



August 31, 2023

VIA EMAIL

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Denis Saumure  
Registrar  
Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, PO Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Dear Mr. Saumure:

**Amendment to Cigar Lake Operation Uranium Mine Licence UML-MINE-CIGAR.00/2031 to Reflect New Provincial Surface Lease Boundary**

By way of this letter, Cameco Corporation (Cameco) is requesting that a Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) hearing in writing be scheduled to approve an administrative amendment to the Cigar Lake Operation (Cigar Lake) uranium mine licence UML-MINE-CIGAR.00/2031. The requested licence amendment is to replace the current Drawing SKET0408, Rev A in Appendix A with Drawing C400-G-136, Rev. J (attached to this correspondence). The updated drawing reflects the amended Cigar Lake boundary within Cigar Lake Surface Lease Agreement 2011 (the Agreement) as amended by the Government of Saskatchewan (the Province), effective April 1, 2023.

To provide some background, Cigar Lake submitted an application to the Province to change the surface lease boundary on June 29, 2022 (*T. Hamilton to C. Yuzek and J. Lung*). The changes proposed were to the lease boundary only - no other changes to the terms and conditions of the Agreement were requested. However, the amendment to the Agreement also reflects that Idemitsu Canada Resources Ltd. is no longer a party to the Agreement.

The changes to the surface lease area (highlighted in Figure 1) result in a net reduction of the lease area from 1042 ha to 715 ha. The red areas in Figure 1 show the portions of the surface lease that Cameco has returned back to the Province. These areas total approximately 378 ha and include areas of the surface lease that have not been developed or disturbed as part of Cigar Lake mining activities and are not anticipated to be required for future mining of the Cigar Lake orebody. Specifically, these areas include Bizarre Lake, a large area to the southwest of the

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current sewage lagoons, as well as a large area to the west of the Cigar Lake airport. It should be noted that, more recently, these areas were almost completely burned in the 2021 forest fires that threatened the Cigar Lake. These areas do not require acceptance into the Province's Institutional Control Program.

New areas added to the surface lease total approximately 51 ha and are shown in green. These areas have been added in order to more closely align the Cigar Lake surface lease with current mineral lease claims. Additional infrastructure may be required within this expanded area for continued mining of the Cigar Lake orebody that is within the current licensing basis at a future date. However, at this time, Cameco has made no decision to conduct any development or disturbance in this expanded area for continued mining of the Cigar Lake orebody.



**Figure 1: Removals and Additions to Cigar Lake Surface Lease Boundary.**

Current disturbance within the added (green) area consists of exploration trails, drill pads, and boreholes from previous and currently permitted exploration drill programs. Cigar Lake maintains a *Preliminary Decommissioning Plan (PDP)* and associated *Preliminary Decommissioning Cost Estimate (PDCE)*, which form the basis for the current financial assurances required by the Province and the CNSC. Cameco is currently in the process of

revising the PDP and PDCE as part of the regular five-year review cycle and will add this disturbed area in the updated versions of the documents.

Cameco presented the proposed boundary changes at the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC) meeting in March 2022. Further, in the first quarter of 2022, Cameco initiated discussions on the proposed surface lease boundary changes at regular (quarterly) meetings with the Athabasca Joint Environmental Subcommittee (AJES). AJES is the environmental subcommittee established under the Ya'Thi Néné Collaboration Agreement with the communities of the Athabasca Basin located in the vicinity of Cigar Lake. AJES is a joint committee of community and industry representatives that meets to discuss operational and environment-related matters of importance to the communities and provides a channel for the communities to share traditional knowledge. The executive director of the Ya'Thi Néné Lands and Resource (YNLR) Office is also an AJES member.

During these regular meetings, Cameco provided AJES members with the opportunity to ask questions of Cameco subject matter experts regarding the proposed boundary changes. No significant concerns were raised; however, members requested that subcommittee and community members be provided an opportunity to tour the areas at Cigar Lake affected by the proposed boundary changes. Cameco arranged for a tour of these areas on September 28, 2022, which was attended by Cameco Cigar Lake, corporate office and community liaison employees as well as representatives from Orano Canada Inc., Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, the YNLR Office and community members from Fond du Lac and Hatchet Lake. No significant concerns were raised during the site visit with respect to the proposed boundary changes. Similarly, no concerns were raised through the Provincial Duty to Consult process for the lease boundary changes.

Due to the administrative nature of this change coupled with the lack of concerns raised through engagement activities, Cameco is requesting a Commission hearing in writing to approve the licence amendment to reflect the new surface lease boundary as set forward in the Agreement. Should you have any questions or require any further information, please feel free to contact me at (306) [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] [@cameco.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@cameco.com).

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cameco Corporation

Attachment

c: Cameco:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Regulatory Records

SMOE: J. Lung, T. Moulding

CNSC: W. Stewart, P. Burton, UMMD

