

Studies:

Emergency Services Study

Social Programs and
Vulnerable Populations StudyRegional Economic
Development Study

Regional Services and Programs

The Municipality of South Bruce and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) are conducting a wide range of studies to inform the community's willingness to host the NWMO Project. All studies are also being reviewed by peer reviewers who are subject matter experts in their field. The Emergency Services Study, Social Programs and Vulnerable Populations Study, and Regional Economic Development Study were presented at the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) on November 10, 2022.

Highlights

- The NWMO Project could affect the communities surrounding the Municipality of South Bruce in terms of regional economic development, emergency service response and social programs.
- A coordinated economic development plan would help maximize economic opportunities in the broader area around the Project.
- Emergency services and response plans in the region will also need to be coordinated and updated to address the unique needs of the Project. There is already a good knowledge base given Bruce Power and other area businesses. The NWMO must also confirm their emergency plans meet federal and provincial standards.
- The impact of the Project on vulnerable populations is difficult to predict. Many housing, child care, mental health and addiction programs are currently operating at capacity limits within the regional study area.
- If South Bruce decides to host the NWMO Project, NWMO funding should support the expansion of social services, community organizations, resources for vulnerable populations and housing options.

Addressing Our Guiding Principles

The studies address several of the community's 36 Guiding Principles to determine if the Project is right for South Bruce. They relate to whether the Project will bring meaningful benefit to the community, specifically:

- 10.** The NWMO will identify the potential for any positive and negative socio-economic impacts of the Project on South Bruce and surrounding communities and what community benefits it will contribute to mitigate any potential risks.
- 13.** The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote the agriculture of South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
- 14.** The NWMO, in partnership with the Municipality, will develop a strategy and fund a program to promote tourism in South Bruce and the surrounding communities.
- 16.** The NWMO will implement the Project in a manner that promotes diversity, equality and inclusion.
- 21.** The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality, will commit to implementing a business opportunities strategy that will provide opportunities for qualified local businesses to secure agreements that support the Project and that requires the NWMO to take all reasonable steps to create opportunities for qualified local businesses to benefit from the Project.
- 22.** The NWMO will commit to implementing a procurement strategy for the Project that gives preference to the selection of suppliers who can demonstrate economic benefit to South Bruce and surrounding communities.
- 27.** The NWMO will fund the Municipality's preparation of a housing plan to ensure that the residents of South Bruce have access to a sufficient supply of safe, secure, affordable and well-maintained homes.
- 28.** The NWMO will prepare a review of the existing emergency services in South Bruce and provide appropriate funding for any additional emergency services required to host the Project in South Bruce.
- 32.** The NWMO, in consultation with the Municipality and other local and regional partners, will prepare a strategy to ensure there are sufficient community services and amenities, including health, child-care, educational and recreational facilities, to accommodate the expected population growth associated with hosting the Project in South Bruce.
- 36.** The NWMO must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Municipality that the Project will benefit the broader region outside of the community of South Bruce, including local Indigenous communities.

Learn more about the...

Emergency Services Study

Study By DPRA

Peer Review Conducted By GHD

NWMO-led Study:

The NWMO's consultants conducted this study. South Bruce hired independent consultants to peer review the studies, and confirm the methodologies and findings.

What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Assess how the Project could affect local and regional emergency services. Identify any changes to the Bruce County Emergency Response Plan that may be needed if South Bruce is selected to host the Project.
- Outline the fire and injury response capabilities that the Project would require from Bruce County and the Municipality of South Bruce.
- Determine parties within the region that could participate in a Mine Safety and Rescue Emergency Services Plan.

How was the study conducted?

- Knowledge holder interviews were conducted with fire safety, health care, mining, nuclear industry and planning services. Organizations were selected based on their potential involvement with and/or knowledge of local and regional emergency services.
- NWMO Project information was analyzed, as well as data/documents from organizations in the Study Area such as response plans and emergency service websites, and also other publicly available Government documents.

What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- At this stage, there isn't enough information about the Project's effects on local emergency services. What emergency services would be provided by NWMO and what would be provided by public emergency services needs to be further clarified.
- Further review of best practices at the national and international level are needed. Further review should also identify what is needed to develop, implement and maintain emergency services during construction and operation of the Project.

What did we learn?

