Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding

November 2, 2026 Ref. 2027-H-04

CNSC to conduct a public hearing on Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd.'s application to renew nuclear research and test establishment operating licence for Chalk River Laboratories

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a 1-part public hearing during the week of November 15, 2027, to consider an application from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd. (CNL) to renew the nuclear research and test establishment operating licence for Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) for a period of 24 years. The licence expires on March 31, 2028. The CRL site is located on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg peoples.

In its licence renewal application, CNL is not requesting authorization to conduct any new licensed activities. CNL intends to continue licensed activities already authorized under the current CRL licence, throughout the proposed 24-year licence term. CNL is also requesting:

- to consolidate the existing CRL onsite licence to transport with the CRL operating licence
- that the financial guarantee for the CRL site, in the form of an expressed commitment from the Government of Canada to ensure sufficient financial resources are available for the decommissioning of the CRL site, be applicable for the duration of the licence

This licence renewal application does not include a request for authorization to operate the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). The operation of the NSDF would be subject to a separate Commission licensing hearing and decision, should CNL come forward with a licence application to do so.

Purpose and scope of hearing

The Commission will be considering whether to renew CNL's licence pursuant to section 24 of the Nuclear Safety and Control Act.

Canada

As an agent of the Crown, the Commission's responsibilities include the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous Nations and communities where the Crown contemplates conduct that may adversely impact their potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights. To assist the Commission in meeting its duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate, the Commission may rely on the following:

- consultation undertaken by CNSC staff, as well as the opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to make submissions directly to the Commission and to participate in the hearing process, as a key component of the consultation process

- engagement work done by CNL, including with respect to avoidance, mitigation or other measures adopted or proposed by CNL for potential accommodation purposes (see REGDOC-3.2.2, Indigenous Engagement)

This does not mean that the consultation undertaken by CNSC staff will stop or be replaced by CNL's engagement. Rather, consultation by CNSC staff and engagement by CNL will continue concurrently.

Hearing details

Date:	Week of November 15, 2027
Place:	To be determined (in the community, and/or virtually via Zoom)
Time:	As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

The public hearing will be webcast live and available on the CNSC website at cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca. Additional details about the public hearing will be issued at a later date.

During the hearing, the Commission will consider oral and written submissions related to CNL's application from CNL and CNSC staff. The Commission will also consider oral and written interventions from Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and other interested parties.

CNL's licence renewal application is available on the CNSC website or upon request to the Commission Registry. CNSC staff's recommendations to be considered at the hearing will be available on the CNSC website, or on request to the Registry, after **July 6, 2027**.

Participant funding

In advance of the public hearing, the CNSC is making available up to $300,000 in funding through its Participant Funding Program. The purpose of the funding is to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and interested parties in reviewing CNL's application and associated documents, and in participating in the Commission

hearing process by providing topic-specific interventions to the Commission. Participant funding applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed submission will provide the Commission with information directly related to CNL's application. Please note that the funding will be disbursed among all successful applicants. The deadline for submitting a completed participant funding application form to the CNSC is **January 22, 2027**.

Interventions

Pursuant to rule 19 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure (the Rules), persons who have an interest or expertise in this matter or information that may be useful to the Commission in coming to a decision are invited to comment on CNL's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Registry by **September 7, 2027**, using the online request form, email, or the contact information below. **The request to intervene must include the following information:**

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission, including an appendix with all documents mentioned as references in the written submission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

Oral presenters that wish to use a PowerPoint presentation are asked to submit their slide decks to the Commission Registry by **November 3, 2027**. All submissions will be available for download on the CNSC website or on request to the Commission Registry. Personal information, such as email address and telephone number, is essential for linking the submission to its author. If you wish to ensure the confidentiality of your personal information, please submit it on a separate page.

Individuals who require Indigenous language interpretation for the hearing are asked to contact the Commission Registry by **September 20, 2027**, to request interpretation services. If the request is received after this date, the Commission Registry will do its best to provide interpretation services.

Obligation for providing documentary material for the record

Under rule 15 of the Rules, any documentary evidence, written submission or other material filed with the Commission shall be open to the participants and the public (subject to any confidentiality measures taken by the Commission, as described below).

Submissions must follow the guidance in the Directive on Submitting Documentary Evidence for the Record.

Confidentiality

Under rule 12, the Commission may take steps to protect confidential information. Persons intending to submit information that could be confidential must follow the guidance in the Directive on Requesting Confidentiality.

For further information on the Participant Funding Program, contact:

Administrator, Participant Funding Program
Tel.: 613-415-2814 or 1-800-668-5284
Email: pfp@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca
Web: Participant Funding Program

For further information on the public Commission hearing process, or on the licensee or the facility being considered in this matter, or to request documents, contact:

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St
PO Box 1046 Stn B
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9

Tel.: 613-462-7489
Fax: 613-995-5086
Email: interventions@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca
Web: Participate in a public hearing

For inquiries to the applicant, contact:

Chalk River Laboratories
286 Plant Road
Chalk River ON K0J 1J0

Tel: 613-584-3311
Email: communications@cnl.ca
Web: Home - Canadian Nuclear Laboratories