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**Written submission from the
Saskatchewan Mining
Association**

**Mémoire de la
Saskatchewan Mining
Association**

**Regulatory Oversight Report for
Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic,
and Decommissioned Sites in
Canada: 2020**

**Rapport de surveillance
réglementaire des mines et usines
de concentration d'uranium et des
sites historiques et déclassés au
Canada : 2020**

Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

December 15, 2021

Le 15 décembre 2021

November 15, 2021

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

RE: SMA Written Intervention – Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic, and Decommissioned Sites in Canada: 2020 CMD-21-M34

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.

Both Cameco and Orano have mature and highly effective management programs in place and continue to demonstrate responsible and effective management of their respective operations, even with the challenges of market conditions and the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in short- and long-term care and maintenance of many of their operations. They also continue to demonstrate strong and consistent performance with respect to environmental protection, radiation protection and health & safety.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on most industries, businesses and individuals, Cameco showed leadership and community spirit in supporting 67 community projects in Saskatoon and northern Saskatchewan through its \$1 million Cameco COVID-19 Relief Fund.¹ This was in addition to the community engagement and meeting commitments for employment and support for their northern supply chain, despite economic conditions and sites being in care and maintenance.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Orano has been actively monitoring and responsive to the needs of northern people, their employees and local businesses. In addition to the community engagement and meeting commitments for employment and support for their northern supply chain, despite economic conditions and sites being in care and maintenance, Orano financially supported four northern emergency response organizations, to make a pan-northern impact. The company also expedited invoices from local businesses to ensure steady cash flow. Over the course of the pandemic, Orano has received specific requests from Athabasca Basin communities that were facing lockdowns or outbreaks, and the company has responded with support, using its transportation and supply chain connections to deliver everything from masks and sanitizer to diapers and thermometers. Company representatives participated in regular conference calls to remain up to date on the situation in each community.

¹ <https://www.cameco.com/community/stories/relief-fund>

Also, with respect to COVID-19, both companies had effective plans and processes in place to minimize the potential for COVID-19 infections to reach their operations, and where infections were discovered, they effectively managed cases both on and off their sites. Both companies also provided subject matter expert advice to the SMA during the development of COVID-19 Precautionary Measures documents for: mines and mills; mining work camps; exploration work camps; and corporate offices and have been actively engaged in the SMA's Industrial Hygiene Focus Group weekly/bi-weekly COVID-19 meetings. These meetings bring together subject matter experts from all of the SMA member mining companies to discuss emerging COVID-19 issues, testing options, best practices and other COVID-19-related topics.

The decommissioning and reclamation of the Cluff Lake uranium mines, which operated from 1980 until 2002 is ready to be transferred into the provincial Institutional Control program. Orano has demonstrated an ongoing professional and effective approach in transitioning a former uranium mine and mill back to an environmentally, physically stable and safe site that is under passive care and that has unrestricted access. The site is available for traditional land use.

Other former uranium mine and mill properties include the Beaverlodge properties. The Beaverlodge uranium mine and mill produced uranium in northern Saskatchewan from 1952 to 1982 and were decommissioned and reclaimed from 1982-85 to standards approved by federal and provincial regulators. The Beaverlodge properties remain safe, secure and stable, as Cameco progresses toward preparing the decommissioned sites for transfer into the provincial Institutional Control program.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views in this written intervention to indicate our support for Cameco Corporation and Orano Canada Inc.'s ongoing management of uranium operations in northern Saskatchewan.

Yours sincerely,



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 and Environmental Science (Orano)
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