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Written submission from Neutrons Canada

Mémoire de Neutrons Canada

In the Matter of

À l'égard de

McMaster University

Université McMaster

Application to renew its McMaster Nuclear Reactor Class IA non-power reactor operating licence

Demande concernant le renouvellement de son permis d'exploitation d'un réacteur de catégorie IA non producteur de puissance pour le réacteur nucléaire McMaster

Public Hearing - Hearing in writing based on written submissions

Audience publique - Audience fondée sur des mémoires

April 2024

Avril 2024

Canada

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2024 March 14

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Support of the Operating Licence Renewal Application for the McMaster Nuclear Reactor

To whomever it may concern,

Neutrons Canada is pleased to support the application for renewal of the operating license for the McMaster Nuclear Reactor (MNR).

Neutrons Canada is a not-for-profit corporation, established on 2022 October 5, to govern, manage, and represent Canada's infrastructure program for research and development with neutron beams, including international partnerships that secure access to world-leading neutron laboratories, operation of Canada's domestic neutron beam facilities and national initiatives for future neutron sources, thereby enabling Canadians to address major social and economic challenges. The corporation has 14 founding institutional Members, being universities from across Canada, and an independent Board of Directors. The Board is chaired by Dr. John Barrett, past CEO of the Canadian Nuclear Association, with support of Vice-Chair Prof. Karen Chad, past VP Research at the University of Saskatchewan. See www.neutrons.ca

Neutrons Canada recently completed the Canadian Neutron Long-Range Plan for 2025 to 2035, in partnership with the Canadian Institute for Neutron Scattering (CINS), which represents over 140 research leaders from across Canada who need neutron beams to advance their programs of innovation and education. The social and economic impact of their research is realized through advancements in healthcare, clean energy, environmental stewardship, industrial competitiveness, public safety and fundamental discoveries in magnetism or quantum materials. The Neutron Long-Range Plan identifies the MNR as the only substantial domestic source of neutron beams, capable of sustaining a Canadian user program in the near future.

Therefore, it is essential that the MNR continue to operate and provide the platform for a new suite of neutron-beam instruments, which are currently under construction. In five years, the MNR neutron beam laboratory will be a centre for training highly-qualified people and will serve as a key element of the international network of neutron-beam facilities accessible by Canadians through a Neutrons Canada portal. Loss of the MNR would severely cripple Canada's prospects of retaining and rejuvenating our world-class capabilities to work at the cutting edges of materials research, reaping the social and economic benefits of new knowledge that can only be generated by neutron beam methods.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for renewal of the MNR operating license.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Neutrons Canada Board of Directors.

John Barrett, Ph.D. ICD.D

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