

Keeping you connected to the DGR



Marie Wilson

As 2010 draws to a close, we mark the completion of the fifth year of the regulatory approvals process for Ontario Power Generation (OPG)'s proposed Deep Geologic Repository (DGR) Project for low and intermediate level waste (L&ILW). Each year, since the inception of the DGR Project with the submission of the Project Description to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) late in 2005, has seen the realization of many objectives and milestones; however, 2010 is particularly notable. Work programs in support of the environmental assessment (EA) for the DGR, including safety assessment, geoscience investigations, engineering/design, environmental field studies and communications, have been completed. Some post submission work will continue (for example, community consultation will continue throughout the regulatory process and beyond), but specific work for the EA is now complete, and it has been completed on schedule. The next step, and a major milestone at that, involves the submission of the major documents for the DGR Project as outlined below.

OPG plans to submit the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and documents in support of the Site Preparation and Construction Licence application, including the Preliminary Safety Report (PSR), for the DGR Project to a Joint Review Panel in Q1 2011. (The panel has yet to be appointed, but it's anticipated this will take place early in 2011). The submission of the EIS and supporting documents represents a key milestone in the regulatory approval process, and is the culmination of over five years worth of investigations, studies and analyses, from the above mentioned work programs, to verify the safety case for the DGR. The next step in the regulatory process will be taken by the Joint Review Panel who will issue the EIS for an anticipated six-month public review period, pending submission.

As we look ahead to 2011, it should be emphasized that public consultation activities will continue to be maintained as we move through the regulatory approvals process and beyond at the same high level of activity that has been established over the last five years. Speaking engagements, newsletters, stakeholder briefings and participation by staff at community events with the DGR exhibit, etc. are key elements of our work plan for next year

Given the time of year, it is also timely to mention the DGR Community Partnership Program. NWMO administers and delivers this program, which provides funding for initiatives throughout Bruce County with a focus on



NWMO was one of the first sponsors to come forward to support the development of the Rotary Accessible Playground located in Jubilee Park in Southampton. The park is the first-of-its-kind in Grey/ Bruce, and it was specifically designed to provide play access to the area's 2500 children with disabilities. NWMO was proud to partner with the Rotary Clubs and other service clubs, organizations and businesses as well as the Town of Saugeen Shores in this very worthy initiative.

education, environment and community development, including Aboriginal communities. The program supported a number of initiatives over the past year with about one-third of the funds going to environmental projects such as tree planting, beach and waterfront improvements, trail planning and programs designed to rehabilitate water courses and the improvement of forest management along Bruce County streams. A large portion of the funding envelope was spent on significant municipal projects such as the Chesley Medical Clinic in Arran Elderslie, Kincardine Davidson Centre Revitalization Project and the Improvement Program for the Sauble Beach Community Centre in South Bruce Peninsula. Support was also given to Aboriginal Community programs: Kabaeshiwim Women's Shelter, Nawash Charity Golf Tournament, Historic Saugeen Métis Rendezvous and the Saugeen First Nation Website Development Project. Note there were several other funding initiatives as well as the aforementioned activities. With the program ready to begin again in 2011, those interested in participating are advised to email Kevin Orr who administers the program at korr@nwmo.ca.

And before we close, on behalf of NWMO, may all of you enjoy the best the season has to offer in whatever manner you choose to celebrate, and all the best in 2011. We will connect again, next year!