

Meet the Expert
Thursday, September 29th, 2022

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Recorded Questions

Recreation

- 1. Is the recreation programming study solely based on Township recreational activities, or does this include activities that are organized by/within the local schools? Do you see any way of complimenting services within the region between communities?**

Not only recreation programming offered by the township but also recognizing that there are a number of programs offered through schools and churches. That is a part in parcel of our recommendation to repair a recreation culture plan. Right now we observe a gap in underused resources and lack of recreation department staffing and we think that the Recreation and Culture Master Plan will help fill those gaps in terms of better coordination, program delivering, optimizing new facilities, such as the Centre of Expertise, and repurposing the work camp, which would all be a part of future recreation planning document. It would be a living document that would extend from the preconstruction phase through to the construction phase through to operations and it would be a direct response to the evolving needs of the current and incoming residents.

- 2. In the construction phase, will there be recreation activities in the work camp or will it contribute to the local recreational programming?**

In terms of recreation, the work camp is envisioned to offer a wide range of on-site amenities to accommodate the temporary and non-local labour force, and that labour force at this time would be solely focussed on construction activities at the Revell site, so there would be concentrated work shift blocks. In essence, folks would be driving in or flying in, driving out or flying out at the end of their work blocks. So with that labour pattern, we anticipate limited impact on the broader recreation file in the Ignace area. So the recreation programming within the Ignace area would see limited impact.

Social

- 1. Many of Ignace's social services (such as Speech & Language, Occupational Therapy, etc.) come from Dryden. As the population increases, the need for these services will as well. How do you envision this changing in terms of infrastructure?**

Right now there isn't really any more space for social services that require those facilities in Ignace right now. Mary Berglund is almost at capacity currently, so in order to accommodate more social services, unless more spaces could be utilized, such as churches or schools, but unsure if they would meet the needs for those facilities. If those were to open up in Ignace, there is the possibility that a new facility would need to open up in Ignace to house those services.

Health

- 1. The DGR site is very closely located to both Ignace and Dryden. How do you see this affecting Health Services in both communities? Do you foresee it putting a strain on either of the health care systems?**

Its important when we think about the DGR site and the potential population growth and workforce growth associated with it, that there is different demands and different characteristics with each

phase. So, there is the potential, assuming the residency planning assumptions are met, that there would be a greater demand for health care services in Ignace and other communities in light of the fact that a lot of residents from Ignace are required to travel to access services. That is why one of our options that we suggested is careful planning, collaborative planning, among relevant parties to monitor the situation so that it can be addressed before it reaches a critical point. That same set of assumptions and affects would also apply to operations. Construction is a completely different beast because the expectation in terms of the residency planning scenarios that a large portion of that construction workforce would come from outside the local study area (LSA). Currently there is a plan to have health care facilities on site and one of the options in the health care study is to collaboratively plan what those facilities look like and the reason for that is because if the workers stay on site to access medical services, then there will not be increased pressures in Ignace, Dryden, and other communities.

2. Will there be a need/is there a population threshold for any given community to have an Emergency Room or hospital?

Currently it is unknown if there is an existing threshold that have been established for building a hospital or adding another emergency room. This is another piece that is going to require monitoring and planning.

3. Will the work camp have its own health services, and if so, what staffing/services will that be comprised of?

At this point, we are still in the planning phase as to what exactly is going to be offered. Many construction camps that have a Nurse Practitioner or someone to do education, wellness counsellors, or someone to offer mental health services, but I cannot say at this point we can't say definitively what is going to be offered on site because that is still being planned.

Economic Development

1. Given the shortage of skilled labourers, how do you see this project supporting local small business entrepreneurship and skilled trades?

There is definitely a need to develop and attract trained labour into the area. There is a lot of opportunity that will be there for small businesses, even if they don't work directly for the project, to get involved in supplying the primary suppliers that are supplying the project directly. There could also be potential for performing joint ventures maybe larger firms that aren't located in the LSA may be very interested in partnering with local businesses and that could create some opportunity.

Municipal Infrastructure

1. Given the growth pressure of the communities involved in the project, what priority areas should be considered in terms of municipal infrastructure?

A lot of it is going to depend on where the growth is. The immediate need will be housing, so in some of those areas, they will be looking at either building new lots or accommodations and there is also some subdivision expansion planned. Housing would be first, and then as the population increases, one of the weaknesses was identified with the wastewater treatment plant, which is a facility that will be needing upgrading within the next 10 years

Housing

- 1. Given the shortage of skilled labourers and the housing crisis that is being faced across Canada, do you think importance should be placed on NWMO developing corporate housing for their staff?**

When NWMO looked at housing they looked at developing a housing plan with options. The housing needs are different depending on the phase. All of those things were identified as things that need to be considered and developed into a housing plan.

Labour Baseline

- 1. What kinds of jobs are going to be available? Will I/my children have to have a degree or be a nuclear expert? Will this project provide opportunities for our young people and keep them from moving south?**

The occupations that will be available with this project include many opportunities that don't require degrees or nuclear specialty. We felt there was a lot of opportunity for people that have experience in the mining and forestry sector, and the construction side as well. A lot of the focus in the workforce development was to focus on young people early and make it clear that there is potential for them unlike some of the different resource based project. It has a long a reliable timeline so that if you're willing to stay in the community there will be opportunities for you to find long employment that is not cyclical like resource based industry.

Growing the Population

- 1. How do you think this project will change our town, if at all? Do you think Ignace will look/be different if this project starts in this area? Something that is a concern is keeping our small-town charm. Will that still be possible?**

The population projection that we completed, Ignace remains within its growth aspirations which is between 2500-3000, and we heard that out of our Project Visioning Process which was completed in 2021. Within the past couple of years. The reason that number was decided on was because it could support services while also maintaining the small-town feel. Some of the options presented are about planning for this growth, so if people go into these planning processes with this in mind, it is possible, but at this point it is really hard to definitively say what Ignace will look like should this project be sited in Northwestern Ontario. An overriding theme of all the options that have been presented is Community Ambassadorship in that there is a series of interconnected components, both physical and qualitative, and it is going to be critical for program, service, infrastructure, delivery to be sensitive and responsive to evolving demands in direct response to current and incoming resident means. That is where that Community Ambassadorship comes in to play and that involves regular interaction and collaboration and the need to resolve issues as they arise and celebrate successes as they arise and that all involved strength in planning and relationships.

Workforce Development

- 1. Mining and forestry are the big industries in our area (i.e. we don't have people who know the nuclear industry). There does not seem to be a lot in common with these industries. How are workers going to get trained or will they be brought in from the south?**

One of the things that was looked at was seeing what training organizations were in the area in order to develop some of those skills. Working in this environment, the skills are different than working in a nuclear reactor. There are definitely aspects that are similar to mining skills and transferrable skillsets. Looking at training organizations are available to help train workers to have the skills needed to

enhance existing skills as appropriate for the site. In this workforce, there can be migration from all over the place to meet these needs.