



## **Supplementary Information**

## **Renseignements supplémentaires**

### **Written Submission from the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd.**

### **Mémoire des Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens Ltée**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd.**

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**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens Ltée**

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

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

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**October 23, 2024**

**23 octobre 2024**

2024 October 10

**WHITESHELL LABORATORIES RESTORATION PROJECT**

Candace Salmon  
Commission Registrar  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
OTTAWA, Ontario K1P 5S9

Dear Ms. Salmon:

**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION FOR THE COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING OF 2024 OCTOBER 23  
(APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF THE NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND TEST ESTABLISHMENT  
DECOMMISSIONING LICENCE FOR THE WHITESHELL LABORATORIES)**

The purpose of this letter is to provide the Commission Registrar with supplementary information relating to the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) application [1] for renewal of the Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence [2] for the Whiteshell Laboratories, and the associated Public Hearing to be held virtually on 2024 October 23.

As per CNL's submission [3] of the Commission Member Document for Licensing Decisions [4], please find enclosed the CNL presentation [5]. CNL has also prepared a video as part of the presentation, which is available for you to download at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpWx2HWPo34>. Also enclosed with this letter is the WL Indigenous Communications and Engagement Supplementary Report [6] for consideration as supplemental material at the forthcoming hearing.

Should you require any further information please contact me at 204-340-3044.

Yours sincerely,



Brian Wilcox  
General Manager and Whiteshell Laboratories Site Licence Holder

Enclosures (2)

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## REFERENCES:

- [1] Letter, B. Wilcox (CNL) to D. Saumure (CNSC), *Amended Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories*, WLD-CNNO-24-0010-L, 2024 February 15.
- [2] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, *Whiteshell Laboratories, Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence*, NRTEDL-W5-8.00/2024, Expiry Date: 2024 December 31.
- [3] Letter, B. Wilcox (CNL) to C. Salmon (CNSC), *Application for the Renewal of the Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence for Whiteshell Laboratories – Submission of the Commission Member Document for Licensing Decisions*, WLD-CNNO-24-0039-L, 2024 July 17.
- [4] *Commission Member Document for Licensing Decisions – Renewal of the Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories*, WL-508760-REPT-006148, Revision 0, 2024 July 17.
- [5] CNL presentation, *Whiteshell Laboratories Site Licence Renewal, October 23, 2024, Commission Hearing*, CMD 24-H7.1A, 2024 October 10. (Enclosed)
- [6] *WL Indigenous Communications and Engagement Supplementary Report (2019 December - 2024 July)*, WL-513130-REPT-006834, Revision 0, 2024 October 09. (Enclosed)

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# WL Indigenous Communications and Engagement Supplementary Report (2019 December - 2024 July)

**WL-513130-REPT-006834**

**Revision 0**

Approved by:	<u>Mitch MacKay</u>	<u>2024/10/09</u>
	Director, Communications & Eng	Date

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REPT

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## **1. Land Acknowledgement**

Whiteshell Laboratories (WL) is situated on the traditional lands of Treaties 1 and 3, the lands of the Anicinabe, Ojibway Anishinaabe and the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

The area in which we are situated is also home to Indigenous Peoples from across the region and Canada. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) is grateful to have the opportunity to work on these traditionally and culturally significant lands and waterways. We acknowledge that this site was established without consultation with the Indigenous Peoples of this area.

We also recognize and appreciate the contributions that all First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples have made, and continue to make, in shaping this land we now know as Canada. We acknowledge, respect, and seek to better understand the unique Indigenous history, Rights, and title on the lands where we work.

CNL wishes to confirm our commitment to being an active participant in Canada's journey towards healing and reconciliation through our actions.

## **2. Background**

CNL is Canada's premier nuclear science and technology organization. It is under contract with Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) for the management of AECL's sites under a Government-owned, Contractor-operated (GoCo) model. Since the early 1950s, CNL and AECL have been recognized as world leaders in developing peaceful and innovative applications from nuclear technology through expertise in physics, metallurgy, chemistry, biology and engineering.

In 1963, AECL founded the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment (now Whiteshell Laboratories) in Pinawa, Manitoba to conduct nuclear research and development activities for higher temperature versions of the CANDU® (CANada Deuterium Uranium) reactor. The initial focus of research was Whiteshell Reactor – 1 (WR-1) and the Organic Cooled Reactor concept, which began operation in 1965. This program was discontinued in the early 1970s in favour of the heavy-water-cooled CANDU system. Whiteshell Reactor – 1 continued to operate until 1985 in support of AECL research programs.

In 1997, the Government of Canada confirmed that research programs and operations at Whiteshell would be discontinued. Plans were then prepared for safe and effective decommissioning of the Whiteshell site. Subsequently, in 2002, the CNSC granted a six-year Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence based on a Comprehensive Study Report (CSR) [1].

In 2008, this licence was renewed for 10 years, extended in 2018 for one year, and renewed in 2019 for five years. The Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence issued to AECL in 2008 for Whiteshell was transferred to CNL in November 2014, and the decommissioning and closure of the Whiteshell site under the GoCo model began in the fall of 2015.

In late 2022, CNL changed the name of the project to Whiteshell Laboratories Restoration

Project (WLRP) to better describe the work being done to restore the lands, as close as possible, to the state in which they once were.

Together, CNL and AECL are committed to safely restoring the Whiteshell Laboratories site to an end-state that serves the needs of Indigenous Nations and the local public, at an accelerated pace and in a fiscally responsible manner.

Following completion of the decommissioning work at Whiteshell Laboratories, some portions of the land are anticipated to be subject to long-term care and maintenance in accordance with institutional control requirements.

Recent engagement efforts have included more meaningful and robust Indigenous engagement developed in collaboration with First Nations and the Red River Métis, reflecting the federal government's emphasis on the importance of its relationship with Indigenous Peoples in Canada as well as CNL's own learning, goals, and efforts to support healing and reconciliation.

### **3. Scope**

CNL recognizes Indigenous engagement as a critical component of our activities and projects at Whiteshell Laboratories and acknowledges the continued need for open, honest and transparent communication with Rights holders and Indigenous Interest holders.

CNL is requesting a renewal of its Whiteshell Laboratories Decommissioning and Test Facility Licence, to continue with the decommissioning and restoration of the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

In support of CNL's application to renew its Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning Licence for the Whiteshell Restoration Project, this document supplements the Commission Member Document (CMD) submitted to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for the licence renewal hearing process.

This supplementary report outlines engagement undertaken with Indigenous Nations, communities, and organizations throughout the current licensing period: 2019 December to 2024 July.

With the objective of advancing Reconciliation through meaningful actions, CNL is moving toward increased inclusion and participation, with a project planning approach that is focused on environmental protection and sustainability, inclusive of Indigenous knowledge systems. In addition, CNL continues to enhance all communications, plans and reporting with balanced language and acknowledgement of constitutional Rights and perspectives. As CNL advances its Reconciliation journey with Indigenous Nations, Indigenous knowledge will be integrated into CNL project planning and activities.

CNL's updated Public Information Program (PIP) is aligned with the requirements in CNSC regulatory documents: REGDOC-3.2.2 Indigenous Engagement [2] and REGDOC-3.2.1, Public Information and Disclosure [3]. This reflects CNL's commitment to recognizing the

constitutional Rights and interests of local Indigenous communities through ongoing learning about their values and interests.

#### **4. Indigenous Communications and Engagement**

CNL is committed to ongoing engagement with First Nations and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) regarding current and planned activities and projects as part of its corporate, environmental, and social responsibility. As mentioned in Section 3, Scope, CNL's engagement efforts are in alignment with CNSC REGDOC 3.2.1 Public Information and Disclosure [3], and follow the guidance in REGDOC-3.2.2 Indigenous Engagement [2], as well as CNL's PIP [4].

CNL continues to enhance all communications, plans and reporting to acknowledge and incorporate Indigenous Rights, perspectives, values, and truths. Working in collaboration with AECL, CNL is advancing on a reconciliation journey with Indigenous communities, in part by supporting capacity building for Indigenous-led monitoring or guardian programs and by integrating Indigenous knowledge systems into CNL project planning and activities.

Recognizing Indigenous engagement as a critical component of the WLRP, CNL acknowledges the continued need for open, honest, and transparent communication with Indigenous Peoples. An open dialogue between CNL and First Nations and the MMF is maintained throughout the engagement process, and CNL uses feedback to further refine project planning and messaging.

Over the course of engagement with First Nations and the MMF, CNL has noted preferences for communications and engagement methods, and remains open to continual refinement of approaches based on the interest and needs of each Nation.

The following section details engagement between CNL and each Indigenous Nation.

##### **4.1 Indigenous Nations**

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories remains committed to engaging with the MMF and all First Nations that express an interest in WL projects and activities.

Over the past five years, relationships have strengthened, and engagement has evolved. It is also important to note that CNL's relationships and engagement with First Nations and the MMF are at varying stages of development and maturity. However, these relationships have significantly progressed over the current licence period, with regular communications and open dialogue, often on highly specific topics. With some, there has been less interest in engagement or more recent interest in engaging with CNL.

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories seeks to provide a forum to facilitate Indigenous awareness about ongoing activities and projects at the WL Site, and the possible effects on community members and the environment. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories also seeks to include Indigenous perspectives on traditional and current uses of land in the vicinity of the WL Site, planned and ongoing WLRP-related activities, programs, timelines, environmental protection and mitigation measures, long-term benefits, and economic opportunities.

Through engagement activities on the WLRP, CNL continues to build on years of engagement with Sagkeeng First Nation (Sagkeeng), Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation,

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations, Grand Council Treaty #3, and the Red River Métis (engaged via the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Manitoba Métis). These relationships have evolved significantly over the past five years, with ongoing engagement on the WR-1 Project, as well as the decommissioning of the entire WL Site through the WLRP. Over the last few years, CNL has worked with First Nations and the MMF to establish substantive capacity and relationship agreements, some of which also involve AECL, to support and structure the activities and community engagement that drive these relationships forward.

During recent engagements regarding environmental assessment for the WR-1 Project, CNL heard interests and concerns that are related to the WLRP more broadly. To this end, CNL and several First Nations and the MMF are engaging on what will happen to the site in the long term through discussions around land-use strategy and the cleanup plan for the entire WL site.

