



**Written submission from
Ken Coates**

**Mémoire de
Ken Coates**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

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

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

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, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in support of the relicensing of Cameco's McArthur River mine, Key Lake mill, and Rabbit Lake mine/mill in northern Saskatchewan. I know that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will be reviewing a broad cross-section of thoughts and contributions on the license application. As a public policy specialist with a long-standing professional interest in natural resource development, Northern policy and sub-Arctic and Arctic innovation, I have, for many years, been deeply impressed with Cameco's work in the North. I have worked closely with the people of northern Saskatchewan for over a decade and know of their long, complicated, and mutually beneficial arrangements with Cameco and other northern mining companies. I am not a nuclear power specialist and cannot speak to the scientific and technical aspects of the mine operations.

As a long-time observer of northern resource development, however, I can speak directly to the company's outreach with Indigenous and northern communities and to the firm's overall contribution to northern Saskatchewan. Cameco's operations have established national benchmark for productive collaboration with Indigenous communities, capitalizing on the long-term viability of the resource deposits to plan carefully for multi-generational engagement with Indigenous peoples and communities in northern Saskatchewan.

These developments are not new and nor are they temporary in nature. First Nations, Metis and non-Indigenous peoples have worked effectively with Cameco and its northern representatives for decades. The company works systematically and with considerable success on expanding Indigenous and northern employment and business development, and community engagement. Cameco has an impressive track record. There are hundreds of northern workers employed within the firm, strong community partnerships, and ongoing support for positive and constructive northern development. The firm does not limit its involvement to those communities proximate to the mine, which is the standard approach to community collaboration. Cameco's reach is more substantial and consistent. In addition, Cameco has been investigating a full range of technological innovations, with a continuing interest in ensuring ever more effective environmental protection. They do so with active participation of First Nations and Metis governments and Indigenous-owned and mining-related companies. It is no surprise that the English River First Nation, through the community-owned Des Nedhe Group, has become a national leader in working with uranium production and nuclear power plants, securing the contract to supervise the refurbishment of the Bruce Power station in Ontario.

Through collaboration with northern and Indigenous communities at properties like McArthur River, Key Lake and Rabbit Lake, Cameco and other Canadian mining companies have transformed the relationship between community members and the mining sector in Saskatchewan and set a model of national and international engagement. Transparent and extended consultations with the people of northern Saskatchewan have helped the company and the region through the financial and employment difficulties of the past few years. The company and its partners work together the difficult times and share in the economic up-turn. There have been difficult years in the uranium business and Cameco has worked closely with community leaders and organizations to mitigate the dislocations. With the market rebounding, the company and northern Saskatchewan have been well- placed to capitalize on the improvements.

Mining, particularly of uranium ore, has become increasingly difficult due to the need to accommodate Indigenous concerns, rapid technological change, unpredictable global markets, and the specific challenges of extracting uranium ore in a safe and socially responsible manner. In the past three years, global energy transitions, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, resurgent interest in nuclear power production, have revitalized the sector, offering the prospects for sustained prosperity in northern Saskatchewan. Cameco remains a world leader. Equally, the First Nations, Metis, and non-Indigenous peoples of northern Saskatchewan, through active but careful collaboration with Cameco, are truly impressive in their ability and willingness to work with the company and the broader uranium mining industry. Cameco's McArthur River mine, Key Lake mill, and Rabbit Lake mine/mill are crucial to the economic and social well-being of northern Saskatchewan. For these reasons, I hope that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission will license those mines and mills.

Might I say, in addition, that I favour long-term approval and licensing. Cameco and its Indigenous partners have been supportive of close environmental oversight, careful mineral production, and world-leading storage and transport of uranium. The communities, in my experience, support Cameco's operations and, indeed, hope for expanded employment and business opportunities. Longer licenses removed uncertainty from a northern region that, like most of the North, wrestles with economic booms and busts and the resulting socio-economic turmoil. If the communities support, as I believe they will, a longer license, I would encourage you to follow the advice provided by the companies and their northern partners.

Thank you,



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