



2026 February 4

ISR-318658460-20557

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3

**Re: Atomic Energy of Canada Limited Comments on the Initial Project Description of the Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project**

To whom it may concern,

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (“**AECL**”) acknowledges the release of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization’s (“**NWMO**”) Initial Project Description for the proposed Deep Geological Repository for Canada’s used nuclear fuel. This is an important milestone in the federal impact assessment and licensing process. The development of a national Deep Geological Repository represents a significant step forward for Canada, providing a long-term, science-based solution that ensures waste owners remain accountable for the safe management of the materials we generate.

As the Crown corporation responsible for Canada’s nuclear laboratories and associated legacy liabilities, AECL manages a portion of Canada’s used nuclear fuel. Under Canada’s long-term approach for nuclear waste management, this material is expected to be transferred to the Deep Geological Repository once operational. AECL supports the Deep Geological Repository as an essential national infrastructure that will provide a safe, permanent solution for used nuclear fuel.

While AECL is not a member of the NWMO, we maintain dedicated governance and funding arrangements to meet our responsibilities as a waste owner. AECL has been working closely with the NWMO to align long-term planning, including coordinating schedules and preparing to meet future Waste Acceptance Criteria as they are developed.

Our collaboration includes information sharing, technical interface planning, and readiness work that will support a smooth transition of AECL-owned fuel into the national long-term management system. We recognize the NWMO’s technical expertise, the strength of the multiple barrier safety concept, and the extensive research informing the repository design. As the project advances through regulatory review, AECL will continue to work with the NWMO to ensure alignment with Canada’s long-term strategy for used nuclear fuel management.

AECL also recognizes the central importance of Indigenous and community engagement in shaping the path forward. NWMO’s community driven approach, reflected in the participation of Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and the Township



of Ignace which have stepped forward as a willing host, demonstrates a strong commitment to partnership, transparency, and the integration of Indigenous Knowledge and local perspectives.

AECL supports continued progress on the Deep Geological Repository as a key element of Canada's long-term plan for safely managing used nuclear fuel. We remain committed to working collaboratively with the NWMO, federal regulators, Indigenous communities, and the public to advance a responsible, science-based solution that protects people and the environment for generations to come.

Yours truly,

2026-02-04

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Alastair MacDonald  
Vice President Decommissioning & Waste Mana...  
Signed by: Alastair MacDonald

2026-02-04

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Maude-Émilie Pagé  
Acting Vice President Indigenous & Stakeho...  
Signed by: Maude-Émilie Pagé