Of note, in 2021, CNL was exploring the opportunity to form an Indigenous Advisory Committee for the WL Site. Based on feedback received from several First Nations and the MMF, this initiative has been put on hold in favour of bilateral engagement. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories would reopen dialogue on the Indigenous Advisory Committee if there is new interest in revisiting this initiative.

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories continues to share information on WL activities and projects with the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation, Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, and Northwest Angle #33, with opportunities for further engagement available to those communities at their discretion.

More recently, Peguis First Nation (Peguis) reached out to CNL to initiate dialogue. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories continues to connect with Peguis to learn more about its interests.

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories has included the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, who have an interest in the activities at the WL Site through their relationship with CNL. Waste from the WL site will be sent to Chalk River Laboratories, which is located within the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation's traditional territory.

Background information has been gathered from information sharing or public sources. A detailed summary of engagement is provided below for the MMF and each of the First Nations with which CNL has engaged.

Note that CNL has also included Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (AOPFN), as AOPFN have long indicated a concern with waste from other locations being stored, or disposed of, on Algonquin territory. In the past five years AOPFN and CNL have evolved their relationship and are currently in a Long-Term Relationship Agreement, in which CNL has committed to meaningful engagement on waste being sent to CNL-managed sites on Algonquin territory.

## **4.2 Sagkeeng First Nation**

Sagkeeng First Nation is an Anishinaabe First Nation, with traditional territory that extends across the lands and waters which make up Treaties 1, 3, and 5. Sagkeeng First Nation is located on both shores of the Winnipeg River, where it meets Lake Winnipeg, which is where the Nation's name comes from: Sagkeeng means "mouth of the river." Sagkeeng's residential

reserve is directly downstream of WL. The Nation has an existing relationship with CNL and has expressed Rights, title and interests in the WL site. The WL Site is located within Sagkeeng's traditional territory, to which Sagkeeng claims unsundered Aboriginal title. The community has articulated to CNL that Sagkeeng's members have been impacted by the WL Site since it opened.

Following the previous licensing hearing, in 2019 December, Sagkeeng and CNL met to discuss what Sagkeeng had brought forward during the hearing process. At the 2019 hearing, Sagkeeng had reiterated the position that all waste should be removed from the WL Site.

In 2020, Sagkeeng and CNL engaged more deeply on this position, continuing discussions on the development of an independent Alternative Means Assessment for the WR-1 Project from the perspective of Sagkeeng. While CNL is proposing the in-situ disposal of the WR-1 reactor, Sagkeeng's position, as was reiterated at the 2019 hearing, is that all waste – including the WR-1 reactor – should be removed from site.

The discussions on this Alternative Means Assessment led to CNL and Sagkeeng signing an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement in June 2020. Through this agreement, CNL supported the completion of Sagkeeng's independent Alternative Means Assessment, which incorporates Sagkeeng's community values, alternative weight criteria and other key elements.

To ensure fulsome engagement on all activities at Whiteshell, in September 2020, Sagkeeng and CNL signed another MOU agreement to fund a Sagkeeng Community Liaison position. CNL provided on-site training to the Liaison. This same month, Sagkeeng also participated in a tree survey on the Whiteshell site and a workshop to initiate the development of a work plan for Sagkeeng's Liaison.

On October 20, 2020, the Sagkeeng Liaison participated in an event at the Whiteshell site, which brought together several Indigenous Nations. The purpose of the half-day event was to discuss CNL's environmental protection program and to observe CNL's fish processing, which is part of CNL's routine environmental monitoring program.

In October 2020, CNL received two important documents from Sagkeeng. One was the Sagkeeng Independent Alternative Means Assessment, which assessed and measured the alternatives for decommissioning the WR-1 reactor based on Sagkeeng values. The Sagkeeng assessment found the current in situ disposal approach ranked lower than other approaches, supporting Sagkeeng's position that all waste is removed from the Whiteshell site.

The other key document that Sagkeeng shared with CNL was Sagkeeng's Psychosocial Assessment Report, which was conducted with the support of the CNSC. This report includes an account of experienced historical impacts and psychosocial impacts from residential schools, Child and Family Services, the former upstream pulp mill and the Whiteshell Laboratories site. The assessment also included the following recommendations that could contribute to a reduction in Sagkeeng's psychosocial impacts:

1. building a trauma-informed decision-making model;
2. building a healing and resiliency action plan;

3. building a long-term monitoring program with “extensive involvement” for Sagkeeng members;
4. providing capacity and access to independent expertise on an ongoing basis; and
5. actively investing in improving the psychological wellbeing of Sagkeeng members.

In April 2021, Sagkeeng’s Chief and Council met with senior leadership from CNL and AECL to discuss Sagkeeng’s Psychosocial Impact Assessment Report. The meeting marked a turning point in the relationship as both CNL and AECL recognized the findings of the Sagkeeng Psychosocial Impact Assessment Report and the trauma experienced by members in relation to the historical siting of the Whiteshell Laboratories site. At this meeting, CNL, AECL and Sagkeeng leadership agreed to work collaboratively to develop and implement the report’s recommendations to help address the Nation’s concerns regarding the Whiteshell Laboratories Restoration Project. Sagkeeng recommended a Technical Working Group be developed to oversee the development of these initiatives.

As a result, in June 2021, Sagkeeng, CNL and AECL held the first Technical Working Group meeting, which were soon established as monthly recurring meeting.

The purpose of the Technical Working Group is to identify, develop, and implement initiatives that will help to address Sagkeeng’s interests and concerns in a way that is meaningful to Sagkeeng. Four initiatives were identified including:

6. establishing a community liaison committee;
7. developing a healing and resiliency action plan;
8. creating an Indigenous-led environmental monitoring program; and
9. establishing a formal leadership table between Sagkeeng, AECL, and CNL.

The three parties met at the Technical Working Group level throughout 2021 and made meaningful progress on the four initiatives. This led to Sagkeeng, CNL and AECL signing an MOU agreement on November 30, 2021, to support establishing a community liaison committee and to develop the scope the following: a community environmental monitoring program, a healing and resiliency action plan, and a leadership table.

On December 15, 2021, Sagkeeng presented on community environmental monitoring or guardianship programs and how CNL and Sagkeeng could incorporate similar elements into monitoring at the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

In January 2022, Sagkeeng provided CNL with drafts of Sagkeeng's community environmental monitoring program and their healing and resiliency action plan. The development of the community environmental monitoring program became the focus of the next few months.

Sagkeeng, CNL and AECL continued to meet regularly through the Technical Working Group discussing what Sagkeeng-led community environmental monitoring program could look like. On March 3, 2022 CNL provided feedback on the scope of work for the community environmental monitoring program and discussions on the program continued at meetings in April and May.

The efforts to develop a Sagkeeng CEMP were further explored in a workshop held on June 15 and 16, 2022, in Winnipeg. CNL and Sagkeeng representatives met in-person to negotiate a monitoring program that would increase Sagkeeng's role (and the role of Anicinabe Traditional Knowledge) in the monitoring of the Whiteshell site and surrounding areas, supporting the reduction of fear and stigma at and around the site.

The two-day meeting culminated with an agreement in principle to support the development and execution of a Sagkeeng CEMP over the next five years.

In July 2022, CNL shared a draft of the contribution agreement to support the Sagkeeng-led community environmental monitoring program with Sagkeeng. Later in the month, the Sagkeeng Community Liaison Committee also attended the Whiteshell site for a tour and a general discussion with CNL about activities and projects at the site.

In August and early September, CNL held teleconferences with Sagkeeng to discuss the renewal of the Technical Working Group budget. On August 25, 2022, CNL met with Sagkeeng representatives and discussed the development of a healing and resiliency action plan. At that time, CNL expressed an interest to defer discussions on this until it was better understood and focus efforts on the Sagkeeng community environmental monitoring program. Sagkeeng representatives indicated that the development of the community environmental monitoring program was a community priority.

At the end of August 2022, CNL shared the environmental monitoring program schedule, and invited Sagkeeng participation in monitoring activities.

September 2022 saw Sagkeeng and CNL complete final drafting work on the contribution agreement to support the community environmental monitoring program and the monthly Technical Working Group focused on budgets and invoicing for the ongoing engagement activities.

With the contribution agreement for the community environmental monitoring program in final draft, at the October, November, and December monthly Technical Working Group meetings, Sagkeeng and CNL discussed the healing and resiliency action plan, the future land use end state of the Whiteshell site and WR-1 Project EIS submission, which was planned for later that year.

On December 12, 2022, Sagkeeng's Chief and Council, AECL's President and CEO and CNL's President and CEO, took part in a signing ceremony at Sagkeeng First Nation, establishing of the Sagkeeng-led community environmental monitoring program. Sagkeeng named the program, "Niigan Aki," meaning "Land First."

Since the launch of Niigan Aki, the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki Program Manager has participated in the monthly Technical Working Group meetings to share updates on the program's activities. Later in 2023, CNL and the Niigan Aki program also coordinated bi-weekly touch base meetings to coordinate environmental monitoring related engagement.

In January 2023 CNL shared CNL's annual environmental monitoring field sampling schedule and to advance another interest brought forward by Sagkeeng, CNL coordinated with the First Nation to share CNL job postings.

Sagkeeng and CNL met at South Beach Casino on Brokenhead First Nation in February 2023 to coordinate engagements and share key updates. Another key engagement in February was CNL's participation in the Sagkeeng Community Liaison Committee Gathering and Feast.

CNL also shared a report with Sagkeeng on elevated levels of manganese on February 17. In response to this report, Sagkeeng requested further discussion and plain language information on this topic. Elevated levels of manganese were discussed at the next Technical Working Group Meeting.

On March 23, Sagkeeng and CNL met virtually to discuss the Environmental Protection Plan for the Whiteshell site and on March 27 Sagkeeng invited CNL to a Pipe Ceremony at Sagkeeng First Nation, which CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor attended.

At the April 2023 Technical Working Group focused on land use end state, Niigan Aki program updates, the community liaison committee, CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and the WR-1 project.

Another important engagement occurred on April 18 where Sagkeeng community members, Elders, the community liaison and the Niigan Aki program manager presented a lunch and learn for CNL staff on Indigenous Knowledge.

