

CMD 23-H8.1B

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#### **Supplementary Information**

Presentation from Orano Canada Inc.

### **Renseignements supplémentaires**

Présentation d' Orano Canada Inc.

In the Matter of the

#### À l'égard de

**Orano Canada Inc., Cluff Lake Project** 

Request to Revoke the Current Licence and Release the Cluff Lake Project to the Institutional Control Program Orano Canada Inc., Projet de Cluff Lake

Demande visant à révoquer le permis pour le projet de Cluff Lake et à transférer la propriété au Programme de contrôle institutionnel

**Commission Public Hearing** 

Audience publique de la Commission

March 1, 2023

1 mars 2023



### Presentation to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Application to Revoke the Cluff Lake Project Mine Licence

March 1, 2023



# **Overview of Presentation**

- Orano Overview
- Cluff Lake Project
- Licence Term Accomplishments & Key Safety Control Areas
- Summary of Licence Request
- Institutional Control Program
- Engagement
- Other Regulatory Matters Financial Assurance
- Conclusion

## **Orano Canada**

- A **leader** in uranium exploration & processing
- Over **55** years in northern Saskatchewan; including uranium exploration, mining, milling and decommissioning
  - 420 employees
  - Corporate Office located in **Saskatoon** Saskatchewan
- Subsidiary of the Orano Group employing 16,000 worldwide





### Decommissioned Cluff Lake Project

- located on Treaty 8 Territory and within the Homeland of the Métis
- site is remote, with unrestricted access
- primary, potential future use of the site is resource development and traditional land use
- discovered in mid '60's

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- operated from 1980 2002
- majority of decommissioning occurred 2004 2006
- 2019 regulators accept that the decommissioning objectives have been achieved



### **During licence term: Major Accomplishments**

- Oct 2019: provided updated ecological risk and human health risk assessments, and Long Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (LTMMP)
- 2020: commence review of LTMMP with Indigenous leadership
- Progressive optimization of monitoring plan
- Jan 2020: reduction of surface lease
- Feb 2020: request to revoke licence
- May 2021: acceptance of LTMMP by MOE
- Jan 2022: acceptance of LTMMP by CNSC
- Annual environmental monitoring
- Bi-annual geotechnical inspections (2020 and 2022)
- October 2022: submission of End State Report
- Sept 2022: regulatory inspection and site tour





## **Safety Control Areas**

- Key SCA's:
  - Radiation Protection
  - Conventional Health & Safety
  - Environmental Protection



Over the licence term Orano has received satisfactory ratings for the Cluff Lake Project SCA's from the CNSC staff



## **SCA: Radiation Protection**

- Radiation sources have been removed or managed
- Site is at background levels
- Worker exposure has been at background for several years
- Dosimetry ceased in 2013

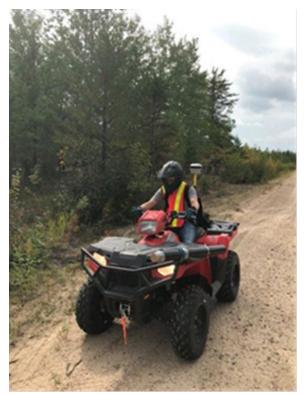


Radiation doses to workers or casual users of the site are well below the public dose limit of 1 mSv/year



# **SCA: Conventional Health & Safety**

- Environmental field work conducted in compliance with Orano safety program and expectations.
- Program is reflective a low risk and unique challenges of a remote and isolated site
- 0 recordable injuries





# **SCA: Environmental Protection**

- Program was optimized during the licence period to reflect the status of the site, i.e. decommissioning objectives have been met
- Decommissioning Surface Water Quality
  Objectives continue to be met
- Groundwater monitoring ceased in 2021
- Program resembles activities to be conducted by the province under the Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Plan (LTMMP)



### There have been no environmental incidents during this licence term



# **Summary of Licence Request**

- 1. Revoke the Cluff Lake Mine licence UML-MINEMILL-CLUFF.00/2024
- 2. Exempt the Province of Saskatchewan from requiring a licence
- Enabling:
  - the transfer of responsibilities to possess, manage, store radioactive waste at the decommissioned project to the Province of Saskatchewan
  - relinquishment of the land lease by Orano with corresponding transfer of the property into the Province of Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program

