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Oral Presentation

Submission from the Métis Nation Saskatchewan (Northern Region 2, Local 62)

In the Matter of the

Orano Canada Inc. – Cluff Lake Project

Application for the renewal of the Uranium Mine Decommissioning Licence for the Cluff Lake Project

Commission Public Hearing

May 15, 2019

Exposé oral

Mémoire de la Nation métisse de la Saskatchewan (Northern Region 2, Local 62)

À l'égard d'

Orano Canada Inc. – Projet de Cluff Lake

Demande de renouvellement du permis de déclassement de la mine d'uranium de Cluff Lake

Audience publique de la Commission

Le 15 mai 2019

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Submission to Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Re: Orano Canada
May 15, 2019 Public Hearing, Ottawa, ON
Request to Intervene by Telephone

April 15, 2019

Marlene Hansen, President
Metis Nation Saskatchewan Northern Region 2, Local 62
Submission made in memory of the late Philip Chartier

The Hansen family has been around the Athabasca region since the 1800's, trapping and fishing as the main source of living for generations, up to recent times. As President of the Metis Local in Buffalo Narrows area, I have been actively involved in all matters pertaining to northern development. At the time of the Cluff Lake Inquiry, I was raising my children. Though I did not attend the hearings, I have been aware of the contents of the report and draw attention to it now.

It is important that we speak up now, on behalf of the residents of the north and future generations that may not understand the history of our relationship with the mining companies, the Province of Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and the Nuclear Safety Commission. The Cluff Lake Inquiry Final Report stressed the need for us to enforce the standards for decommissioning of the uranium mine for very good reasons, most especially, the fact that little was known of long term effects of radioactive waste storage, transport through water, uptake in the environment through various vectors. What was known in 1978 is that harmful effects were likely to INCREASE over time, making it necessary for very long term monitoring.

Attending public consultation meetings in the north over the years, I have witnessed threats and bullying by the mining companies, if anyone asked questions or raised concerns beyond what the companies wanted to discuss. Saskatchewan Environment and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission have approved everything the mining companies have done, making me wonder, who is taking the role of enforcement for ensuring the decommissioning work was done to the level promised and expected by the northern people, that the site would be safe for people and environment, that the environment would be protected, that the animals would be safe to harvest?

I do not agree with any funds being returned to Orano Canada for long term monitoring and remediation of the Cluff Lake site, as the environmental impacts will be an issue for hundreds of years.

Signed at Buffalo Narrows, SK this 15 day of April, 2019.

Marlene Hansen

Marlene Hansen, President

Metis Nation Saskatchewan, Northern Region 2 Local 62