

about 30 miles west of Ignace. Prior to that, Ignace’s town council voted to be a willing host for the project in July 2024, following a community referendum. The NWMO previously identified the site, home to a crystalline rock formation known as the Revell batholith, as being potentially suitable for hosting a repository. Depending on the rock characteristics, a repository would be built at a depth of about 500 meters, with an underground footprint of about 1,480 acres.

The repository project will now advance into the regulatory process, with the NWMO seeking licensing approval by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and confirmation by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. While a repository application has yet to be submitted to the CNSC, the commission said it has provided regulatory guidance to the NWMO, along with pre-project design reviews of geological repository concepts. The CNSC can only

make a licensing decision after completing an environmental assessment.

The NWMO has also agreed to an indigenous-led regulatory assessment and approval process that will be developed and implemented by Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. According to the NWMO, the tribal nation will design the process to ensure that potential impacts of the project are assessed against its Anishinaabe Values, and that conditions to mitigate any impacts are designed by Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and complied with by the NWMO.

The NWMO estimates that regulatory approval of the repository will be completed by 2032. Once approved, the organization will commence with an estimated 10-year construction project, with operations expected to begin in the early 2040s.

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