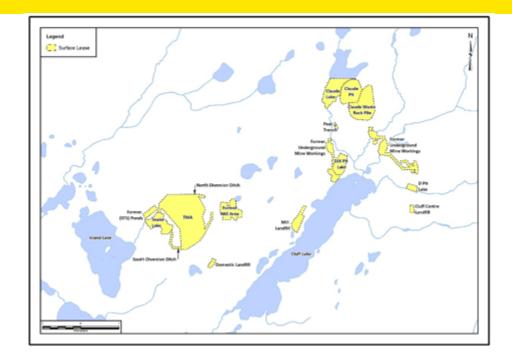


# **Decommissioning is Complete**

### **Decommissioning Objectives**

- 1. Achievement of surface water quality objectives (now and long-term)
- 2. Levels of gamma, radon, and long-lived radioactive dust (LLRD) that pose no unacceptable risk to traditional land uses
- 3. Reduction of infiltration rates around covered ✓ tailings and waste rock
- A site similar in appearance and land capability ✓ to that which existed prior to mining
- 5. No unreasonable risk to humans or the environment

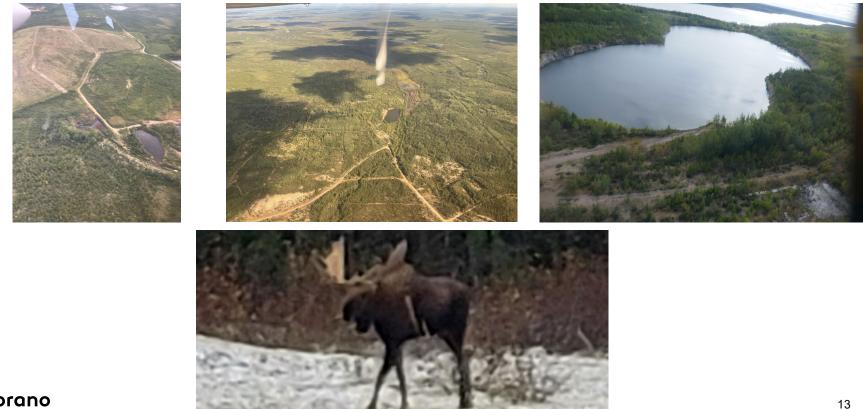
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Regulatory acceptance that decommissioning objectives have been achieved Feb 2019: MOE March 2019: CNSC Staff CMD 19-H3 July 2019: Commission Record of Decision



### Cluff Lake – Fall 2022





### Cluff Lake – Fall 2022









# **Institutional Control Program**

- Established by legislation in the Province of Saskatchewan
  - Reclaimed Industrial Sites Act
  - Reclaimed Industrial Sites Regulations
- Allows for the transfer of a decommissioned site, or portions of, back to the Province (as land owner)
- Ensures that the government has adequate funds & site knowledge to administer decommissioned sites
- Orano to provide:
  - Long-term monitoring and maintenance plan
  - Funding for the LTMMP
  - Funding for unforeseen events



### Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance

- Long-term Monitoring and Maintenance Fund
  - Administered by the Province of Saskatchewan
  - Program costs well understood
  - Funds provided by Orano

### Environmental Monitoring

- Validate site is performing as predicted
- Surface water quality is primary indicator of sustained decommissioning success

### **Geotechnical Inspections**

Ensure site is physically safe

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Confirm stability of surface features



# **Ecological and Human Health Risk**

Ecological Risk Assessment confirms Environmental Assessment conclusions:

- that the effects of decommissioning are largely positive and the potential adverse effects are not significant
- potential adverse effects are moderate, localized, temporary, with recovery occurring over several generations
- no downstream impacts

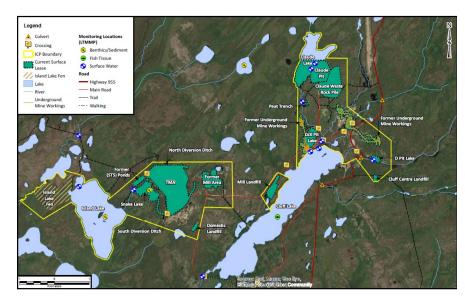
Human Health Risk Assessment confirms:

- radiation doses will remain well below the CNSC dose limit of 1 mSv/year for members of the public
- continued safe use of the area for traditional land use, e.g. safe for hunting/harvesting, fishing, gathering, etc.



