of Respondents



Summary

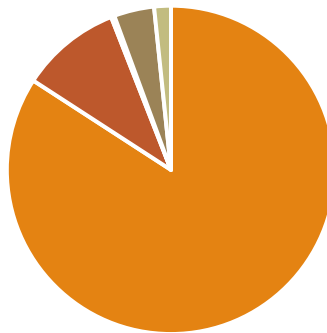
Overwhelming, respondents expressed a negative view of NWMO operations:

- 94% were not confident that the NWMO's safety culture would keep Canadians safe.
- A very large majority found that NWMO communications were not transparent or honest.
- 93% were not confident in the NWMO's ability to implement the safe, long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.
- 94% were not confident that NWMO's work aligned with Reconciliation or Indigenous Knowledge.
- 96% were not comfortable with the nuclear industry being in charge of the NWMO
- 92% did not believe that the siting process was fair or gained the necessary consent

Results

1. How confident are you that the nuclear industry's (NWMO's) stated safety culture sufficiently protects Canadians from the dangers of nuclear fuel waste?

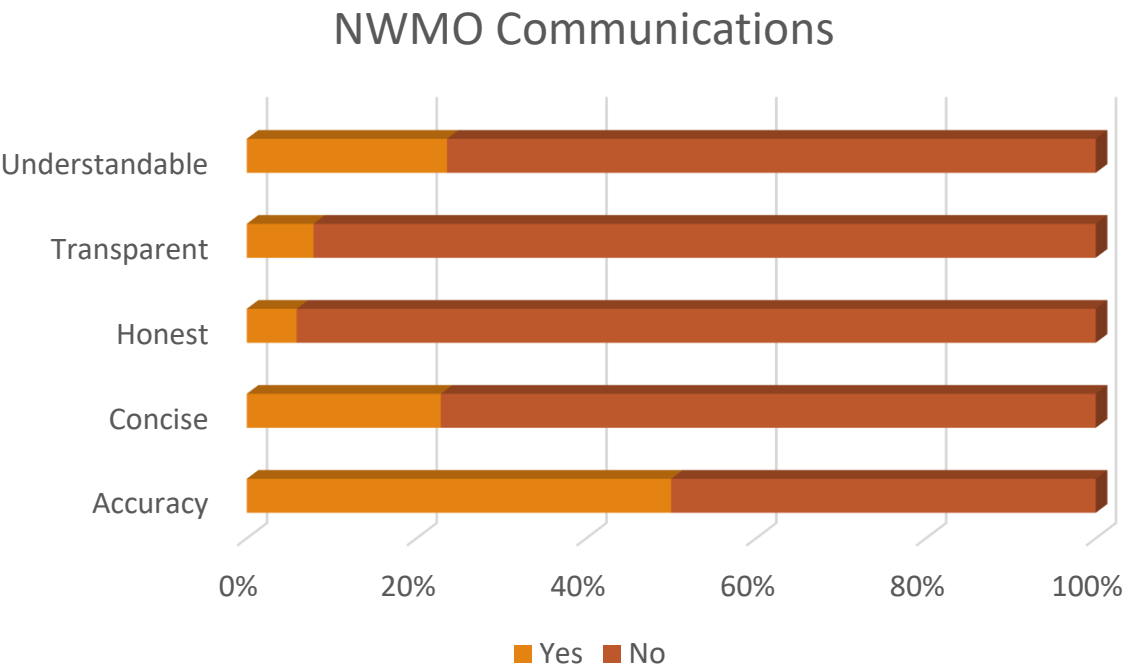
NWMO's stated safety culture
sufficiently protects Canadians from the
dangers of nuclear fuel waste



■ Not at all Confident ■ Not very confident ■ Unsure
■ Very Confident ■ Confident ■ No response

94% were not confident that the NWMO's safety culture would keep Canadians safe.

