



**Written submission from the  
Canadian Association of Nuclear  
Host Communities**

**Mémoire de la  
Canadian Association of Nuclear  
Host Communities**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

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**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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Application from the CNL to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility

Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour autoriser la construction d'une installation de gestion des déchets près de la surface

**Commission Public Hearing  
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission  
Partie 2**

**May and June 2022**

**Mai et juin 2022**



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF  
NUCLEAR HOST COMMUNITIES  
[www.canhc.ca](http://www.canhc.ca)

March 30, 2022

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

**Letter of support for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application to construct a near surface disposal facility (IAA Reference Number: 80122)**

The Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC) supports CNL's proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility project to address radioactive waste currently at Chalk River Laboratories.

CANHC represents a broad cross-section of communities with a common interest as hosts of nuclear technology in Canada. Our mandate includes sharing best practices among host communities to ensure municipalities experience the benefits from hosting a nuclear facility within their communities, and we aim to play a key role in supporting the advancement of Canada's nuclear technology in clean energy and nuclear waste management.

Chalk River Laboratories is central to Canada's nuclear industry and has been the source of breakthroughs in science and technology for the past 75 years. Research at Chalk River Laboratories directly supports the nuclear supply chain and produces innovative technology for the sustainability of nuclear reactors in our communities that provide power for millions of people. CRL has also been at the forefront of innovation in nuclear medicine, radiopharmaceuticals and low-dose radiation research since the 1950's.

CANHC is aware of CNL's current efforts to rebuild Chalk River Laboratories. This site revitalization is critical for continued research in clean energy technology, such as small modular reactors. CANHC supports CNL's missions and sees incredible value in the work performed at Chalk River Laboratories.

The nuclear industry is a major economic engine for this country, offering high-quality employment and business opportunities for our communities. Chalk River Laboratories is a key contributor to Canada's economic picture.



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As nuclear host communities, CANHC understands the issue of legacy radioactive waste and the burden this puts on future generations. CNL's proposal to construct an engineered disposal facility for the waste at Chalk River will improve and protect the environment and represents a major step forward for Canada's nuclear waste management expertise as it provides a permanent solution for low-level radioactive waste. The approval of this project is not only important for the future of Chalk River Laboratories, but also fits into the larger picture of nuclear waste management to address future waste liabilities in this country.

As Canada's independent nuclear regulator, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is internationally recognized as a world leader in science and evidence-based decision making. CANHC is confident in the regulatory process to ensure that the NSDF proposal will meet the highest standards for public safety. The proposal has been extensively studied through a rigorous environmental assessment process and the engineered near surface design is a highly appropriate solution for disposal of low-level radioactive waste.

CANHC respects the results of the NSDF Environmental Assessment and supports CNL's proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility project to address low-level radioactive waste at Chalk River Laboratories.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to intervene in this process,

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