



COG's Frank Doyle, Natalie Alderson, John Krasznai and Holly Anderson at the Canadian Nuclear Society's Nuclear Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental Restoration Conference in September.

## A roadmap for waste

***COG members and staff shared how collaborative R&D will set the course for CANDU's future at a Canadian Nuclear Society conference held in September.***

The future is now for Canada's nuclear waste management and decommissioning plans.

Canada's nuclear operators, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) are collectively committed to waste management solutions that ensure waste from current operations are managed responsibly and not left for future generations.

In recent years, the industry's efforts have been further strengthened with collaborative leadership and research through the CANDU Owners Group (COG). The COG-facilitated programs include the Radioactive Waste Leadership Forum (RWLF), a Decommissioning and Waste Management peer group focused on research in advancing waste and decommissioning technology as well as its future-focused work in Strategic Research & Development (SRD) on decommissioning and long-term waste management (DLTWM).

COG and its members brought all of that to the Canadian Nuclear Society's (CNS) 4th Nuclear Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental Restoration (NWMDER) Conference, Sept. 8-11, in Ottawa, where discussions centred on the on-going work in these areas and how the path forward in the short and long-term relies on effective industry collaboration.

NWMDER featured approximately 300 Canadian and international participants from a range of nuclear organizations, Indigenous communities, members of local nuclear communities as well as academia. COG and its members were among those who presented at the conference. The central themes included community involvement and social acceptance, new technology development, and the importance of collaboration to address shared waste management and decommissioning challenges as well as solutions.

Lise Morton, Vice President of Nuclear Waste Management at Ontario Power Generation (OPG) and COG RWLF Chair spoke at the conference about lessons learned from OPG's Deep Geologic Repository for low- and intermediate-level waste.

Mark Lesinski, President and CEO of CNL spoke about his organization's on-going revitalization and transformation plans for its Chalk River Laboratories.

NWMO President and CEO Laurie Swami as well as Carla Carmichael, OPG Vice President Project Assurance & Contract Management and COG Board member were also among the leaders in attendance.

COG was represented by Research & Development, Nuclear Safety & Environmental Affairs and Joint Projects & Services (JP&S) program staff including Natalie Alderson, Holly Anderson, Paul Dinner, Frank Doyle and John Krasznai. Krasznai and Dinner delivered a two-part presentation on COG's SRD work in DLTWM.

Their "roadmap" presentations outlined COG's SRD vision to create collaborative research that will help the CANDU industry remain sustainable and strong for future operations over the next several decades. In particular, the presentations highlighted COG's SRD focus on development of technology and infrastructure for decommissioning and waste.

The first presentation tracked the process and timeline of establishing a DLTWM roadmap, touching on lessons learned from ongoing collaborative research projects. The second presentation focused on implementation of new technologies and activities to-date supporting the goal of minimizing waste and reducing dose, costs and duration of decommissioning.

Krasznai also presented COG-led research looking at the unique requirements and experience of CANDU reactors in the decommissioning phase, based on a paper submitted by COG JP&S Project Manager Jeff Weed and CNL's Andrew Drom.