- The upper and lower-tier municipalities within the Study Area have been discussing the Project, but so far have not included it in any of their Emergency Response Plans.
- Additional equipment, human resources, and training would be needed for municipalities in the Study Area to handle an emergency related to the construction and operation of the Project – in particular for events potentially involving radioactivity.
- Bruce Power currently holds various agreements with local municipalities and emergency response organization, which could serve as a guide for the NWMO Project.
- Before the construction phase in 2033, the NWMO would have to meet federal and provincial regulatory requirements related to emergency services.
- The study suggests that the NWMO work with federal, provincial, and municipal organizations to further understand changes that may be required to the Bruce County and South Bruce Emergency Response Plans.

Learn more about the...

Social Programs and Vulnerable Populations Studies

Study By DPRA

Peer Review Conducted By GHD

NWMO-led Study:

The NWMO's consultants conducted this study. South Bruce hired independent consultants to peer review the studies, and confirm the methodologies and findings.

What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Identify and describe the current state of populations and groups who may be vulnerable to the NWMO Project; and analyze potential effects of the NWMO project on social programs within South Bruce and surrounding region.
- The two studies are presented together as the majority of social programs often aim to serve vulnerable populations.

How was the study conducted?

- Representatives of social and vulnerable population programs in the Study Area were interviewed. Support services were selected for interviews based on their level of experience and knowledge in helping the community.
- Secondary research was gathered from Bruce County, Grey County, Huron County, and Wellington County websites to identify existing social programs and services available to vulnerable populations.
- Data was also gathered from the Bruce and Grey Community Information Services on the use and capacity of various services.

What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- The review suggested including those with lived experiences in vulnerable populations in knowledge holder interviews to better develop options to address the potential negative effects of the Project and to enhance potential positive effects.
- Further assess the relationships between social programs, vulnerable populations and other study findings to build comprehensive framework for future monitoring and assessment of potential effects.
- Small businesses and farmers may be considered more vulnerable to some of the Project social/economic effects should the Project comes to South Bruce.

What did we learn?

- Across the Study Area, programs for housing, child care, mental health, and addiction are currently stretched due to the influx of new residents, as well as Bruce Power's MCR Project and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Those who experience mental health problems, addiction, domestic violence or have lower incomes, may be at a greater risk of adverse effects of the NWMO Project and may not benefit equally from positive effects.
- Given that the population change as a result of the Project is expected to be relatively small, it is not anticipated that the Project would exert significant pressure on vulnerable populations or existing social programs and services.
- The Project may benefit vulnerable populations and social programs and challenge them.
- The study suggests that the NWMO consider creating a stream in their corporate social responsibility program to help support vulnerable people and social programs (e.g., donations, grants). Additionally, NWMO could consider creating: a participatory social monitoring program; a plan to convert temporary accommodations for workers to social housing; and a child care centre at the Centre of Expertise.

Learn more about the...

Regional Economic Development Study

Study By Keir Corp Peer Review Conducted By GHD

NWMO-led Study:

The NWMO's consultants conducted this study. South Bruce hired independent consultants to peer review the studies, and confirm the methodologies and findings.

What was the scope and purpose of the study?

- Identify potential ways the Project could deliver economic benefit across the region. Assess the ability of businesses in the region to contribute to the Project.
- Explore ways to maximize opportunities from the Project.

How was the study conducted?

- Consultants interviewed knowledge holders with economic development organizations, area employers, planning officials, municipal administrators, and local developers on the current state of the workforce, housing, and the general economy.
- Consultants also used secondary sources in the form of NWMO Project information and documents, Statistics Canada business and workforce counts, Bruce Power documents, and County office and business documents.

What did South Bruce's peer reviewers say?

- Independent consultants confirm that the Project provides significant opportunity for the core area to realize economic benefit from the Project.
- Collaboration between area municipalities and SON could help maximize these benefits. Further study is needed to assess capacity, capabilities, value propositions and risks for economic development, both with and without municipal collaboration.

What did we learn?

- South Bruce and its neighbouring municipalities currently have little capacity for nuclear construction, design services and equipment supply. Competitors in the broader region are better equipped to meet the Project's needs.
 - The municipalities of South Bruce, Brockton, Huron-Kinloss, North Huron and Morris-Turnberry and SON should set up an economic development collaborative, rather than competing for Project-related economic opportunities.
- The collaborative could develop workforce development and business attraction strategies, allow members to be more competitive within the Regional Study Area. It could integrate connected initiatives such as housing and infrastructure.

"Meet the Experts" November 24, 2022, 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

Authors and peer review consultants will be available to answer questions on the Regional Economic Development Study, Social Programs Study, Vulnerable Populations Study, Emergency Services Study.