

Panel Discussion on “Government and Industry Social Responsibility Towards Potential Communities Hosting Radioactive Waste Management Sites”

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Keith Storey, Memorial University (Social Impact Assessment)

Helen Cooper (Community Affairs), former mayor of Kingston, NWMO Advisory Council

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Abstract

In healthy democracies, support from local communities for industrial/development projects is highly desirable. What are the respective roles of the various stakeholder sectors, i.e. governments, industry, and communities around industrial projects, including waste management facilities, and how can they interact with sustainable development in mind?

Should the private sector be involved in public policy? Should the public sector have an active role in providing funding complementing the notion of the Polluter pays principle? Should communities have a greater role in overseeing the activities of industry and be enabled to do so? Should communities be empowered to increase their role in decision-making processes? Are there trends emerging in this area? Are there improvements to be made?

The Not-in-My-Backyard (NIMBY) reflex is not "ethical". Thoughtful review is required when considering the right or the desirability to develop. Each of the invited panel members will briefly approach this issue from the perspective of their respective sector. A discussion period will ensue which hopefully will provide insight into how diverse sectors can work together to ensure the establishment of radioactive waste management facilities in communities which support such projects based on local and national values.