In early May, Sagkeeng and CNL exchanged emails and shared information following the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down. One outcome of the Safety Stand Down was that Sagkeeng's planned site visit to Whiteshell was cancelled. Instead, on May 16, 2023, the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki program manager and CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor met in the parking lot at site.

Later that month, Sagkeeng and CNL met in community – at Sagkeeng First Nation – in follow-up to this meeting at the Whiteshell site and to discuss having a CNL float for the Sagkeeng Treaty Days Pow Wow.

On May 30, 2023, Sagkeeng attended CNL's Land Use and End State Conference at the South Beach Casino in Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation.

Discussions at the June Technical Working Group monthly meeting focused on WR-1, land use and end state, the healing and resiliency action plan on updates from the Niigan Aki program.

In June 2023, CNL also participated in two community tree planting events.

On July 5, 2023, the monthly Technical Working Group meeting included discussions on WR-1, CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, land use and end state, Niigan Aki program updates, an upcoming leadership meeting and the healing and resiliency action plan.

A few days later Sagkeeng and CNL met again at Sagkeeng First Nation to discuss CNL's participation in Sagkeeng First Nation treaty days.

At the end of August 2023, the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki Program Manager attended the 5th Canadian Conference on Waste Management, Decommissioning and Environmental



Restoration for a panel on Indigenous engagement within the nuclear industry through the lens of the Niigan Aki program.

On September 6, 2023 Sagkeeng and CNL held the Technical Working Group meeting and discussed WR-1, land use and end state, updates from the Niigan Aki program, an upcoming site tour for the Sagkeeng Chief, the community liaison committee and a proposed benchmarking trip related to the WR-1 decommissioning. In mid-September, Sagkeeng and CNL met in Pine Falls to introduce staff.

The Technical Working Group meetings in October and November of 2023 advanced discussions from the previous working group meetings and on October 11, the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki Program Manager toured WR-1, the waste management areas, the counting lab and the pump house. In follow-up to the meeting, CNL provided information on the culturally significant plants that were found in the bush and grasslands in 2022.

Mid-November, CNL met with Sagkeeng again to discuss further the Sagkeeng feedback on the Indigenous Relations Procurement strategy.

On November 29, the Sagkeeng Chief and Council came to the Whiteshell site to meet with senior leadership from CNL and AECL and tour the site. The tour included the waste management areas, the Winnipeg River and WR-1.

At the December Technical Working Group meeting CNL shared a presentation and Sagkeeng and CNL discussed options for the decommissioning of the low-level waste trenches at the Whiteshell site.

A highlight of engagement in December 2023 was the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki program manager's presentation at an AECL-CNL alumni event in Pinawa. This was an important presentation to share the work being done by the Niigan Aki at and around the Whiteshell site.

In January 2024, staff from the Niigan Aki program participated in a site tour for the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation Core Engagement Team meeting, which was held on January 31 at Whiteshell Laboratories. The Niigan Aki Program Manager shared a presentation on the program, as Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation were interested in coordinating community-led monitoring, as well.

On January 29, 2024, CNL shared the 2024 Environmental Monitoring Filed Sampling Schedule and invited Niigan Aki participation in any monitoring activities.

Monthly Technical Working Group meetings also continued in 2024 with a focus on Sagkeeng's participation in the WR-1 environmental assessment, land use and end state, planning for community engagement activities (including community tree planting days at Sagkeeng First Nation in the spring) and the possibility of a benchmarking trip to a nuclear site that had been decommissioned in-situ.

On February 13, 2024 CNL presented the Low Level Waste Trenches presentation to Sagkeeng First Nation's Council.

February 2024 saw the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki Program Manager participate on a panel at the Waste Management Symposia conference regarding Indigenous Relations.

In March, CNL shared information on the 2024 WL site licence renewal hearing via email, including the licence amendment application, the CNSC Notice of Hearing and information on the CNSC Participant Funding Program. CNL also offered to support for Sagkeeng's participation in the hearing.

CNL also shared two batches of responses to the Federal Provincial Indigenous Review Team comments on the WR-1 Project with Sagkeeng for the First Nation's review this month, on March 4 and March 20.

On March 8, 2024, CNL shared the summary of engagement section for the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report with Sagkeeng for their review. On April 18, Sagkeeng sent back comments on this draft section, which CNL incorporated into the Indigenous Engagement Report and this EIS.

On March 15, representatives from Sagkeeng and CNL met virtually to discuss procurement, which had been flagged as an outstanding issue of concern in the relationship between Sagkeeng and CNL in Sagkeeng's feedback on the CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy. CNL and Sagkeeng continue discussions around procurement.

Sagkeeng and CNL also met twice in March to discuss the Sagkeeng Vision for Long-Term Land Use of Whiteshell Site, an initiative that Sagkeeng is conducting, which came out of ongoing discussions related to Sagkeeng's feedback on future land use and end state at the Whitesell Laboratories site. The Sagkeeng Vision for Long-Term Land Use of Whiteshell Site is a study conducted by a third party and supported by CNL and will explore future land use and end state at Whiteshell Laboratories through the perspective of Sagkeeng using Indigenous values.

Towards the end of the month, on March 26, CNL shared revised draft commitments in follow-up to the feedback that Sagkeeng shared at the February commitments meeting.

In April 2024, CNL invited Sagkeeng to the second annual Regional Leaders Gathering, which would be held in June 2024. On Earth Day, April 22, the Niigan Aki program manager attended the Whiteshell site to facilitate a lunch and learn presentation about the Niigan Aki program for CNL staff. Later in the month, Sagkeeng representatives and CNL representatives met in-person for engagement planning and introduction of new staff.

Throughout May 2024, ongoing communication between CNL and Sagkeeng included logistics for the Niigan Aki mushroom collection fieldwork, coordination of the Tree Planting activities at Sagkeeng First Nation and Sagkeeng attendance at the CNL Regional Leaders Gathering.

CNL supported the Tree Planting activities led by Sagkeeng's Niigan Aki program on May 13 and helped facilitate the Niigan Aki mushroom collection work at the WL site on May 22. During the mushroom collection work, CNL staff had the opportunity to work alongside Niigan Aki Guardians to learn about the cultural practices and uses for mushrooms, as well as species of cultural significance. This visit also included a visit to WL's collections analysis lab to facilitate knowledge sharing between Sagkeeng and CNL.

On the last day of May 2024, CNL received two important reviewed documents back from Sagkeeng: their comments on the draft WR-1 EIS commitments and their comments on CNL's responses to the FPIRT comments.

Early June saw Sagkeeng representatives, including the Chief, an Elder and the Niigan Aki program manager, attend CNL's second annual Regional Leaders Gathering in Beausejour. The Regional Leaders Gathering facilitated discussions amongst leaders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with CNL. The focus was on CNL projects, including WR-1, environmental monitoring, and gathering feedback on Trenches and Land Use End State.

On June 11, CNL shared the Indigenous engagement section of the draft Commission Member Document with Sagkeeng as an opportunity for their review. Sagkeeng shared back minimal concerns on the document noting that earlier feedback from the WR-1 IER review had been incorporated.

The June monthly meeting included an update on the WR-1 project to keep everyone apprised of CNL's plans for EIS submission in 2024.

On June 25, the Sagkeeng Niigan Aki program manager also attended one of CNL's public webinars on a similar in-situ project undergoing an environmental assessment in Ontario – the NPD Closure Project. Afterwards, the Niigan Aki program manager followed up with several questions about the NPD Closure Project. In July, CNL's Indigenous Engagement Advisor called the Niigan Aki program manager to discuss these questions and to coordinate a meeting to discuss the NPD Closure Project further.

Another highlight of June 2024 was Niigan Aki participation in milkweed field monitoring and mapping activities at the WL site.

In July, Sagkeeng participation in monitoring activities at the WL site continued with establishment of a seven-week summer student initiative and participation in a bat exit further, which three Sagkeeng members, enabled through Niigan Aki, participated in on July 17. Two CNL summer students from Sagkeeng, who were on CNL's environmental monitoring team, as well as two members of the Sagkeeng Beautification Team, participated in this survey.

Relationship building activities in July 2024 included Sagkeeng's invitation for CNL to participate in their Treaty Days at the end of the month. CNL attended on both July 30 and July 31, with a float on the first day and a booth on the second day.

The above section should make clear that there has been growth in Sagkeeng and CNL's relationship. Sagkeeng and CNL are engaging in many ways on multiple issues, such as ongoing monitoring through the extensive engagement of the Niigan Aki program and longer-term issues, like the future land use and end state of the site. Though CNL understands that there are still ongoing issues where there is not a clear path to resolution yet, such as Sagkeeng's feedback on CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and preferred decommissioning strategy for WR-1, CNL believes the relationship is on solid footing to continue dialogue and seek solutions where there is disagreement.

Over the next licensing period, CNL is committed to a deeper, sustainable engagement between Sagkeeng and CNL, including the incorporation of input from the Niigan Aki program into CNL's environmental monitoring program, dialogue and work on recommendations related to future land use and end state from the forthcoming Sagkeeng Vision for Long-Term Land Use of Whiteshell Site, and greater information sharing on CNL's entire waste management portfolio, through a tour of Chalk River Laboratories.

### **4.3 Manitoba Métis Federation**

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is the democratically elected self-government representative of the Manitoba Métis, Red River Métis. The Red River Métis are a distinct Indigenous people whose Rights have been recognized and affirmed as protected by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, as well as by the courts, and through agreements with the Crown. The MMF represents and advances the interests of Red River Métis Citizens and harvesters that rely on and use the lands, waters, and resources of their traditional territory throughout the province of Manitoba and across the National Homeland.

Through ongoing discussions over the past five years, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) and the MMF identified initiatives that would help address the MMF's concerns about the Whiteshell Laboratories Restoration Project. As a culmination of these discussions, in 2023 August, the MMF and CNL signed a multi-year contribution agreement. This agreement established a series of ongoing engagement activities to improve communications between the parties, including an annual leadership meeting and the creation of a MMF liaison position. Other initiatives include the development of a communications protocol for reportable events, the development of plain language materials on CNL activities, and support to enable MMF participation in environmental monitoring and economic activities at the Whiteshell site.

