



File / dossier : 6.01.07

Date: 2021-03-23

Edocs: 6520327

**Written submission from the  
Des Nedhe Group**

**Mémoire du  
Des Nedhe Group**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation,  
Cigar Lake Operation**

---

**Cameco Corporation,  
établissement de Cigar Lake**

---

Application for the renewal of Cameco's  
uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake  
Operation

Demande de renouvellement du permis de mine  
d'uranium de Cameco pour l'établissement de  
Cigar Lake

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**April 28-29, 2021**

**28 et 29 avril 2021**

*This page was intentionally  
left blank*

*Cette page a été intentionnellement  
laissée en blanc*

March 22, 2021

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St. Ottawa ON  
Email: [cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca)

Re: Intervention letter on renewal application for Cameco's uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation

Established in 1991, Des Nedhe Group is the economic development organization of the English River First Nation (ERFN). It was designed initially in response to opportunities created by the fact of uranium activity on ERFN's ancestral lands, and its purpose is to grow sustainable employment and business opportunities for ERFN community members. Des Nedhe has grown into a national leader in Indigenous entrepreneurship and economic development – a diverse collective of Indigenous-owned businesses dedicated to creating lasting change in Indigenous-owned communities and corporate supply chains across Canada. Des Nedhe and Cameco have developed a long-standing relationship over the years and actively engage.

Tron Construction and Mining Limited Partnership (Tron) has been a preferred contractor serving Cameco for years. Tron provides construction services to Cameco on various projects and has built a strong presence in northern Saskatchewan. Tron has provided training opportunities and jobs to ERFN members and created profits for the nation. In addition, Tron has been able to leverage its experiences with Cameco into projects with other customers outside the ERFN territory (e.g. in southern Saskatchewan and Ontario). Cameco and Tron work collaboratively, which has resulted in many successful construction contracts being executed by the company.

Managed in part by Tron, Mudjatik Thyssen Mining Joint Venture also brings substantial benefits to multiple communities in the north, providing northern Saskatchewan residents and communities with the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the mining industry.

In recent years, the uranium industry has struggled with low market prices. The north and ERFN have faced challenges with the mines in a safe state of care and maintenance and the global COVID-19 pandemic. With the increased unemployment and reduced capital spend, Des Nedhe has worked hard to maintain its northern content and has consistently employed ERFN band members and residents of Saskatchewan's north.

We believe Cameco remains committed to northern Saskatchewan, more recently felt through the COVID-19 Relief Fund and to ERFN through its continued engagement under the collaboration agreement. Cameco and Tron have built a long-standing relationship through Des Nedhe. Cameco is an experienced and qualified operator as demonstrated by Cigar Lake's strong performance over the current

licence term, as well as the proactive measures taken during the pandemic to ensure the safety of its workers and communities. I am pleased to provide this letter of support regarding the renewal application for Cameco's uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation.

Thank You,



Sean Willy

President and CEO