



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

Summary Record of Proceedings and Decision

In the Matter of

Applicant Cameco Corporation

Subject Application to Renew the Licence for the Key
Lake Operation

Public Hearing
Date October 1, 2 and 3, 2013

SUMMARY RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Cameco Corporation

Address/Location: 2121 – 11th Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1J3

Purpose: Application to renew the uranium mill operation licence for its Key Lake Operation.

Application received: December 21 and 31, 2012

Dates of public hearing: October 1, 2 and 3, 2013

Location: Kikinahk Friendship Centre,
320 Boardman Street, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

Members present: M. Binder, Chair
R. Velshi S. McEwan
R. J. Barriault M. J. McDill
A. Harvey D.D. Tolgyesi

Secretary: M.A. Leblanc
Recording Secretary: S. Dimitrijevic
Senior General Counsel: J. Lavoie

Applicant Represented By			Document Number
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • L. Mooney, Vice-President, Safety, Health, Environment, Quality (SHEQ) and Regulatory Relations • K. Nagy, Director, SHEQ, Compliance and Licensing • K. England, Manager, SHEQ Compliance and Licensing • B. Esford, Manager, Geo-Environmental Engineering • D. Bronkhorst, Vice-President, Saskatchewan Mining South • L. Yesnik, General Manager, Key Lake Operation • K. Himbeault, Site Manager, SHEQ and Regulatory Relations • K. Lamont, Manager, SHEQ and Regulatory Relations, Rabbit Lake • S. Willy, Director, Corporate Responsibility 			CMD 13-H13.1 CMD 13-H13.1A
CNSC staff			Document Number
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R. Jammal • J. Leclair • S. Eaton • M. McKee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T. Gates • G. Groskopf • C. Purvis • B. Dowsley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Ryan • S. Demeter (Contractor) 	CMD 13-H13

Other Representatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Environment: K. McCullum and W. Kotyk• Medical Health Officer for Northern Saskatchewan: J. Irvine• Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety: G. Jablan and G. Alderman
Intervenor
See appendix A

Licence: Renewed

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Introduction

1. Cameco Corporation (Cameco) has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission¹ for the renewal of the uranium mill licence for its Key Lake Operation uranium mill located in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 570 kilometres north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The current operating licence, UMLOL-MILL-KEY.01/2013, expires on October 31, 2013. Cameco requested a renewal of the licence for a period of 10 years.
2. The Key Lake site included two ore bodies, Gaertner and Deilmann, discovered in 1975 and 1976. Open pit mining was conducted between 1981 and 1997. After depletion of these ore bodies, uranium ore was transported from the McArthur River Operation for milling that began at the Key Lake site in 1983 and continues today.
3. Cameco is currently authorized to operate a uranium mill at Key Lake and to maintain the facilities necessary to support this operation, including waste management facilities. The current licence also authorizes Cameco to produce uranium concentrate, to possess, store, transfer, import, use, and dispose of nuclear substances and radiation devices.
4. The licensed activities at the Key Lake Operation were the subject of several environmental impact assessments. The assessments were done in 1979 for the original open pit mine and mill; in 1994 for the conversion of the mined out Deilmann pit into a tailings management facility; in 1995 for milling McArthur River ore; and in 2009 for the new oxygen, steam and acid plants. These environmental assessments concluded that, after taking mitigation measures into consideration, Cameco's Key Lake Operation is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
5. This request for the licence renewal includes only the ongoing activities at the Key Lake Operation site. This request does not include activities related to an application to expand tailings capacity and increase production, which is considered through a separate licensing process. The separate licensing process comprises the joint Federal/Provincial environmental assessment, which is not yet completed. Once completed, the Environmental Assessment Screening Report will be available for a formal 30-day public review and further consideration of the Commission.

Issues

6. In considering the application, the Commission was required to decide, pursuant to subsection 24(4) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*² (NSCA):
 - a) if Cameco is qualified to carry on the activity that the licence would authorize;

¹ The *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission* is referred to as the "CNSC" when referring to the organization and its staff in general, and as the "Commission" when referring to the tribunal component.

² Statutes of Canada (S.C.) 1997, chapter (c.) 9.

and

- b) if, in carrying on that activity, Cameco would make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

Public Hearing

7. The Commission, in making its decision, considered information presented for a public hearing held on October 1, 2 and 3, 2013 in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The public hearing was conducted in accordance with the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*³. During the public hearing, the Commission considered written submissions and heard oral presentations from CNSC staff (CMD 13-H13) and Cameco (CMD 13-H13.1). The Commission also considered oral and written submissions from 27 intervenors (see Appendix A for a detailed list of interventions).

Decision

8. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concludes that Cameco is qualified to carry on the activity that the renewed licence will authorize. The Commission is also satisfied that Cameco, in carrying on that activity, will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed. Therefore,

the Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, renews the uranium mill operation licence issued to Cameco Corporation for its Key Lake Operation located in northern Saskatchewan. The renewed licence, UMLOL-MILL-KEY.00/2023, is valid until from November 1, 2013 until October 31, 2023, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.

9. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions as recommended by CNSC staff in CMD 13-H13.
10. With this decision, the Commission directs CNSC staff to provide annual reports on the performance of the Key Lake Operation, as part of the CNSC's Annual Report on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities in Canada. CNSC staff shall present these reports at public proceedings of the Commission. Special focus on the environmental performance of the Key Lake Operation with emphasis on releases to air, water and soil is expected to be part of the annual reports. Some of the proceedings may be

³ Statutory Orders and Regulations (SOR)/2000-211.

held in Saskatchewan, with public participation.