It should be noted that in February 2024, the MMF notified CNL of the MMF's decision to end the 2023 agreement. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories respects the MMF's decision while continuing to share information. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories remains open and interested in discussion with the MMF. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories aspires to rebuild a productive partnership with the MMF to enable full participation of Red River Métis Citizens in the various projects, licensing, economic benefits, and environmental protection opportunities.

In 2020, the MMF, CNL, and CNSC participated in six monthly update meetings to discuss the MMF's interest in participating in an Indigenous Advisory Committee, environmental monitoring, and developing a long-term relationship agreement.

In July 2020, the Manitoba Métis Federation observed a waste shipment from the pre-job to completion of loading. The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL also met that month to introduce CNL's new Indigenous Engagement Officer and discuss the Manitoba Métis Federation's comments on the Indigenous Advisory Committee Participation Agreement.

In September, CNL provided a list of all fall monitoring activities and invited the Manitoba Métis Federation to participate. Following this email, the Manitoba Métis Federation participated in mushroom sampling on site with CNL.

On October 14, 2020, CNL received Métis Cultural Awareness Training provided by the Louis Riel Institute. While this was not a direct engagement with the Manitoba Métis Federation, the training increased CNL and AECL staff knowledge on Métis history, culture, and the role of the Métis in the formation of Manitoba. Later that month, a Red River Métis representative visited the Whiteshell site and observed CNL process fish. CNL also provided an overview of CNL's environmental protection program.

In October 2020, CNL also met to discuss the WR-1 Project and a series of four workshops were planned to consider the MMF's comments on the Project. In November, the MMF and CNL held the first of these four workshops on WR-1.

On January 13 and 14, 2021, the MMF and CNL had teleconferences to plan for the upcoming workshops. The MMF and CNL had two additional planning meetings on January 27 and February 2, 2021, to discuss the goals, objectives, and agendas for the workshop.

The ground water and ground monitoring wells workshop with the Manitoba Métis Federation was held on February 9, 2021. The main topics of this workshop include surface water and ground water movement over the Whiteshell site and the placement and number of the planned ground monitoring wells around WR-1. As a result of feedback from the Manitoba Métis Federation during the workshop, CNL has included one additional ground monitoring well into their proposed follow-up monitoring program.

CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation held a follow-up teleconference on February 15, 2021 to discuss action items for the meeting and the outcomes of the workshop. CNL affirmed their commitment to adjusting the follow-up monitoring program to include an additional well on the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

As a follow-up to the workshop held on October 26, 2020, to discuss opportunities for collaboration, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation met via teleconference on February 18, 2021, to explore opportunities for collaboration in areas of similar interest including environmental monitoring and environmental sustainability. During the meeting, CNL learned about the multiple green initiatives the Manitoba Métis Federation was developing and leading. CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation created a list of long-term opportunities for collaboration specifically in site-wide tree planning, river erosion protection, and future land use. CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation also created a list of possible short-term objectives to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. These included supporting one of the Manitoba Métis Federation's green initiatives such as the Manitoba Métis Federation's commitment to plant two million trees, the MMF's environmental monitoring program, and the MMF's citizen science program.

The third WR-1 workshop on the Project's Alternative Means Assessment and Valued Component methodology was held on March 2, 2021.

On March 9, 2021, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation met via teleconference to discuss the development of the relationship agreement and liaison position for the Project. CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation held the fourth and final workshop to discuss CNL's environmental protection program and opportunities to incorporate Traditional Knowledge into

CNL's current environmental monitoring practices. As a result of the workshop, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL created action items to discuss further opportunities for participation of Métis citizens in environmental monitoring on site and to discuss supporting the Manitoba Métis Federation's green initiatives.

As a result of all the engagement that had taken place in late 2020 and early 2021, CNL created an engagement infographic to illustrate the engagement. The infographic included a list of engagements plus a brief description about each engagement. CNL sent the infographic to the Manitoba Métis Federation on April 12, 2021 for review.

On May 11, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL held a teleconference as a wrap-up to the workshop series, to review the four technical workshops on the WR-1 Project. As a follow-up to this wrap-up meeting, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation met on May 25, 2021, to discuss MMF involvement in the 2021 environmental monitoring field season. During the meeting, the Manitoba Métis Federation expressed which field monitoring they would be interested in participating in and which they would want to include Métis citizen scientists as participants. CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation also briefly discussed the types of support the Manitoba Métis Federation would need to participate in on site monitoring.

With the technical workshops complete, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL met on June 2, 2021, to discuss the relationship agreement. The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL developed the main elements the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL want included in the relationship agreement and discussed the process to help develop and implement the relationship agreement in a timely manner that was mutually beneficial for the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL.

On June 8, 2021, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation held a teleconference to continue their discussion on their participation in CNL's environmental monitoring. The Manitoba Métis Federation identified which activities they wanted to participate in and which they would like their citizen scientists to participate in.

To kick off the environmental monitoring season, on June 14, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation staff participated in ground water monitoring, a turtle search along the plant road, and a songbird survey. The Manitoba Métis Federation staff suggested setting up trail cameras along the plant road to better assess whether turtles were in the area.

On June 22 and 23, and July 13 and 14, 2021, Manitoba Métis Federation staff and Métis citizen scientists participated in evening bat surveying for Building 100 that houses WR-1. The purpose of the survey was to help assess whether bats were roosting in the building. On June 29, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL signed an MOU to support the Manitoba Métis Federation's involvement in environmental monitoring on site.

Towards the end of June and throughout July the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL continued their progress on developing a relationship agreement. On August 9, 2021, CNL sent a revised copy of the relationship agreement to the Manitoba Métis Federation for their review and feedback.

On August 12, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation participated in a tour of WR-1 and the waste management area and on August 16, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation came to site again to observe river sediment, soil, and vegetation sampling.

On August 19, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation, the CNSC, and CNL participated in a trilateral meeting to discuss that the WR-1 Project and the relationship agreement. The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL also met in a separate meeting on the same day to discuss support for the Red River Métis' green initiative and begin to identify which green initiative project required the most support. It was identified that the Red River Métis' initiative to plant two million trees needed the most support and after the meeting CNL held internal discussions on how to best support the initiative.

On August 30, 2021, CNL sent the Manitoba Métis Federation a revised budget for the relationship agreement for their review and feedback. After a few follow-up emails between the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL signed an MOU agreement on September 8, 2021, to support the Red River Métis' purchase of 5,000 tree saplings. On September 9, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation staff came to site to participate in mushroom collection on site and in the surrounding area. The Manitoba Métis Federation recommended CNL cut the mushrooms at the stem when they collect the mushrooms so that the mushroom has an opportunity to grow up. CNL has since adopted this method into their environmental practices.

On September 21, 2021, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation held a teleconference to discuss the draft budget, and economic participation and opportunities section in the relationship agreement. CNL sent a revised draft budget and relationship agreement to the Manitoba Métis Federation on September 29, 2021.

November 2021 saw many discussions and engagement activities with the Manitoba Métis Federation. On November 15, 2021, the Manitoba Métis Federation completed a technical review of CNL's annual compliance monitoring reports for the Whiteshell site and provided CNL with a copy. The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL met via teleconference on November 17, 2021, to discuss CNL's alpha targeted therapy project, which was an action from the Manitoba Métis Federation, CNL, and AECL Leadership Meeting.

Active discussions on the relationship agreement also occurred with the MMF and CNL meeting virtually on November 22, 2021 to review the draft relationship agreement. On December 7, 2021, CNL sent a revised copy of the relationship agreement to the Manitoba Métis Federation. This included additional revisions from the teleconference and further revisions on the procurement language.

The MMF also participated in the 2020 Regulatory Oversight Report meeting in late 2021, where the MMF provided recommendations on how CNL can continue to progress its relationship with the Manitoba Métis Federation through more active involvement in environmental monitoring activities on site. Over the next few years, the MMF and CNL worked on a practical level to incorporate these recommendations.

On January 6, 2022, the MMF and CNL held a meeting to discuss the relationship agreement where feedback was provided and revisions were discussed. On February 17, 2022, CNL sent a revised copy of the relationship agreement to the Manitoba Métis Federation for their review and feedback.

The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL engaged extensively in March 2022, meeting several times to discuss the WR-1 Project. On March 2, 2022, the MMF and CNL also met to discuss co-developing an infographic in preparation for the Manitoba Métis Federation's Annual General Assembly.

On April 16, 2022, CNL received the Manitoba Métis Federation's revised relationship agreement for CNL's consideration. In May 2022, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL discussed the relationship agreement and Indigenous economic participation.

On June 7, 2022, CNL welcomed the Manitoba Métis Federation's new coordinator to the Whiteshell site to collect mushrooms with CNL's environmental team.

The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL met on July 6, 2022 to discuss the status of the relationship agreement, environmental monitoring activities on site, and future engagement activities. CNL sent the revised relationship agreement back to the Manitoba Métis Federation on July 13, 2022, for their review and feedback. Also in July, on July 28, 2022, CNL hosted the Manitoba Métis Federation on site to participate in ground water sampling around the main campus.

August 2022 saw further focus on the relationship agreement. At the monthly meeting on August 8, 2022, the discussion between CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation focused on the relationship agreement. CNL presented at a Manitoba Métis Federation Community Consult Meeting in Lac du Bonnet on August 10, 2022. CNL shared information on their environmental monitoring program and answered questions from the citizens.

As a part of the MMF Citizen Science Program, Red River Métis Citizens participated in a bat survey at the Whiteshell site in the evening of August 17, 2022. On August 30, 2022, CNL sent a copy of CNL's environmental monitoring program schedule and requested the Manitoba Métis Federation to identify any activities of interest.

On September 7, 2022, at the monthly meeting, CNL and the Manitoba Métis Federation discussed the status of the relationship agreement, environmental monitoring and future engagement activities on the Project. CNL provided revisions to the relationship agreement for the Manitoba Métis Federation's review and feedback on September 9, 2022; these revisions are believed to have addressed any outstanding issues or concerns.

On September 11, 2022, CNL confirmed with the Manitoba Métis Federation that CNL will proceed with an "al la Carte sponsorship" and would participate in the trade show at the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly from October 14-16, 2022.