2. The NWMO asserts that they strive to make their plans clear and concise, and to use plain language to ensure their plans are understandable to a broad audience. Do you feel that information made available or promoted by the NWMO is (select all that apply)

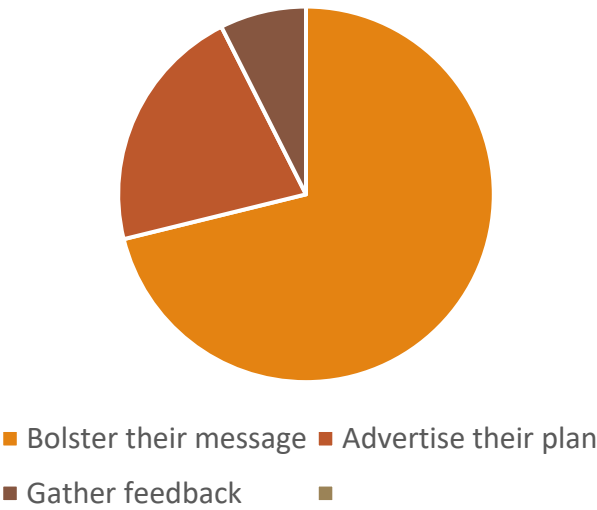


A very large majority found that NWMO communications were not transparent or honest.

3. Have you taken or looked at the NWMO’s survey? (You can access it [HERE](#)) If yes, what do you think the goal of their survey is?

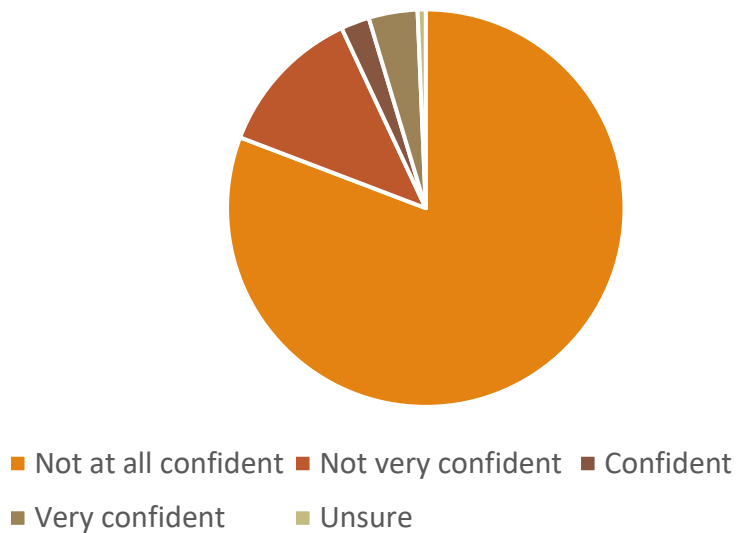
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Purpose of NWMO Survey



4. How confident are you in the NWMO's ability to implement the safe, long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel, in a manner that protects people and the environment for generations to come?

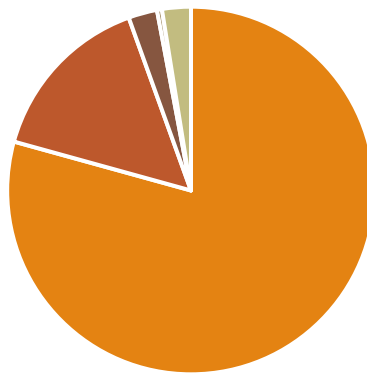
Confidence in Long-term Safety of NWMO Project



93% were not confident in the NWMO's ability to implement the safe, long-term management of nuclear fuel waste.

5. The NWMO's survey states that "Integral to all our work is our commitment to Reconciliation and aligning with Indigenous Knowledge." How confident are you that this is true?

