



# CASE STUDY #5

## NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA NUCLEAR LEGACY LIABILITY PROGRAM

Working with our partner, AMEC Earth and Environmental, **Dialogue Partners** worked to develop and build community relationships to support the creation of a long-term strategy for the clean up and management

of radioactive waste at Atomic Energy of Canada sites throughout the country. Initial focus was on the upper Ottawa Valley area near the Chalk River Laboratories where 70% of the nuclear waste is located.

**WHAT HAPPENED:** Dialogue Partners conducted interviews with key stakeholders to understand their needs, level of awareness and desire for information; we drafted information materials designed to make complex, technical information understandable and accessible; we designed and facilitated a focus group on the materials with key stakeholders; met with First Nations and Métis communities and representatives; facilitated internal working group meetings; designed and populated the project website; and hosted information sessions in a number of different communities.



Fuel rod

**THINGS WE LEARNED ALONG THE WAY:** Balancing the needs and expertise of scientists and technical experts with the needs and interests of community and stakeholders is crucial. Coaching, strategic advice and capacity building were built into the project. Testing of materials, process and approach is critical to “getting it right” and meeting stakeholder needs. Some of the techniques used were pre-identified for us at the start of the project, and together we learned and affirmed that there is great value in asking stakeholders how they want to be involved, and engaging them where they gather already, instead of scheduling meetings for them to come to us. Ongoing relationship building with Métis, First Nation and other communities of interest will be important as the project goes forward.



[http://www.nuclearlegacyprogram.ca/en/home\\_en.html](http://www.nuclearlegacyprogram.ca/en/home_en.html)



**COMPLEXITY AS AN OPPORTUNITY**  
Highly complex and technical information – like nuclear waste management – presents possibilities for shared understanding, and to integrate community knowledge and needs into the conversation. This situation presents an opportunity to host values based discussions about criteria and principles for long-term nuclear waste management.