Later in September 16, CNL provided formal written responses to the Manitoba Métis Federation's comments on CNL's 2020 Annual Monitoring Compliance Reports for the Whiteshell site.

On September 22, 2022, there were emails between the parties regarding MMF participation in scheduled CNL monitoring activities. On September 26, 2022, CNL sent an email to the Manitoba Métis Federation inquiring on the status of the relationship agreement.

There was no monthly meeting in October, however, CNL and the MMF met on October 19 to discuss CNL's responses to the MMF comments on past annual compliance and monitoring reports.

On 2022 December 01 the MMF Energy and Infrastructure Coordinator, and MMF Water Resources Specialist attended the Whiteshell site to participate in environmental monitoring. CNL followed up on this activity by reaching out to the MMF within a week.

Another key engagement happened a few days later on December 7 when the MMF and CNL met to discuss expanding the MMF's monitoring program, the relationship agreement, addressing MMF's feedback from the 2021 Regulatory Oversight Report meeting and the priorities for engagement in 2023.

The first monthly meeting in 2023 was held on January 12. Topics of discussion included the relationship agreement, expanded MMF monitoring, the WR-1 Project and future land use and end state.

In January, CNL provided the MMF with the 2023 Environmental Monitoring Field Sampling Schedule and coordinated with the MMF to share CNL job postings.

The MMF and CNL held monthly meetings in February, March and April 2023, continuing discussions from the January monthly meeting.

In March CNL also provided the MMF a draft copy of the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy for review, as well as a fact sheet on the elevated levels of manganese that had occurred at Whiteshell.

On April 4, 2023, the MMF and CNL reached a milestone in their engagement, with the signing of a multi-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) contribution agreement. This agreement established a series of ongoing engagement activities to improve communications between the parties, including an annual leadership meeting and support to enable MMF participation in environmental monitoring and economic activities at and around the Whiteshell site.

Mid-April, MMF representatives attended the Whiteshell site for spring sampling at the lagoon as well as a meeting and site tour.

On May 3, 2023 the MMF and CNL held their monthly meeting where discussion focused on the recent Whiteshell Safety Stand Down and future land use and end state.

On May 30, 2023 the MMF participated in CNL's Land Use End State Conference, held at South Beach Casino on Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation. The June monthly meeting was held on June

21. In addition to a continuation of the topics of discussion from the May meeting, there was also a follow-up discussion on feedback from the Land Use End State Conference.

The next monthly meeting was held on August 2. The focus of discussion here was further follow-up to the Land Use End State Conference and the Safety Stand Down at Whiteshell, the Manitoba Métis Federation liaison position.

In August 2023, the MMF and CNL focussed engagement on the WR-1 Project, returning to monthly meetings on broader site-wide items in October. At the October monthly meeting, the MMF and CNL discussed fire protection and the Safety Stand Down, as well as plans for a site tour and CNL attending the MMF's Annual General Assembly, which CNL had a booth at later that month.

The Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL met twice on November 4, 2023. One meeting was held virtually to discuss the Manitoba Métis Federation's feedback on the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and the other was a Whiteshell Laboratories site tour, with a focus on CNL's environmental monitoring program.

Later in November, the Manitoba Métis Federation attended the Whiteshell site again to participate in the WMA well field sampling.

In November 2023, the Manitoba Métis Federation also participated in the annual CNSC Public Commission meeting on the 2022 Regulatory Oversight Report for CNL sites. During this meeting, and within their written submission, the Manitoba Métis Federation reiterated great interest in long-term stewardship of the WL site, transitioning the site for future beneficial use by Red River Métis Citizens. The Manitoba Métis Federation also brought forward specific concerns and recommendations related to the findings of the Regulatory Oversight Report. For instance, the Manitoba Métis Federation indicated the importance of the CNSC, CNL, and AECL (as applicable) actively engage with the Manitoba Métis Federation in identifying a meaningful process for safety performance evaluation post decommissioning, such that all parties remain assured of the safety and security for Whiteshell Laboratories into the future.

On December 6, CNL reached out to inform the Manitoba Métis Federation that the Routine Maintenance Work was restarting at the Whiteshell site in relation to the Whiteshell Safety Standdown. In response the Manitoba Métis Federation conveyed a desire for a Manitoba Métis Federation-CNL Communications Protocol.

In 2024 January, the Manitoba Métis Federation and CNL emailed back and forth on a number of items including leadership change at the Whiteshell Laboratories site, a company-wide community information bulletin, the Manitoba Métis Federation's invitation for CNL to participate in the 2024 Climate Symposium and a job posting for a new Indigenous Engagement Officer at the Whiteshell site.

At the monthly meeting on January 15, 2024, the MMF and CNL focussed discussion around the WR-1 Project and the MMF – CNL 2024 Workplan.

The MMF and CNL met again on January 23 to touch base on the 2024 Workplan, Manitoba Métis Federation Harvesting samples, the Manitoba Métis Federation Climate Symposium and the decommissioning conference in California that both CNL and the MMF were attending.

In mid-February, the MMF notified CNL of the MMF's decision to end the 2023 agreement. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories respects the MMF's decision while continuing to share information. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories remains open and interested in discussion with the MMF.

Information shared between the MMF and CNL between February 2024 and the end of July 2024 have included:

- CNL sharing information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024
- CNL inviting the MMF to participate in the 2024 Regional Leaders Gathering and CNL's April and June public webinars (note that one April webinar topic was the Whiteshell Fire Program)
- CNL providing the engagement section of the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement report for MMF review (March 2024)
- CNL sharing information on the CNSC's Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund (April 2024), on student job opportunities (May 2024) and staffing changes (June 2024)
- CNL inviting the MMF to review the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 licence renewal hearing and CNL sharing this section in June 2024
- The MMF providing comments back on the engagement section for the Commission Member Document in June, which suggested that CNL should update language to reflect the current status of the relationship.

Note that CNL incorporated the suggested changes on the Commission Member Document and shared these back with the MMF, who came back with further comments in July 2024, which CNL also incorporated into the CMD.

While engagement is not ongoing with the MMF as of July 31, 2024, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories aspires to rebuild a productive partnership with the MMF to enable full participation of Red River Métis Citizens in the various projects, licensing, economic benefits and environmental protection opportunities.

For the most part, CNL believes the foundation of the relationship between the MMF and CNL has been enhanced over the past five years. The MMF have been engaging with CNL on key areas of interest and concern. In particular, Métis participation in the environmental monitoring program has been substantial with the involvement of the Citizen Scientists, CNL's incorporation of MMF guidance on mushroom-sampling, and the 2023 MOA support for the MMF's environmental monitoring, which has enabled the MMF-led Harvester Sampling Plan for the site. CNL anticipates that the Harvester Sampling Plan will continue to inform CNL's environmental protection program at Whiteshell Laboratories through the next licensing period.

#### **4.4 Black River First Nation Hollow Water First Nation**

The Black River First Nation is an Anishinaabe community, and signatory to Treaty No. 5. Black River First Nation has Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the vicinity of the Whiteshell Laboratories site. The primary language used is Ojibwe.

The Hollow Water First Nation, also known as Waanibiigaaw or Wanipigow in Ojibwe, is also an Anishinaabe (Ojibwa) First Nation and signatory to Treaty No. 5.

Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation had chosen to engage jointly with CNL regarding the Whiteshell Laboratories site. Therefore, this section includes engagement between both First Nations and CNL. Though it should be noted that as of September 2024, CNL understands that Hollow Water First Nation is conducting internal consultation with their community to generate a position on the Whiteshell decommissioning.

Black River Nation had some engagement with CNL in the first half of 2020 related to the WR-1 Project. And, in September 2020, Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation and CNL met and discussed Black River and Hollow Water First Nations' engagement organizational framework.

On October 20, 2020, CNL hosted a multi-community event at the Whiteshell Laboratories site to discuss CNL's environmental protection program and to observe CNL's fish processing, which is part of CNL's routine environmental monitoring program. Two representatives from Black River and Hollow Water First Nations attended. Participants also made several recommendations on how to incorporate species of interest to the communities into CNL's monitoring program. A workshop report was circulated to participants for review and comment. CNL did not receive any feedback on the report from the participants.

On October 27, 2020, Black River and Hollow Water First Nations' consultant, met with CNL to discuss a two-year engagement plan that would support engagement with both communities.

In December 2020, Black River and Hollow Water First Nations met with CNL to discuss funding needs for the two communities. Early in the new year, on January 19, 2021, CNL shared a draft of the proposed agreement.

In February 2021, CNL met with Black River and Hollow Water First Nations' consultants to review the communities' proposed changes to the Contribution Agreement. This Contribution Agreement supported an engagement framework through several initiatives including a Community Liaison position. Black River First Nation, Hollow Water First Nation, and CNL signed a two-year relationship agreement on April 6.

On April 12, 2021, CNL provided a list of environmental monitoring activities for the 2021 field season and invited the communities to set up a meeting to discuss which activities the communities wanted to participated in.

On May 13, 2021, CNL held a meeting to introduce the new liaison officer to the CNL team and provide some initial background information on CNL, Whiteshell Laboratories and the WR-1 Project. Later in the month, the new Liaison Officer and CNL representatives met to review and finalize the onboarding process and begin to schedule the site tours and presentations.

On May 20, 2021, at the request of Black River First Nation, CNL gave a presentation on the Project to members of the Lake Winnipeg Collective.

Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation's Liaison Officer first visited site and took a tour of WR-1 on May 25, 2021. On June 1, 2021, the Liaison Officer participated in a radiation 101 course.

On June 23, 2021, CNL met via teleconference with Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation to discuss how they would like to participate in environmental monitoring. On July 6, 2021, CNL and the communities had a follow-up discussion on which environmental monitoring activities the communities wanted to participate in.

The Liaison Officer came to the Whiteshell site for various activities over the course of the summer. On July 14, 2021, the Liaison Officer participated in a bat survey for Building 100, which houses WR-1. The Liaison Officer visited site and participated in a WR-1 and Waste Management Area tour on August 11, 2021. And, on August 16, 2021, the Liaison Officer observed river sediment sampling, soil, and vegetation surveys on site.

