



**Oral presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Written submission from the  
Northern Saskatchewan  
Environmental Quality Committee**

**Mémoire du  
Northern Saskatchewan  
Environmental Quality Committee**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation, Beaverlodge Project**

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**Cameco Corporation, Projet Beaverlodge**

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**Application to amend its licence to allow  
release of 18 Beaverlodge Project  
properties from CNSC licensing**

**Demande de modification du permis de  
Cameco visant à retirer 18 propriétés du  
projet Beaverlodge du contrôle de la CCSN**

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**March 24, 2022**

**24 mars 2022**

February 7, 2022

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

Re: NSEQC Intervention letter on the Request for Release of 18 Beaverlodge Properties from Requiring Licensing under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*

Senior Tribunal Officer:

On behalf of the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC), I am pleased to provide a letter in regards to Cameco Corporation's request for release of 18 Beaverlodge Properties from licensing under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA).

During the 1990s, a joint federal-provincial panel reviewed uranium developments proposed at a time of rapid expansion within the sector. The panel recommended local residents have more input into decisions about uranium mines. As a result, the province established the NSEQC in 1995.

The NSEQC helps bring Northern residents together to consider issues surrounding the development and operation of uranium mining and milling facilities. Since its establishment, more than 400 people from Northern Saskatchewan have represented their communities, with the majority being of Indigenous descent.

Key roles and responsibilities of the NSEQC include: provide communication links among communities, industries, and regulators; participate in learning opportunities and information sessions; and stimulate discussion while raising concerns to industry, and government officials. The NSEQC also reports annually to the provincial government and Northern communities, where it summarizes the activities, conclusions and recommendations on uranium industry development and operations. NSEQC has developed into a long-respected voice for Northern input. For the past 25 years it has served as direct link between Northern communities and uranium development.

The NSEQC receives its mandate from the Government of Saskatchewan. The Ministry of Government Relations supports the NSEQC with a manager administrative support, and operations, including communications and public outreach as well as providing travel expenses for members to attend meetings and site visits.

Over the last 25 years, mine operators have committed to discussing environmental practices with the NSEQC, where Northerners freely share concerns, ask questions, make recommendations concerning environmental and worker safety, and share their traditional knowledge. The continued success of this partnership builds strong and meaningful collaboration, community involvement and valued Northern perspectives.

Over the years we have followed the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties closely, and representatives have visited a number of the properties while attending the annual public meeting in Uranium City. EQC representation also participated in the remedial workshops Cameco hosted in 2009 and 2012 in an effort to incorporate and address feedback from northern communities into the Beaverlodge Management Framework. Cameco and the regulators have helped us understand the steps that have brought us to this day. At the moment the EQC has not raised any concern to the release of the discussed 18 properties. Due to the pandemic the EQC has not been able to host a general meeting where topics such as this are to be discussed. The EQC is hosting a general meeting the dates of March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> where Cameco will be presenting the topic to the committee. We anticipate that the 18 properties have been adequately remediated and that they do not pose a risk to humans or the environment. With that said, we are glad to know that monitoring efforts will continue even after the properties are released and transferred to the IC Program.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff and the expertise they possess in regulating uranium operations in this region. We get responses when we ask for them, and we feel our input is valued.

In closing, the EQC has not raised concern for the request to release the 18 properties from licensing under the NSCA. During the verbal presentation at the public hearing the EQC may have more to add on the subject. We encourage the continued diligence of both provincial and federal regulators in ensuring the remaining properties operate within the terms and condition of the license. Moving forward, the NSEQC expects Cameco to continue to participate in our meetings and to provide updates regarding the remediation process, and to report any changes as they occur at the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties.

The NSEQC will also expect to continue to receive annual reports and inspection reports from Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment and the CNSC. The NSEQC will continue to disseminate information regarding activities at Beaverlodge to northern Saskatchewan residents and community leadership.

Sincerely,

Ashley Carlson – Manager, NSEQC

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