

Canadian Nuclear Commission canadienne Safety Commission de sûreté nucléaire

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Written submission from the Saskatchewan Mining Association

Mémoire de la Saskatchewan Mining Association

**Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2019** 

**Rapport de surveillance** réglementaire pour les mines et usines de concentration d'uranium au Canada : 2019

**Commission Meeting** 

Réunion de la Commission

December 10, 2020

Le 10 décembre 2020



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November 10, 2020

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission 280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046, Station B Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9 via e-mail: <u>cnsc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca</u>

## **RE:** SMA Written Intervention – Regulatory Oversight Report for Operating Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2019

The Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) is the voice of the mining industry in Saskatchewan and has the role of liaison and consultant with government and public to ensure the safe, profitable and orderly development of the mineral resources of the province. Environmental protection and stewardship are important to the members of the SMA as shown by their commitment to environmental planning, monitoring, compliance and reclamation. Our members are also among the largest industrial employers of Indigenous people in Canada.

The SMA represents over 35 member companies including producers and exploration companies. Our mission is to advance a safe, sustainable and globally competitive exploration and mining industry in Saskatchewan that benefits all residents of the province.

The SMA is providing this intervention in support of Cameco Corporation (Cameco) and Orano Canada Inc.'s (Orano) ongoing management of uranium operations in northern Saskatchewan.

Market conditions have continued to compel Cameco to suspend operations at three of four uranium mining and milling operations in northern Saskatchewan at their McArthur River, Key Lake and Rabbit Lake operations. During this extended period of suppressed market condition Cameco has successfully managed their operations in a state of safe and stable care and maintenance.

The Coronavirus pandemic and resulting concerns for the health and safety of employees, families, and communities, prompted Cameco and Orano to place their Cigar Lake and McClean Lake operations into care and maintenance for a number of months in 2020. During this time, both Cameco and Orano have worked to support the health care efforts of the local health authority and local community leaders through the provision of important safety supplies and have implemented comprehensive exposure control measures at their facilities. During this trying time, they have also successfully managed their respective operations in a state of safe and stable care and maintenance, with their Cigar Lake and McClean Lake operations resuming in September.

Both Cameco and Orano continue to demonstrate strong management and have met performance expectations regarding the health and safety of persons and protection of the environment, which is even more impressive during this challenging time in Canadian history.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views and indicate our support for Cameco and Orano's northern Saskatchewan operations.

Yours sincerely,

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Brad Sigurdson Vice President – Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs

 cc Liam Mooney – Vice President, Safety, Health, Environment & Quality and Regulatory Relations (Cameco) Vincent Laniece - Vice President, Safety, Environment and Engineering (Orano) Kevin Nagy – Director, Compliance and Licensing (Cameco) Kent England – Manager, Environment and Licensing (Cameco) Tina Searcy – Manager, Regulatory Relations (Orano) Arden Rosaasen – Senior Technical Advisor, Environment & Projects (Orano) Pam Schwann – President (SMA)