Hollow Water First Nation participated in an exploratory discussion on the formation of an Indigenous Advisory Committee for the Whiteshell site on August 11. During the meeting the participants worked on key elements of a terms of reference for the committee.

In late summer and into the fall of 2021, Black River and Hollow Water First Nations focused engagement with CNL on the WR-1 Project.

On November 10, 2021, CNL, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation held a teleconference to go over the budget for the relationship agreement and to set next milestones and target dates for key activities within the relationship agreement.

Discussions and information sharing relating to the environmental assessment continued into the beginning of 2022. On February 8, 2022, Black River First Nation and CNL met and discussed priority engagement items for the community. Later, on February 16, 2022, CNL met with Black River First Nation to discuss the development of community specific communications material. Black River First Nation provided a list of topics that they would like to communicate to the community.

On April 13, 2022, Black River and Hollow Water First Nations and CNL discussed setting up a site tour with the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation Core Engagement Team and CNL's environmental monitoring team. A month later, they met again to discuss the WR-1 Project and developing communications materials.

In May, Black River and Hollow Water First Nations met with CNL to discuss the logistics for the upcoming site tour, and on June 9, 2022. CNL hosted the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation Core Engagement Team for their first site tour.

CNL, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation discussed CNL's participation in the upcoming Treaty Days via teleconference on July 13, 2022. Later in July, on July 28, 2022, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation participated in berry picking near the former Underground Research Laboratory site.

August 2022 engagement focused on further discussions regarding the WR-1 Project and the First Nations' involvement in environmental monitoring at Whiteshell Laboratories.

The monthly meeting with CNL, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation, on August 17, 2022, focused on upcoming engagements, exploring areas of interest, and updates on the decommissioning work at the site. On August 30, 2022, CNL sent a copy of CNL's monitoring program schedule, inviting Black River and Hollow Water First Nations' participation.

On September 8, 2022, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation participated in mushroom collection from three locations around the Whiteshell site.

At the September 14, 2022, monthly meeting, CNL, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation discussed extending the existing relationship agreement and coordinating future environmental monitoring activities.

There was much coordination and communication during the week of September 25, 2022, culminating in a fall medicinal plant walk at the Whiteshell site with Elders and members from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation on September 29, 2022.

At the October 2022 monthly meeting the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation representatives and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project, the agreement extension, upcoming school engagement activities and a monitoring work plan.

Engagement through the final few months of 2022 and into the beginning of 2023 focussed on the WR-1 Project and the First Nations' participation in the Environmental Impact Statement submission.

At the first monthly meeting of 2022, on January 11, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project, future land use end state and a monitoring workplan.

Early February 2023 brought an opportunity for the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation to participate in monitoring at the Whiteshell site on February 1. Several water samples were collected and sent off-site for analysis.

The monthly working group meeting was held on February 9 where Black River and Hollow Water First Nations and CNL continued discussions from the last monthly meeting. CNL also coordinated the sharing of CNL job postings with Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation this month.

On February 17, CNL shared a report with Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation on elevated levels of manganese at the Whiteshell site.

Later in the month, representatives of Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation met with CNL in Hollow Water First Nation for the Quarterly Core Engagement Team meeting.

On March 7, CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor emailed the Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation Project Coordinator shared an open invite to community members to come to the Whiteshell site.

One day later, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation requested some information on Sturgeon and contact information for CNL's contact with the Provincial government. In relation to this, that same day, CNL requested the Provincial government contact follow-up on possibly involvement with monitoring activities.

At the March monthly meeting Black River and Hollow Water First Nations and CNL focused on progressing discussions from the February monthly meeting. A few days after this meeting, CNL shared its Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and requested feedback from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation.

On April 13, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL signed an agreement extension for the MOA.

At the April monthly meeting on the 19th, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL discussed the Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, future land use and end state, participation in the August 2024 Nuclear Waste Management Decommissioning Environmental Remediation (NWMDER) conference in Niagara Falls, a monitoring workplan and CNL participation in school activities.

On May 1, CNL shared a memo on the Whiteshell Site Safety Standdown. CNL also invited Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation to CNL's Land Use End State Conference planned for May 30. At the monthly meeting on May 11, the First Nations and CNL discussed this conference, the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and environmental monitoring. In follow-up to discussions on environmental monitoring at the monthly meeting, CNL shared sampling results of key plants including blueberries and mushrooms.

On May 30, representatives from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation attended Land Use and End State Conference hosted by CNL at the South Beach Casino on Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation.

The June 14 monthly meeting included follow-up discussions on future land use and end state from conference, a discussion on nuclear waste management and education and school initiatives.

In early July CNL shared a draft of the land use end state plan for comment. In mid-July Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL held the July monthly meeting and discussed Treaty Days, the WR-1 Project, the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down, land use and end state and environmental monitoring.

On July 12, CNL shared the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) results with Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation. These results confirmed that the environment around the Whiteshell site remained protected.

On August 9, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL held their monthly meeting. This meeting was focused on the WR-1 Project, the Whiteshell Safety Standdown, Environmental Monitoring, land use and end state, progress on building decommissioning at the Whiteshell sites and CNL participation in school programming in the community.

Towards the end of August, the Project Coordinator representing Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation attended the 2023 NWMDER conference.

On September 19, CNL shared a link to the new CNL Indigenous Vendors Portal, a part of CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy.

On October 3, CNL's Indigenous Engagement Coordinator and the First Nations' Project Coordinator met to coordinate an upcoming presentation on nuclear science CNL was doing at a school in the community.

The monthly meeting for October was held on October 4 in Hollow Water First Nation. This meeting was also the Quarterly Core Engagement Team Meeting. Discussion focused on a presentation from CNL on the Land Use and End State Plan for Whiteshell, a review of the NWMDER Conference, an update on the upcoming school presentation, an update on CNL's environmental monitoring, School Presentation Update, CNL Environmental Monitoring update, an update on the WR-1 Project, CNSC's REGDOC 3.2.2 and the Sagkeeng First Nation's Niigan Aki community environmental monitoring program.

On October 6, 2023 CNL shared an email inviting participation in some upcoming fish sampling. Mid-month, representatives of Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL held a dinner together.

On October 24, CNL representatives, including a Health Physicist and Indigenous Relations Coordinator attended the Black River First Nation elementary school with the First Nations' Project Coordinator. CNL held different sessions for Grade 7 and Grade 8 classes. The presentation included an introduction to CNL, and an introduction to radiation protection.

In early November 2023, CNL and Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation shared emails back and forth on CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy. CNL provided clarification on the Indigenous Business Certification Form.

The November monthly working group meeting was held on November 20. The focus of this meeting was the Whiteshell Low Level Waste Trenches, which included discussion on what options CNL was considering for managing these waste trenches.

Another thing to note is correspondence in the fall of 2023 Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL had on how to obtain a Geiger kit from the CNS. Being able to measure radioactivity was important for the First Nations in understanding the Whiteshell site.

In 2024, Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation and CNL have continued regular engagement with bi-weekly touch base meetings to support coordination of wider engagement initiatives, including the monthly meetings, engagement related to the environmental assessment for the WR-1 Project, community tree planting and environmental monitoring opportunities.

On January 31, 2024, representatives from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation, including community members, consultants, and staff, met representatives of CNL and AECL at the Whiteshell site for the Quarterly Core Engagement Team meeting. The Whiteshell site tour included a stop at the river, a tour of WR-1, the Fire Hall, WMA, and stops at the



Lagoon and Outfall. The meeting discussion included updates from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation, an introduction to the low-level waste trenches, a review of the CNL draft quarterly environmental monitoring report for Indigenous communities, and a presentation from the Sagkeeng First Nation's Niigan Aki Program Manager. Discussions involved the WR-1 project, community involvement in monitoring, communications about monitoring, waste transportation and land use and end state. CNL also introduced a possible format for sharing regular updates on its monitoring with community members.

Throughout February 2024, communications revolved around CNL involvement with tree planting days in the spring, regular communication updates like the maintenance work restart information bulletin and meeting logistics.

At the February monthly meeting, participation from the two First Nations in upcoming CNL environmental monitoring was discussed.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on the 2024 licensing hearing via email, including the licence amendment application, the CNSC Notice of Hearing and information on the CNSC Participant Funding Program. CNL also offered support for First Nations to participate in the hearing.

At the March monthly meeting, the WR-1 EIS was a topic of focus along with the October licensing hearing and logistics around tree planting days in the two First Nation communities.

On March 22, 2024, CNL provided the engagement summary for the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report for review and verification. CNL also offered capacity for this review.

March 2024 also saw emails and dialogue at meetings about a potential benchmarking trip so that community members could see waste management practices at CNL's Chalk River Laboratories site in Ontario.

There was ongoing email correspondence throughout April 2024 between representatives from Black River and Hollow Water First Nations and CNL. Topics of focus included logistics for upcoming engagement events like the tree planting days and monthly meetings.

On April 24, 2024, representatives from CNL and Black River and Hollow Water First Nations met in person in Winnipeg to discuss a possible benchmarking trip to Chalk River Laboratories, their feedback on the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report summary and the tree planting event.

In early May of 2024, members from the CNL team, including the WR-1 Project Manager and engagement staff attended the Core Engagement Team meeting in Hollow Water First Nation. CNL staff shared overviews on the WR-1 Project, CNL's Environmental Protection and Monitoring, and the WL Land Use End State program. Throughout the meeting there was dialogue between community members and CNL.

On May 9, 2024, Black River and Hollow Water First Nation provided feedback on the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report engagement summary, which CNL incorporated into that document and this EIS.

On May 15, 2024, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 licence renewal hearing. And, on June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024.

As a result of earlier interest that Black River and Hollow Water First Nations had shared about involvement in monitoring, Elders, community members and consultants with Black River and Hollow Water First Nations participated in the May 22 mushroom collection activities at the WL site, alongside Sagkeeng. This day included a tour of the collection and analysis laboratory at WL.

