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**Request for ruling filed by the  
Algonquins of Barriere Lake**

**Demande de décision déposée par les  
Algonquins du lac Barrière**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

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**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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Application from the CNL to amend its  
Chalk River Laboratories site licence to  
authorize the construction of a near surface  
disposal facility

Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis  
du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour  
autoriser la construction d'une installation de  
gestion des déchets près de la surface

**Commission Public Hearing  
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission  
Partie 2**

**May 31, 2022**

**31 mai 2022**



## MITCHIKANIBIKOK INIK

Algonquins of Barriere Lake  
Les Algonquins du Lac Barrière

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April 1, 2022  
Electronic Submission  
By Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Denis Samure  
Commission Registrar  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

**RE: Algonquins of Barriere Lake Request for Adjournment of Part 2 of the NSDF  
Public Hearing**

Dear Mr. Samure:

I write on behalf of the Mitchikanibikok Inik (also known as the Algonquins of Barriere Lake) regarding Part 2 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) licensing hearings for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) scheduled for May 31, 2022.

We the Mitchikanibikok Inik are extremely concerned about the proposed project's potential impacts to our lands, waterways, rights, and way of life. We do not consent to the project, which, if built, would violate both our sovereignty and our laws. Our community has deep-seated ecological and environmental knowledge, acquired through long and intimate association with the Kitchi-Sibi (Ottawa River) and surrounding sacred sites. Yet the proponent has gone ahead and completed its baseline studies in the absence of any Mitchikanibikok Inik input where subsequently the CNSC deemed the project environmental impact statement complete triggering the upcoming hearings.

Because of the extremely aggressive timelines pursued by the proponent and supported by the CNSC, Indigenous communities such as ours have been forced to negotiate hearing funding agreements in an informational vacuum. We are worried that we face a double bind: either sign an unfair funding agreement with the CNSC to participate in the hearing or be left behind entirely. This hardly accords with the aims of respect and reconciliation enshrined in the Ministers of Natural Resources Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada's mandate letters.

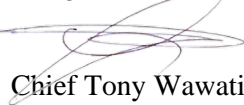
We stand with the Kebaowek First Nation, who requested on January 31, 2022 that the hearings be suspended, as there is no consultation framework in place between Kebaowek First Nation and the CNSC regarding this proposal. We also support the request for adjournment February 15, 2022 co-signed by Members of Parliament and 50 environmental and citizen groups, opposing and calling for suspension of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) licensing hearings scheduled for February 22 and May 31, 2022.

We find that your response in not suspending the NSDF hearing was unresponsive to the serious and time-sensitive concerns raised in Chief Haymond's previous correspondence. We are disappointed that the Commission never sought the views and comments of other interveners involved in this hearing.

There is a highly engaged list of public interest interveners who should be informed of these suspension requests and be invited to respond. Moreover, it appears to us that your Agency's approach to fast-tracking the NSDF hearing without fully and meaningfully consulting affected Algonquin Anishinaabeg communities is unreasonable and falls considerably short of fulfilling the Crown's duty to meaningfully consult.

Given the above we ask yourself as Registrar to exercise your powers under the CNSC rules of Procedure, Rule 20 to consider this letter as a request for ruling on an adjournment of the public hearing by Mitchikanibikok Inik for a period of 12 months. This request is without prejudice to the other parties. If CNSC determines not to grant this request it would allow the NSDF hearing to continue without the Duty to Consult with Mitchikanibikok Inik Algonquins of Barriere Lake having been fulfilled. We ask that this letter and Request for an Adjournment be provided to all NSDF interveners.

Meegwetch,



Chief Tony Wawatie Mitchikanibikok Inik

C/c

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources Canada  
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