



**Oral presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Written submission from the  
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

**Mémoire de la  
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation, McArthur River  
Operation and Key Lake Operation**

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**Cameco Corporation, établissements de  
McArthur River et de Key Lake**

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Application for the renewal of uranium  
mine/mill licences for McArthur River  
Operation and Key Lake Operation

Demande visant le renouvellement des permis  
d'exploitation de mines et d'usines de  
concentration d'uranium pour les  
établissements de McArthur River et de  
Key Lake

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**June 7-8, 2023**

**7-8 juin 2023**

April 21, 2023

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St.  
PO Box 1046 Stn B  
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9  
Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**RE: SMA Oral Intervention – Cameco Corporation - Application for renewal of uranium mine/mill licences for McArthur River and Key Lake Operations**

The SMA is the voice of the exploration and mining industry that operates in Saskatchewan and has the role of liaison and advocacy agent with provincial and federal governments and the public to advance the sustainable development of the mineral resources of the province. Environmental, Social and Governance performance are integral to the activities of SMA members and for decades our members have been Canadian and international leaders in including Indigenous peoples, businesses, and communities in their operations.

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's application for the renewal of uranium mine/mill licences for their McArthur River and Key Lake Operations. This renewal is necessary as their current licences expire on October 31, 2023. The SMA understands that Cameco's original licencing request was for an indefinite term but in response to concerns raised during engagement sessions, they have now requested a 20-year term. The SMA believes this to be a reasonable period given Cameco's positive licensing record.

Cameco continues to maintain strong and mature management systems, particularly in the areas of conventional and radiological safety, protection of the environment, and health of their employees. Cameco's ability to safely curtail production, and effectively manage these operations in care and maintenance during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as their ability to safely resume production, are a testament to the strength and efficacy of these systems.

Cameco continues to be a leading global producer of one of Canada's Critical Minerals, that being uranium.<sup>1</sup> Ensuring a secure and responsibly sourced supply of uranium has never been more important, when one considers the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia, the political tension between Canada and China, and the need to provide low-carbon energy and electrification to help reduce the impact of climate change. Clean electricity, including that provided by nuclear power, will be a cornerstone in ensuring that Canada can achieve a green economy and be net-zero by 2050.

One way that Canada can help to support the responsible development of the uranium the world needs is for the CNSC to provide regulatory certainty through the provision of the 20-year licences that have been requested by Cameco for their McArthur River and Key Lake operations. This certainty would support Ukraine as they have selected Cameco as their supplier for UF<sub>6</sub> until 2035.<sup>2</sup> A 20-year licence term would also help locally to ensure continued benefits as outlined in Cameco's collaboration agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/critical-minerals-in-canada/canadian-critical-minerals-strategy.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cameco.com/media/news/cco-and-energoatom-agree-on-commercial-terms-to-supply-ukraines-full-natura>

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The SMA understands that Cameco is not proposing any new activities as part of this licensing renewal request, and as such, will continue to operate McArthur River and Key Lake in the same safe and responsible manner that they have under their current licence.

Cameco also has a long history of effectively engaging with communities in northern Saskatchewan, which includes Indigenous communities. They have continued to foster strong relationships in northern Saskatchewan, which is reflected in their ongoing work with northern people, communities, and businesses. Their Collaboration Agreement speaks to mutual beneficial partnerships and formalizes commitments under five pillars (workforce development, business development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship).

Further, Cameco continues to be a leader in the public engagement space through their Public Information Programs and Public Disclosure Protocol. The SMA understands that Cameco will continue public engagement through this protocol, regardless of the licence term. In addition to these engagement activities, the annual CNSC regulatory oversight report will also continue to provide a yearly opportunity for Indigenous groups and interested stakeholders to submit interventions to the CNSC and engage in Commission meetings.

Cameco's ongoing commitment to environmental monitoring and support for community-based monitoring programs such as the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program that are conducted in northern Saskatchewan, continue to highlight that water and country foods are not being impacted and that they are safe to drink and eat. Cameco's transparency regarding safety and environmental performance for McArthur River and Key Lake are clearly seen by the easily accessible information on their website.<sup>3</sup>

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views in this oral intervention to indicate our support for Cameco Corporation's application for renewal of uranium mine/mill licences for their McArthur River and Key Lake Operations for a 20-year period.

Yours sincerely,



Brad Sigurdson  
Vice President – Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs

cc Liam Mooney – Vice President, Safety, Health, Environment & Quality and Regulatory Relations (Cameco)  
Kevin Nagy – Director, Compliance and Licensing - Safety, Health, Environment, Quality and Regulatory Relations (Cameco)  
Pam Schwann – President (SMA)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cameco.com/businesses/uranium-operations/canada/mcarthur-river-key-lake/environment-safety>