



## **Oral presentation**

### **Written submission from The Corporation of the Town of Deep River**

In the Matter of the

#### **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

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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

#### **Commission Public Hearing Part 2**

**May and June 2022**

## **Exposé oral**

### **Mémoire de la Corporation of the Town of Deep River**

À l'égard des

#### **Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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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

#### **Audience publique de la Commission Partie 2**

**Mai et juin 2022**

# THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF DEEP RIVER



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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

**Re:** Town of Deep River Submission to the CNSC in Support of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Application to Amend the Chalk River Laboratories Site License to permit construction of the Near Surface Disposal Facility at CRL

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Suzanne D'Eon and I am the Mayor of the Town of Deep River, host municipality of Chalk River Laboratories - site of the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility which is the subject of this license hearing.

Together with my colleague, Reeve & Deputy Mayor Glenn Doncaster, on behalf of the Town of Deep River, we respectfully submit this positive intervention in support of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories application to amend the CRL site license to permit construction of NSDF.

On March 23, 2022 Council of the Town of Deep River passed the following motion authorizing Reeve Doncaster and I to submit a positive written intervention in support of CNL's application to amend its site license to permit construction of NSDF, and authorizing us to attend / participate in the Commission hearing in support of CNL's license amendment application scheduled to start May 31, 2022:

**6.1.10 BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the correspondence from Mr. Joseph McBrearty of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories regarding a proposal to construct a Near Surface Disposal Facility to address legacy waste at the Chalk River Laboratories, be received,

**WHEREAS** the Part 2, Public Commission hearing on Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application for a licence to construct its proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility for low level waste at Chalk River Laboratories is scheduled to begin May 31, 2022, following completion of an Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, review of CNL's licensing submission, final environmental impact statement (EIS) and other supporting information developed since 2017.

**WHEREAS** the deadline to submit an intervention (supporting or opposing) is April 11, 2022

**WHEREAS** consistent with previous council resolutions accepting and supporting the NSDF, (March 24, 2021 - Resolution 2021 87 and March 11, 2020 - Resolution 2020 82), that were based on the following:

- a. **That** extensive research and communication work was done by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and reviewed by the CNSC.
- b. **That** supporting the NSDF is the right thing to do to safely clean-up and dispose of low-level waste at CRL in a carefully designed and highly engineered facility designed to stand the test of time, ensuring care for both people and the environment now and long into the future.
- c. **That** the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) is required to enable Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) to conduct environmental remediation of contaminated soils and materials that are already present at the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) site to protect the environment, including the Ottawa River.
- d. **That** the NSDF is a key enabling facility supporting revitalization of the Chalk River Laboratories, required for the disposal of building debris and other waste material resulting from the site revitalization.
- e. **That** the NSDF is a permanent solution to reduce environmental risk and isolate low-level radioactive waste, in accordance with international guidance and regulatory requirements.
- f. **That** ninety percent of the waste intended for disposal is already on site at CRL, five per cent will come from hospitals and universities, and five percent is from other AECL sites.
- g. **That** all waste materials for disposal are screened and only low-level waste materials will be allowed for disposal in the NSDF.
- h. **That** the NSDF is safe and secure: designed to withstand extreme weather and events such as earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, sabotage and major storms.
- i. **That** the engineered containment mound is internationally recognized as best practice for low-level radioactive waste disposal and the barrier system for the NSDF has undergone rigorous materials testing at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario
- j. **That** cleaning up the Chalk River site and placing low level waste in a modern, engineered facility – using the most appropriate and best- available technology – is key to caring for the environment, including the Ottawa River and not leaving the problem for future generations.

k. **That** constructing and operating the NSDF will significantly improve the existing conditions at Chalk River Laboratories by enabling the cleanup of contaminated soils and materials that are already present on the site.

i. **That** CNL has a robust, well-established environmental monitoring program, which has been in place for over 60 years. This environmental monitoring program will be expanded to include specific monitoring related to the NSDF project. CNL shares the results of its environmental monitoring program publicly on its website.

m. **That** Chalk River Laboratories is Canada's largest Science and Technology complex and one of Renfrew County's largest employers where significant advancements are made in clean energy technology, nuclear medicine and nuclear safety and security.

n. **That** Chalk River Laboratories is ideally qualified to safely and effectively manage the NSDF site now and into the future and that CRL will remain under surveillance for hundreds of years and monitoring will ensure the NSDF facility performs as designed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Mayor and Reeve or their designates, on behalf of the Town of Deep River, be authorized to submit / file a positive written intervention in support of the NSDF Project, to the CNSC Commission Registry on or before April 11, 2022, and attend / participate in the Commission Hearing scheduled to start May 31, 2022 in support of the Town's intervention.

Deep River council passed this motion because both as representatives of the local community and as residents and recreational users of the Ottawa River and surrounding environment ourselves, we understand the need to protect the environment through the safe and effective disposal of low-level waste and we have full confidence in the robustness of the NSDF multi-barrier design. We also believe in the competence, safety focus and technical review capabilities of CNSC staff and in the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories organization, it's qualified staff, scientific consultants and contractors, to safely build, commission, operate and eventually close this urgently needed facility to properly dispose of low-level waste. Timely construction of the NSDF will help ensure the continued health and safety of both local and downstream residents and provide future strong protection for the environment.

Reeve Doncaster and I have personally engaged ourselves for over 5 years, in the planning, technical design and educational efforts of Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, learning about the risks and challenges to be addressed and the benefits and safety features of the NSDF design. We carefully followed and observed CNL's full and complete, professional responses to any and all challenges given to them. We are certain that the NSDF's multi-barrier design and treatment system is the most appropriate solution for the problem and will ensure the ongoing and long-term future safety and health of people and protection of the environment.

Implementing the NSDF as expediently as possible will enable CNL to resolve existing site environmental hazards and help facilitate the re-development of Chalk River Laboratories into a world class research complex which not only benefits Deep River, but which also benefits all Canadians through their work in clean energy, nuclear medicine, safety and security.

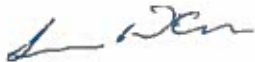
Under Section 226.1 of the Ontario Municipal Act, as Head of Council and Chief Executive Officer it is my duty to (c) *“act as the representative of the municipality both within and outside the municipality, and promote the municipality locally, nationally and internationally”*; and (d) *“participate in and foster activities that enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and its residents”*.

The Town of Deep River is extremely proud to be Canada’s first nuclear host municipality and council and residents alike are proud of the contribution of many of our citizens, along with the citizens of other Ottawa Valley towns, in developing nuclear energy to the point that it facilitated the transition of the Province of Ontario to one of the greenest, carbon free economies in the world and has made Canada a recognized world leader in radiation science for medicine and nuclear security and protection.

While acknowledged as a collateral by-product of such progressive and beneficial scientific developments, CNL’s thorough and vigorous efforts to safely, scientifically and technically address low-level waste in the safest and most appropriate way possible with input from international best practice, is a testament to the scientific perspective and continued safety focus at Chalk River Laboratories, arguably one of the most thoroughly monitored and secure sites in Canada.

Nuclear Safety is not a subject that should be decided on emotional arguments or influenced by alarmist dis-information and distortion. It is a matter for decisions to be made based on facts as clearly determined by the very best science and engineering. Canadians are relying on the Commission to make evidence-based decisions and the evidence shows that NSDF will protect health, safety and the environment. The Town of Deep River respectfully requests the Commission’s timely approval of CNL’s application to amend its site license and permit construction of the NSDF.

Respectfully,



Suzanne D'Eon  
Mayor Town of Deep River



Glenn Doncaster  
Reeve Town of Deep River