

## **Manitouwadge Representatives Visit the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station and Learn More about Canada's Plan for the Long-Term Management of Used Nuclear Fuel**

A delegation from Manitouwadge visited the Darlington Nuclear Generating Station on July 26 where they saw firsthand how used nuclear fuel is safely stored on an interim basis. Representatives from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) also briefed them on Canada's plan for managing used fuel on a long-term basis. The plan, approved by the Government of Canada in 2007, is called Adaptive Phased Management (APM), and it features construction of a deep geological repository for safely and securely isolating used nuclear fuel from humans and the environment on an indefinite basis.

The project involves building a deep geological repository and associated surface facilities. It is a major national infrastructure initiative that could potentially generate hundreds of jobs in the community and many more in the surrounding region.

As part of its briefing the delegation learned about the process the NWMO is using to identify an informed and willing community to host the repository. There are nine steps in the process which is expected to take seven to ten years to complete. A key principle guiding the process is that it is community-driven, and that the community has the right to withdraw from it at any time. Agreement to host the facility requires a clear demonstration of willingness on the part of the community at a grass-roots level.

Mayor John MacEachern underscored the preliminary nature of the Township's discussions with the NWMO. "At this point we are simply trying to understand what is involved," he said. "If we do proceed there are many steps involved—and plenty of opportunities for residents to get involved, to learn, and to have their say. If we enter the process, we can opt out at any time," he added.

If the Council votes to proceed to Step 2, the NWMO would then undertake an initial screening of the Township. This screening, which would take approximately three months, would be based on readily available information and would use five criteria to see if there are any obvious conditions which would exclude Manitouwadge from being considered as a potential host site.

Nineteen other communities, three in Saskatchewan, the rest in Ontario, have already expressed an interest in learning about the project.

For more information about the NWMO, and the site selection process, please visit:  
[www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess](http://www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess)



(Photo: From left to right, Chris McGarry, Sheldon Plummer, Alec Blyth, Grant Goodwin, Margaret Hartling, Jim Moffat, John MacEachern, Cecile Kerster, Natalie Labbee, Anthony Friedrich, Owen Cranney, Jim Fraser in front of dry storage containers at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station.)