



## **Supplementary Information**

### **Presentation from the Black River First Nation, with input from the Hollow Water First Nation**

In the Matter of the

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd.**

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Application for the renewal of the nuclear  
research and test establishment  
decommissioning licence for the Whiteshell  
Laboratories site

**Commission Public Hearing**

**October 23, 2024**

## **Renseignements supplémentaires**

### **Présentation de la Première Nation de Black River avec la participation de la Première Nation de Hollow Water**

À l'égard des

**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens Ltée**

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Demande visant le renouvellement du permis de  
déclassement d'un établissement de recherche  
et d'essais nucléaires pour le site des  
Laboratoires de Whiteshell

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**23 octobre 2024**



# Black River First Nation

Public Hearing Presentation to the  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Public Hearing regarding  
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories application for  
Whiteshell Licence Renewal

October 23, 2024

# Presentation Outline

- Introduction
- Background
- Community Input
- Recommendations
- Conclusions

# Introduction

- Black River First Nation is an Anishinaabe community whose traditional territory encompasses the lands and waters around our community within Treaty 5 and overlapping with Treaty 1 and Treaty 3.
- The Whiteshell Laboratories was constructed in the 1960's in our territory, without engagement, consultation or consent.
- Since 2019, we have been working together with Hollow Water First Nation to engage with CNL. Hollow Water is completing an internal process to develop a position on the entire Whiteshell Laboratories decommissioning.

# Background

- We understand that this hearing is about the three-year licence renewal to complete decommissioning.
  - We understand the decommissioning of WR-1 is a separate licence.
- We remind CNL and the CNSC that the distinction between these different licences remains a challenge in our communities.
- From an Anishinaabe perspective, layers of licenses, submissions, and comment periods compound a complex and cumbersome process.
- For our community, full site restoration, completed safely and within proposed timelines is the real objective.

# Community Input

- Community input is at the core of our submission and intervention.
- Input from our community members is broken down into four categories.
- From our Community input come our Recommendations.

# Community Input

1. Overall Engagement Between BRFN / HWFN and CNL
2. Environmental Protection and Monitoring, and Community Participation
3. CNL's Record on Emergency Management, Fire Safety and Site Standdowns
4. Procedural Concerns and Employment

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 1: Clear Communications in Plain Language

- We recommend that CNL be required to provide more plain language summaries of environmental monitoring results and other important scientific information of relevance. For example, by using the format of their 2023 Environmental Monitoring plain language brochure. We also recommend that this information be released to us in a timely manner, in both digital and print formats.
- We further recommend that CNL be required to develop a communication protocol in event of spills, emergencies or compliance breaches on site, so that Indigenous communities and other interested groups have prompt, accurate and complete information and are not learning about events in the newspaper.



# Recommendations

## Recommendation 2: Education and Employment Opportunities

- We recommend that CNL consider job opportunities that they have or will have available at their Whiteshell site, and how specific job requirements could be altered in ways respecting traditional knowledge and skills, allowing more of our members to successfully apply. We propose that on-the-job training and mentorship be offered to support our people in finding employment at the site.

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 3: More Distinct Discussions about Land Use and end State

- To date, we feel that CNL has appended many discussions about Land Use and End State at the Whiteshell site to the end of other meetings. We recommend that CNL work with our communities to schedule and hold separate meetings with our Core Engagement Teams to discuss their proposed land use and end state plans, and to understand our community perspectives the eventual ownership of the site. We suggest that these discussions include Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) participation, as the Crown-corporation and current land owner.

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 4: CNL Indigenous Engagement Hiring and Turnover

- The high rates of turnover in CNL's Indigenous engagement team requires a closer look. We recommend that CNL be required to hold exit interviews with all departing staff to identify reasons for the turnover. Where factors are identified, specific plans should be put in place to address them.
- We recommend that CNL involve our communities during the hiring process for their staff who will be directly involved in engagements with us. We feel that by including us early in the hiring process, CNL will have more success with hiring and retaining Indigenous engagement staff.

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 5: Support for Independent Environmental Monitoring

- We recommend that CNL provide additional support to our communities to undertake independent environmental monitoring. We suggest that this takes the form of a Guardians program, with funding provided by CNL. We understand that CNL has already successfully partnered with other Nations and Indigenous organizations to support Guardians programs.

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 6: Bringing Communities Together

- As we have noted in our feedback, the original proposal for an Indigenous Advisory Committee did not materialize. We recommend that CNL work with Indigenous and other communities to arrange for additional opportunities to gather and understand each other.
- For example, by holding additional Regional Gatherings, but with enough space for participation from our full Core Engagement Team, not just one or two representatives. We value opportunities to collaborate with our neighbouring First Nations, but also see value in collaborations with municipalities and other interest groups.

# Conclusion

- Today, we are pleased to provide our input during this hearing for CNLs three-year licence renewal.
- CNL is investing time into a deeper relationship with our community.
- We would like to continue with this relationship to see the decommissioning project completed.