On June 4, 2024, representatives from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation participated in the Regional Leaders Gathering hosted by CNL in Beausejour. The Regional Leaders Gathering facilitated discussions amongst leaders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with CNL. The focus was on CNL projects, including WR-1, environmental monitoring, and gathering feedback on Trenches and Land Use End State. Participants from BRFN included: Chief Kent, Oral Johnston (Special Projects), Kelsey Boubard (Project Liaison and Lands Manager), Des Abraham (Lands Manager in-Training), Elder Bill Abraham; and from HWFN included: Councillor Wesley Moneas, Nolan Moneyas (Prevention Land Based Coordinator / Core Engagement Team member, Kyle Hardisty (Income Assistance Coordinator / Core Engagement Team member).

In mid-June of 2024 the tree planting days occurred in both communities in addition to a barbeque hosted in Hollow Water First Nation for tree planting participants.

On June 19, 2024, alongside Sagkeeng, Representatives from Black River and Hollow Water First Nations participated in field monitoring and mapping for milkweed.

In July of 2024, CNL continued to involve Black River and Hollow Water First Nation in monitoring opportunities with an invitation to the bat exit survey.

The July 2024 monthly meeting was held virtually and featured an update on the WR-1 EIS resubmission, as well as recent and upcoming engagement, and the WL site licence renewal hearing.

Engagement between Black River and CNL, as well as Hollow Water First Nation and CNL, continues to create positive growth in the relationship. CNL anticipates furthering these relationships into the next licensing period with greater monitoring involvement and more in-community outreach with members from Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation.

#### **4.5 Brokenhead Ojibway Nation**

The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation is an Anishinaabe (Saulteaux/Ojibwa) First Nation. The First Nation is a signatory to Treaty No. 1. The Brokenhead Ojibway Nation occupies three areas of reserve lands. Brokenhead 4 Reserve No. 06361 is the largest and is situated approximately 44 km northwest of the Whiteshell site.

Prior to 2020 Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and CNL held some engagement activities, alongside Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation – primarily related to the WR-1

environmental assessment. However, in August 2020, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation confirmed they did not want to participate in the Indigenous Advisory Committee, nor did they want to have an Indigenous liaison position in their community, despite CNL's offer to provide them with capacity funding. Brokenhead stated they were content to continue to engage through the regulatory process for the WR-1 Project's environmental assessment.

In fall of 2020, CNL received verbal confirmation from Brokenhead Ojibway Nation that they had no interest in further engagement on the WR-1 Project. CNL respects this position and remains interested in future engagement with Brokenhead if the community chooses to re-engage.

CNL continues to share information with Brokenhead Ojibway Nation on activities and projects at Whiteshell Laboratories, as well as invitations to meet with CNL, tour the site, share feedback on key documents and offers of capacity to support review.

Throughout 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 CNL reached out with offers to participate in the review and development of content for the WR-1 Project's Environmental Impact Statement, since early in the WR-1 Project, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation had indicated interest in the Project and Whiteshell Laboratories.

In mid-November of 2022, CNL shared a letter to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation Chief and Council outlining next steps for future land use end state engagement.

In March 2023, CNL shared the draft Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy with Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and offered a meeting to discuss.

On May 30, 2023 representatives from Brokenhead Ojibway Nation attended the Land Use and End State Conference hosted by CNL at the South Beach Casino on Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. In follow-up to this conference, in early July CNL shared a draft of the land use end state plan for comment.

In September 2023, CNL shared a link to the new CNL Indigenous Vendors Portal, a part of CNL's Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy.

On October 20, 2023 CNL shared notice of CNL's Administrative Penalty from the CNSC.

In early November, CNL emailed Brokenhead Ojibway Nation inviting them to coordinate a review meeting to provide feedback on the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy.

In January 2024, CNL provided Brokenhead Ojibway Nation with three updates; CNL shared the posting for the role of Indigenous Engagement officer, CNL also notified Brokenhead Ojibway Nation of the change in leadership at the Whiteshell Laboratories site, and, on January 31, CNL shared the link for a CNL Public disclosure Notice.

On February 9, 2024, CNL shared an information bulletin with all engaged Indigenous Nations, which contained information on maintenance work restarting at Whiteshell Laboratories.

CNL also shared an invitation to the February public webinar this month.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024

On March 22, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with BON for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19. CNL also followed up in mid-April. CNL did not receive any feedback from BON.

In April, CNL invited BON to participate in the 2024 Regional Leaders Gathering in June 2024 and to attend CNL's April public webinar, which focussed on the Whiteshell Fire Program. BON did not attend.

This month, CNL also shared information on the CNSC's Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund.

On May 2, CNL followed up with further information on the Regional Leaders Gathering and on May 15, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 licence renewal hearing. On June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024. CNL followed up on June 24, 2024, to see if BON was interested in reviewing the Commission Member Document. CNL did not receive feedback from BON on the IER or CMD and no representatives from BON attended the Regional Leaders Gathering.

CNL continues to share information about ongoing and future activities at the Whiteshell site with Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and remains open to renewing engagement if Brokenhead expresses interest in the future.

#### **4.6 Wabaseemoong Independent Nations**

The Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (also known as Wabaseemoong Independent Nations of One Man Lake, Swan Lake, and White Dog) are signatories to Treaty No. 3. The Wabaseemoong Independent Nations have Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the vicinity of Whiteshell Laboratories.

CNL and Wabaseemoong Independent Nations have had some engagement regarding the Whiteshell Laboratories site and in 2023, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations has indicated that their engagement with CNL will be through Grand Council Treaty #3.

CNL continues to share information with Wabaseemoong Independent Nations on activities and projects at Whiteshell Laboratories, as well as invitations to meet with CNL, tour the site, share feedback on key documents and offers of capacity to support review.

Throughout the past five years CNL has also reached out with offers to participate in the review and development of content for the WR-1 Project's Environmental Impact Statement, since early in the WR-1 Project, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations had indicated interest in the Project and Whiteshell Laboratories.

In August 2020, CNL invited them to participate in a site tour, which Wabaseemoong Independent Nations indicated interest in attending. In September 2020, CNL sent an invitation to Wabaseemoong Independent Nations inviting them to participate in CNL's fall monitoring activities.

On June 6, 2021, CNL sent the community an invitation to participate in an exploratory discussion on developing an Indigenous Advisory Committee at Whiteshell Laboratories.

On July 20, 2021, CNL and a representative from Wabaseemoong Independent Nations held a teleconference about the WR-1 Project.

In the summer and early fall of 2021, a representative from Wabaseemoong Independent Nations participated in the two exploratory discussions on developing an Indigenous Advisory Committee for the Whiteshell site. The two sessions were held on August 12, 2021 and September 28, 2021.

On May 16, 2022, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations and CNL about the WR-1 Project. On July 12, 2022, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations and CNL had a phone conversation and discussed current events and upcoming availability for a site tour.

On August 26, 2022, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations and CNL discussed setting up a date for a tour. Wabaseemoong Independent Nations suggested calling in a few weeks to confirm interest in attending a tour. CNL sent a copy of CNL's monitoring program schedule on August 30, 2022, and requested Wabaseemoong Independent Nations to identify any activities of interest. CNL followed up with an email on September 23, 2022, regarding recent discussions about meeting with the Wabaseemoong Independent Nations leadership team and doing a site tour. CNL reaffirmed their interest to meet and coordinate those activities. CNL also requested Wabaseemoong Independent Nations identify any specific monitoring activities that they wish to be involved with, from the list provided to them on August 30, 2022.

On October 4, CNL sent the 2021 Annual Compliance Monitoring Reports for Whiteshell Laboratories.

In March 2023, CNL shared a copy of the draft CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy with Wabaseemoong Independent Nations for input and discussion.

In April, CNL emailed Wabaseemoong Independent Nations to confirm that Wabaseemoong Independent Nations was still not interested in engagement with CNL, since CNL had not heard back from Wabaseemoong recently. Wabaseemoong Independent Nations responded that their engagement with CNL would be through Grand Council Treaty #3.

In May 2023, CNL invited Wabaseemoong to the Land Use End State Conference and shared key information updates on the Whiteshell Safety Standdown. On July 4, in follow-up to the CNL-hosted Land Use End State Conference, CNL shared its Land Use End State plan with Wabaseemoong Independent Nations for input.

At the monthly meeting between Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL in September 2023, CNL heard an update from Wabaseemoong Independent Nations.

Later that fall, CNL followed up with Wabaseemoong Independent Nations on the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy. CNL also shared the Indigenous Vendors Portal in the fall of 2023. In November, Wabaseemoong indicated that capacity was an issue for reviewing the Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy and CNL offered to follow-up in 2024.

In January 2024, CNL provided Wabaseemoong Independent Nations with updates including the change in leadership at the Whiteshell Laboratories site, and, on January 31, CNL shared a community information bulletin related to CNSC notification.

On February 9, 2024, CNL shared an information bulletin with all engaged Indigenous Nations, which contained information on maintenance work restarting at Whiteshell Laboratories. CNL also shared an invitation to the February public webinar this month.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024.

On March 22, 2024 CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with WIN for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19, 2024. CNL did not receive any feedback from WIN.

In April 2024, CNL invited WIN to participate in the 2024 Regional Leaders Gathering in June 2024 and to attend CNL's April public webinar, which focused on the Whiteshell Fire Program. This month, CNL also shared information on the CNSC's Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund.

On May 2, 2024 CNL followed up with further information on the Regional Leaders Gathering and on May 15, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal hearing. On June 10, 2024 CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024.

On June 19, WIN's Coordinator replied to the June 10 email, stating that WIN would participate as a part of Grand Council Treaty #3. CNL's Indigenous Relations Officer responded the following day noting that CNL was meeting with Grand Council Treaty #3 and offering to set a call with WIN and encouraging WIN participation in the monthly meetings between Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL. CNL shared this correspondence with Grand Council Treaty #3 to ensure transparency.

CNL continues to share information about ongoing and future activities at the Whiteshell site with Wabaseemoong Independent Nations and remains open to renewing more fulsome engagement if there is interest from Wabaseemoong Independent Nations.

#### **4.7 Grand Council Treaty #3**

Grand Council Treaty #3 (GCT3) is an umbrella treaty organization which represents 28 First Nations and 5 First Nations with interest in Whiteshell Laboratories, including, Shoal Lake No. 40 First Nation, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation (Shoal Lake No. 39 First Nation), Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation, Wabaseemoong Independent Nations and Sagkeeng First Nation.

Treaty 3 territory includes parts of eastern Manitoba, including the Whiteshell site. More information on Grand Council Treaty #3 can be found on the GCT3 website: <https://gct3.ca/>.