11. The Commission accepts the revised financial guarantee for decommissioning of the Key Lake Operation site.
12. The Commission requests that Cameco prepare timeline estimates for completion of each of the major reclamation and decommissioning activities planned at the Key Lake Operation site. Updates of the remediation and decommissioning plans and timelines will be presented as part of the aforementioned annual reports by CNSC staff on the performance of the Key Lake Operation.
13. The Commission accepts CNSC staff's recommendation regarding the delegation of authority in the Licence Conditions Handbook (LCH). The Commission notes that CNSC staff can bring any matter to the Commission as applicable. The Commission directs CNSC staff to inform the Commission on an annual basis of any changes made to the LCH.

Issues and Commission Findings

14. In making its licensing decision, the Commission considered a number of issues relating to Cameco's qualification to carry out the proposed activities and the adequacy of the proposed measures for protecting the environment, the health and safety of persons, national security and international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
15. The Commission determined that there was no requirement for an Environmental Assessment pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*⁴ (CEAA). The Commission is satisfied that all applicable requirements of the CEAA have been fulfilled.
16. The Commission notes that the NSCA provides a strong regulatory framework for environmental protection. Whether an EA is required or not, the CNSC regulatory system ensures that adequate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health in accordance with the NSCA and its Regulations.
17. The findings of the Commission will be presented in a detailed *Record of Proceedings, including Reasons for Decision*, to be published at a later date.

⁴ S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52.

Appendix A – Intervenors

Kineepik Métis Local. Inc., represented by V. Natomagan and M. Vermette	CMD 13-H13.2 CMD 13-H14.2 CMD 13-H15.2
Prince Albert Grand Council, represented by L. Hardlotte, J. Tsannie, P. Robillard, A. Charles, J. Tsannie and E. Hansen	CMD 13-H13.3 CMD 13-H13.3A CMD 13-H14.3 CMD 13-H14.3A CMD 13-H15.3 CMD 13-H15.3A
Tavio Morin	CMD 13-H13.4
Candyce Paul	CMD 13-H13.5 CMD 13-H14.4 CMD 13-H15.4
Canadian Nuclear Worker’s Council and United Steelworkers Union (USW) local 891, represented by D. Shier, S. Daigneault, E. Morelli, J. MacEacheran and K. Cartier	CMD 13-H13.6 CMD 13-H13.6A CMD 13-H14.5 CMD 13-H14.5A
Saskatchewan Mining Association, represented by P. Schwann	CMD 13-H13.7 CMD 13-H13.7A CMD 13-H14.6 CMD 13-H14.6A CMD 13-H15.5 CMD 13-H15.5A
Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership, represented by G. Gay	CMD 13-H13.8 CMD 13-H14.7 CMD 13-H15.6
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	CMD 13-H13.9 CMD 13-H14.8 CMD 13-H15.7
Steve Lawrence	CMD 13-H13.10 CMD 13-H14.9 CMD 13-H15.8
Canadian Nuclear Association, represented by H. Kleb and M. Bernard	CMD 13-H13.12 CMD 13-H14.11 CMD 13-H15.10
Dale Dewar	CMD 13-H13.13 CMD 13-H14.12 CMD 13-H15.11

Dwayne Buffin	CMD 13-H13.14
James Little	CMD 13-H13.15 CMD 13-H14.13 CMD 13-H15.12
Snake Lake Group of Companies, represented by R. Rediron	CMD 13-H13.16 CMD 13-H14.13 CMD 13-H15.13
Rose Roberts	CMD 13-H13.17 CMD 13-H13.17A CMD 13-H14.15 CMD 13-H14.15A CMD 13-H15.14 CMD 13-H15.14A
English River First Nation, represented by M. Black and D. Reynolds	CMD 13-H13.18 CMD 13-H14.15 CMD 13-H15.15
Pinehouse Business North Development Inc., represented by J. Wriston	CMD 13-H13.19 CMD 13-H14.17 CMD 13-H15.15
Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, represented by R. Roberts	CMD 13-H13.20 CMD 13-H14.18 CMD 13-H15.17
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, represented by K. McCullum	CMD 13-H13.21 CMD 13-H13.21A CMD 13-H14.19 CMD 13-H14.19A CMD 13-H15.18 CMD 13-H15.18A
Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee, represented by N. Wolverine and S. Boyes	CMD 13-H13.22 CMD 13-H14.20 CMD 13-H15.19
Saskatchewan Environmental Society, represented by A. Coxworth and P. Prebble	CMD 13-H13.23 CMD 13-H14.21 CMD 13-H15.20
Committee for Future Generations, represented by D. Mihalicz, D. Smith and B. Lee	CMD 13-H13.24 CMD 13-H14.22 CMD 13-H15.21
Clarence Natomagan	CMD 13-H13.25 CMD 13-H14.23 CMD 13-H15.21

Sierra Club Canada, represented by J. Bennett and C. Elwell	CMD 13-H13.26 CMD 13-H13.26A CMD 13-H14.24 CMD 13-H14.24A CMD 13-H15.23 CMD 13-H15.23A
Lac La Ronge Indian Band, represented by Chief Cook-Searson, K. England and S. Willy	CMD 13-H13.27 CMD 13-H14.25 CMD 13-H15.24
Kirstin Scansen	CMD 13-H13.28 CMD 13-H14.26 CMD 13-H15.25