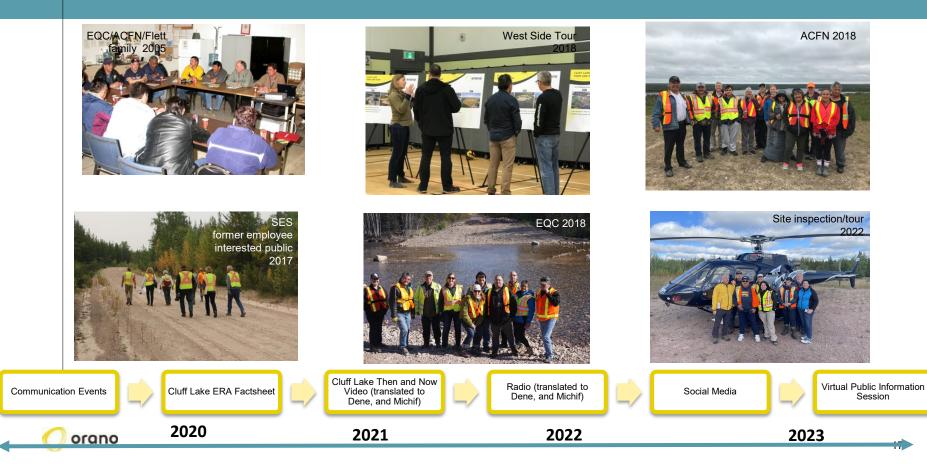
# Land Use

- No restrictions on traditional use of the land;
- No restrictions on consumption of water or fish at or near the Cluff Lake site
- Orano recommends that the Province prevent land disturbance of decommissioning features (e.g. Tailings Management Area and Waste Rock Pile covers).
- Orano recommends that the Province restrict full time residency and industrial activities on areas transferred to Institutional Control Program



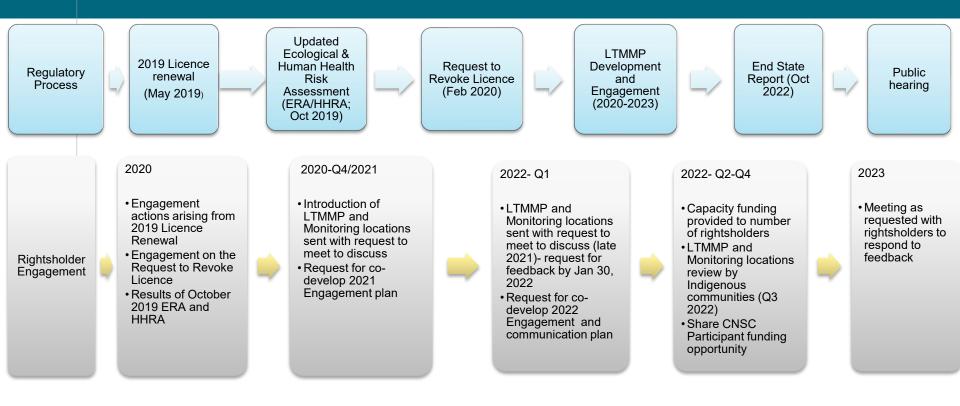


### **Public Information Program**



# **Indigenous Engagement**

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### **Financial Assurance**

 Upon revocation of the licence and transfer of property to ICP, the existing financial guarantees held by the Province of Saskatchewan will no longer be required





## Conclusion

- End-state decommissioning objectives have been met, and will continue to be met
- Province of Saskatchewan is prepared to accept the property into ICP
- Adequate funds will be provided by Orano to the Province to manage long-term monitoring and maintenance







## **OCANO** Giving nuclear energy its full value