



**Written submission from the  
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited**

**Mémoire de  
l'Énergie atomique du Canada limitée**

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

**Decision on the scope of an environmental  
assessment of the proposed Micro Modular  
Reactor Project at the Canadian Nuclear  
Laboratories Ltd., in Chalk River**

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**Décision sur la portée de l'évaluation  
environnementale pour le projet de  
microréacteur modulaire aux Laboratoires  
Nucléaires Canadiens Ltée, à Chalk River**

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Hearing in writing based on written  
submissions

Audience par écrit fondée sur des mémoires

**June 2020**

**Juin 2020**

2020 June 1

Record Number: CGR-1035793287-4577

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5S9

**Re: Proposed scope of factors to be considered in the conduct of an environmental assessment for the project proposed by Global First Power (GFP)**

Dear members of the Commission,

This letter is in response to the opportunity to submit a written intervention on the scope of an environmental assessment for the proposed GFP project involving the site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning of a single modular reactor, using Micro Modular Reactor (**MMR**) technology at the Chalk River Laboratories site.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (**AECL**), as the owner of the Chalk River Laboratories site, is supportive of this proposed project and of the proposed scope of the environmental assessment. There is growing interest worldwide in small modular reactor technologies because of their potential to offer clean, safe, non-emitting energy options, especially in off-grid applications where few, if any, clean alternatives exist. AECL is the federal Crown corporation with a mandate to enable nuclear science and technology. In this context, AECL sees the proposed project as a critical opportunity for Canada to bring to bear its significant nuclear know how and experience to demonstrate new technologies; better assess the potential for these to contribute to the urgent need for clean energy and economic growth priorities; and take advantage of the experience and expertise of a supportive local nuclear workforce.

The Chalk River Site has been the centre of nuclear technology development in Canada since the 1940s. As such, the site itself has been, and continues to be, significantly studied, documented and assessed, and this will contribute to the GFP environmental assessment. The expertise and capabilities that exist within Canadian Nuclear Laboratories at the Chalk River Site will also be important contributors to the environmental assessment process as well as the safe and successful execution of the project should it be licenced. AECL believes that, together, the site and the expertise resident there, combine to create the conditions for informed and effective project delivery at every stage of the project lifecycle from site preparation to decommissioning. Supportive local workforces, including scientists, researchers and labourers, as well as supportive local communities will also help to position the project for success.

AECL supports a comprehensive environmental assessment process, and as such, supports the scope proposed as it is extensive and includes important factors ranging from atmospheric effects to socio-economic

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Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

286 Plant Rd  
Chalk River, Ontario  
Canada K0J 1J0  
Telephone: 613-589-2085

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Énergie atomique du Canada limitée

286 rue Plant  
Chalk River (Ontario)  
Canada K0J 1J0  
Téléphone: 613-589-2085

considerations and Indigenous engagement, which are in line with our values and applicable legislation. Given the small size and relatively low power output of the proposed reactor, and that the project is proposed to be located on the longest-standing nuclear site in Canada, the scope of the proposed environmental assessment is well aligned to the nature and risk of the project.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the process. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Sexton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard J. Sexton  
President and CEO  
Atomic Energy of Canada Limited