Reconciliation is Integral to NWMO's Work

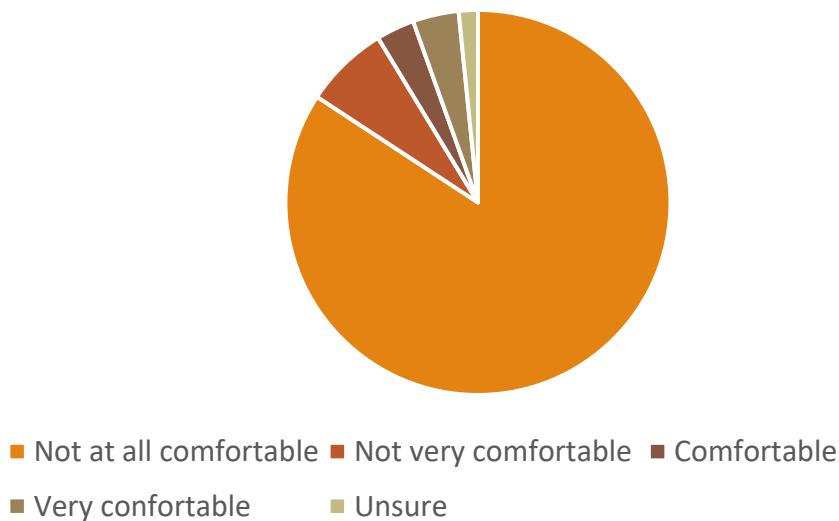


■ Not at all confident ■ Not Very Confident ■ Confident
■ Very confident ■ Unsure

94% were not confident that NWMO's work aligned Reconciliation or Indigenous Knowledge.

6. How comfortable are you with the fact that the NWMO – the organization the federal government has given responsibility for nuclear waste management - is headed by nuclear industry people, rather than being an arm's-length organization?

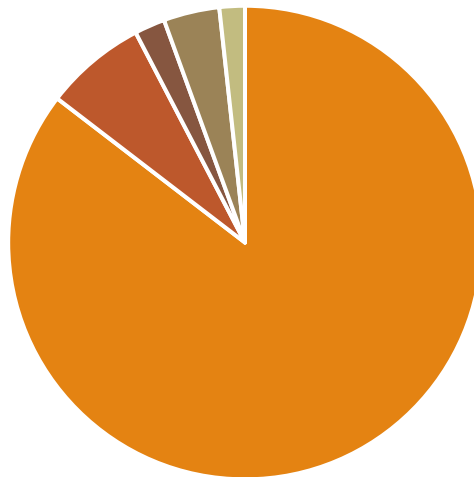
Comfort with nuclear industry control of
NWMO



96% were not comfortable with the nuclear industry being in charge of the NWMO.

7. The NWMO's site selection decision was based on a process conferring authority to two communities to consider becoming "willing hosts". The NWMO has stated that the concerns of other communities in the vicinity and along the transportation route would be taken into consideration in their site selection decision. Do you believe that their site selection process was fair and based on consent from all who will be impacted by the site selection decision?

Confidence in Siting Process



■ Not at all confident ■ Not very confident ■ Confident ■ Very confident ■ Unsure

92% did not believe that the siting process was fair or gained the necessary consent.

Conclusions

The results of the survey have been reported by [We the Nuclear Free North](#) to the federal Minister of Energy and Natural Resources and the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, along with a letter summarizing key messages from the survey results and providing backgrounders on the NWMO project, site selection and public and Indigenous opposition. A copy of the survey report has also been provided to the NWMO.

In writing to the federal Ministers, the group also conveyed that throughout the NWMO's lengthy siting processes there have been many expressions of opposition to and rejection of the NWMO's siting process and their project.

These [expressions](#) have come in many forms, including resolutions passed by Grand Council Treaty #3 just weeks before the NWMO announced the selection of the Revell site – in the heart of Treaty 3 territory – in November 2024. More recently, Eagle Lake First Nation has initiated legal action against the NWMO's site selection. Earlier resolutions have been passed by Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Anishnabek Nation, and many First Nations and municipalities.

For more information visit www.wethenuclearfreenorth.ca.