**Community Studies Webinar - Questions**

*Topic 1 - Baseline Conditions: Population & Labour*

**Recorded Questions**

1. Why is NWMO only allowing 15 days for written questions after making the reports publicly available? This seems rushed considering the amount of data covered and the importance of the studies.

*There is not really a limit to 15 days, but we do have the next study coming along, and these studies are building on one another. We are asking for 15 days so that if there is anything that we need to change or address for the studies coming afterward we have times to do so. We are also hosting Meet the Expert Nights, so that if you do have more questions, we certainly welcome you to ask them.*

1. Why isn't Kenora unorganized shown in the population areas within the study?

 *For the purposes of this presentation and for the respect of time, we did not want to present graphs that were difficult to read. For the sake of brevity, we focussed in on the key population centres that might be sources for us for the labour we might need. Kenora unorganized was not included in the projections due to the vast geographical area that is considered Kenora “unorganized”.*

1. Bending Lake Mining operations have recently terminated their environmental assessment. Should their operations be still considered within the potential population projections?

*Absolutely. They have just terminated their Environmental Assessments but they have not terminated their entire operations. They have just delayed their environmental assessment at this time. We will be contact with them to monitor and stay updated on the situation.*

1. Isn't Wabigoon Lake Ojibwe Nation involved in this project as well? Why isn't the Centre of Expertise or another similar facility considered for their community as it is very close to the DGR site?

*The NWMO is very thankful that the Wabigoon Lake Ojibwe Nation (WLON) People are involved in the learning process. We don’t know whether they would like to see a facility like this in their community. If they do, that is a conversation we would be willing to have. For the purposes of these studies, we are focused on the facility within the Township of Ignace.*

1. What population growth do you anticipate happening in the surrounding communities? Ignace and Dryden are virtually equal distance from the DGR site. What about the unorganized areas in the surrounding area too?

*When we showed the regional population growth, we tried to capture this, and what we anticipate is a couple of waves. The first wave being the people coming to work in the centre of expertise, and they are largely, but not exclusively, focussed in Ignace. As we get into the operations wave, we are at the DGR site, and in our studies, the population becomes much more dispersed in areas such as Dryden and potentially Sioux Lookout, and throughout the Local Study Area. It changed as we went through the studies because we had some slightly different planning assumptions that we were using as the studies were done.*

1. If you are planning on attracting labour from surrounding communities are you not going to make it very difficult for existing employers to retain their staff, especially smaller businesses?

*This is a good concern that is hard to address. People may decide to come and work for the NWMO, or they may decide to stay where they currently are. One reason why we cast our net so wide for the area is to try and minimize that impact. By trying to attract people from a larger area, the amount of people we attract from each area is a smaller percentage of their working population, so that we can spread out any hiring affect we may have on the businesses that are already retaining these employees. An anecdotal note for this, is when Mattabi opened, there was a similar concern, that some people would take up jobs at the mine, but those people brought spouses and children with them, and this took up positions that were left behind. This would attract other families to come in and fill those positions as well.*

*Topic 2 – Workforce Development*

**Recorded Questions**

*There were no questions for this session.*