As the following section illustrates, within the last five years, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL have progressed their relationship and now have regular engagement regarding Whiteshell Laboratories.

On July 21, 2020 Grand Council Treaty #3 representatives attended a tour of the Whiteshell site. The tour included a visit to the Waste Management Area and WR-1. Then, in mid-August of 2020, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL held an introductory meeting to discuss the WR-1 Project.

In 2021, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL met once regarding the WR-1 Project and environmental monitoring at Whiteshell Laboratories.

On July 7, 2022, CNL contacted Grand Council Treaty #3 to confirm the correct contact information for Grand Council Treaty #3 Chiefs. After this, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL began to engage more regularly and established monthly meetings.

In September 2022, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL met virtually to share an overview of the Whiteshell Laboratories site and the WR-1 Project. Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL also discussed future engagements.

The following month, in October 2022, CNL shared its 2021 Annual Compliance Monitoring Report with Grand Council Treaty #3.

In November 2022, CNL provided GCT #3 with a letter that provided an update and next steps for future land use end state engagement for the Whiteshell site.

The December monthly working group held on December 15, 2022 focused on land use end-state discussions.

On January 17, 2023, CNL shared the 2023 CNL environmental monitoring field sampling schedule to invite the participation of Grand Council Treaty #3 in monitoring activities if there was interest.

At the March 2023 working group meeting Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project, future land use and end state and procurement. CNL and Grand Council Treaty #3 also met again on March 8, 2023 to continue discussions.

On March 10, 2023, CNL shared the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy; CNL also offered a meeting to discuss this draft document further.

Note that in April 2023, CNL heard from Wabaseemoong Independent Nations' engagement with CNL would be through Grand Council Treaty #3. CNL has noted this and continues to reach out to Wabaseemoong Independent Nations with information updates about the project while engaging with Grand Council Treaty #3 with the understanding that Grand Council Treaty #3 is representing Wabaseemoong Independent Nations.

The 2023 April working group meeting, held on April 11, 2023, focused on CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, planning a leadership meeting, and community environmental monitoring programs.

In May 2023, CNL invited Grand Council Treaty #3 to the Land Use End State Conference and shared key information updates on the Whiteshell Safety Standdown. On July 4, in follow-up to the CNL-hosted Land Use End State Conference, CNL shared its Land Use End State plan with Grand Council Treaty #3 for input.

Grand Council Treaty #3 Territorial Planning Unit staff attended the CNL Land Use End State Conference held in Brokenhead Ojibway Nation on May 30.

The 2023 June monthly meeting, held on 2023 June 22, focused on GCT #3 Grand Council Treaty #3's feedback on the CNL Land Use End State Conference, the WR-1 Project and a possible leadership meeting.

At the 2023 July monthly meeting, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project focused, future land use end state and CNL provided an update on the CNL Whiteshell Safety Stand Down.

In July 2023, CNL shared an updated draft of the land use end state document as well as the Whiteshell Laboratories Land use end state handout.

On August 8, 2023, Grand Council Treaty #3 invited CNL to join a meet and greet between Sagkeeng First Nation and GCT#3 for the 150-year Treaty #3 celebration.

At the 2023 August monthly meeting, held on August 15, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project, land use end state and the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down.

On September 19, 2023 CNL shared the links to the newly launched CNL Indigenous Vendors Portal, and Indigenous Business network; an initiative that stems from the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy.

At the September, October and November monthly meetings Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL continued discussions from the August monthly meeting.

On October 20, CNL shared notice of CNL's administrative penalty from the CNSC.

In early November of 2023 Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL met to discuss Grand Council Treaty #3 feedback on the Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy.

On November 9, 2023, Grand Council Treaty #3's Policy Manager and Environmental Monitoring Coordinator toured Whiteshell Laboratories. The tour included a stop at the Waste Management Area, WR-1, and the Winnipeg River.

Later this month, CNL also invited Grand Council Treaty #3 to the December 19 Public Liaison Community meeting.

In December of 2023 CNL informed Grand Council Treaty #3 of CNL's intention to begin exploring options and meaningful input for the low-level waste trenches.

In January 2024, CNL provided Grand Council Treaty #3 with updates including the change in leadership at the Whiteshell Laboratories site, and, on January 31, CNL shared a community information bulletin related to CNSC notification.



At the January working group meeting, held on January 16, Grand Council Treaty #3 and CNL planned to discuss the Low-Level Waste Trenches Remediation. Grand Council Treaty #3 had technical difficulties, and the meeting had to be rescheduled to February 1. At this meeting CNL and Grand Council Treaty #3 discussed CNL's participation in the upcoming Grand Council Treaty #3's National Environmental Gathering.

At the February 1 meeting CNL and GCT #3 discussed CNL's participation in the upcoming GCT #3 National Environmental Gathering.

Later in February, CNL's Director End State Strategy, General Manager, Indigenous Engagement Officer, and Environmental Specialist attended the GCT #3 National Environmental Gathering on February 20 and 21 of 2024. CNL shared a presentation on the WR-1 Project, Indigenous engagement and Environmental Monitoring at Whiteshell Laboratories.

CNL shared information on the 2024 licensing hearing via email on March 11, 2024. This included information on the license amendment application, the CNSC Notice of Hearing and information on the CNSC Participant Funding Program. CNL also offered to support GCT #3's participation in the hearing.

At the monthly meeting on March 14, 2024, GCT #3 and CNL discussed the WR-1 Project and participation in the relicensing hearing.

On March 22, 2024, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with GCT#3 for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19. Ongoing information sharing correspondence occurred throughout March.

The Grand Council Treaty #3 Policy Manager emailed CNL's Indigenous Engagement Officer on April 4, 2024, with a series of questions from a community member regarding waste transportation and fuel consolidation at Chalk River Laboratories.

On April 16 the GCT #3 Policy Manager emailed CNL's Indigenous Engagement Officer with their review of the engagements section of the WR-1 IER, which CNL incorporated into the IER and this section of the EIS. GCT #3's comments included questions about why particular Nations represented by GCT #3 were identified for engagement and why others weren't. GCT #3 also stated that Wabaseemoong Independent Nations (WIN) had not told GCT #3 to represent them in any way pertaining to engagement on the Project. However, GCT #3 informed CNL that they are not "representing" WIN but are instead keeping WIN updated on the Whiteshell Project when requested by WIN to do so. GCT #3 also informed CNL that CNL still had a duty to consult mandate with WIN that was separate from communication between GCT #3 and CNL. GCT #3 informed CNL that that CNL was still responsible for carry out the duty to consult procedures for all First Nation communities that are involved in the Whiteshell Project.

The same day – April 16, 2024 – CNL and GCT #3 held the April monthly meeting, where representatives discussed the Whiteshell site licence renewal hearing, an update on the site tour, and GCT #3's review and feedback of the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report. In this meeting CNL shared more about how the list of identified Indigenous communities had been selected for the environmental assessment.

Correspondence in April included information on the CNSC's Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund and an invitation for GCT #3 to attend the June Regional Leaders Gathering. On May 2, GCT #3 responded that they could not attend and requested that CNL provide notes from the event.

The May monthly meeting was held virtually on May 21. From GCT #3 the Policy Manager, Environmental Manager and Junior Policy Analyst all attended and from CNL, the Director of End Use Strategy, the Director of Communications & Engagement, the Manager of Communications and Engagement, an Indigenous Engagement Officer, an Indigenous Relations Advisor, and a Senior Communications Officer attended. Discussion included WL relicensing, CNL environmental monitoring updates, invitations to CNL community events and Grand Council's questions for CNL, which had been received from community members on waste.

On May 15, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories license renewal hearing and on June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024.

On June 5, 2024, CNL shared back the WR-1 IER section with the review and comments from GCT #3 incorporated.

Towards the end of June 2024, CNL shared back the questions received on waste transportation and fuel that had been received in April.

On June 9, GCT #3's Policy Manager provided their review of the Commission Member Document with no changes noted.

The July monthly meeting, held on July 16, included representatives from CNL, AECL and GCT #3. Discussion included the WR-1 EIS, the site licence renewal hearing, land use strategy and options for trenches decommissioning. GCT #3 shared community updates and CNL shared their environmental monitoring schedule to facilitate involvement if there was interest.

On July 22, Grand Council Treaty #3's Policy Manager emailed CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor to share that another community member had questions on waste transportation. CNL responded asking for the questions so CNL could provide a response.

CNL is committed to continuing ongoing engagement with Grand Council Treaty #3 and working with the Grand Council on the interests and concerns of the First Nations represented by Grand Council Treaty #3.

#### **4.8 Shoal Lake #40 First Nation**

Shoal Lake #40 First Nation is an Ojibway or Ontario Saulteaux First Nation reserve located in the Eastman Region of Manitoba and the Kenora District of Ontario. Shoal Lake #40 is a member of the Grand Council of Treaty 3.

CNL has continually reached out to Shoal Lake #40 over the past five years via correspondence and telephone calls. Shoal Lake #40 has yet to respond or indicate an interest in engaging with CNL on either the WR-1 Project or the Whiteshell Laboratories more generally.

Since 2020, CNL has shared information and requests for participation and feedback on the WR-1 Project, community information bulletins on the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down and other information, invitations to meet, information on leadership changes, the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, information on land use end state and offers of capacity to support engagement.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024.

On March 22, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with Shoal Lake #40 First Nation for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19. CNL did not receive any feedback from Shoal Lake #40 First Nation.

On May 15, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal hearing. On June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024. CNL followed up on June 20 to see if Shoal Lake #40 First Nation was interested in reviewing the Commission Member Document. CNL did not receive feedback from Shoal Lake #40 First Nation.

CNL continues to share information about ongoing and future activities at the Whiteshell site with Shoal Lake #40 and remains open to engagement if Shaol Lake #40 expresses interest.

CNL is also engaging Grand Council Treaty #3, of which Shaol Lake #40 a member.

#### **4.9 Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation**

Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation is an Anishnaabe community located in northwestern Ontario. Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation is a member of the Grand Council of Treaty 3.

CNL has continually reached out to Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 over the past five years via correspondence and telephone calls. Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 has yet to respond or indicate an interest in engaging with CNL on either the WR-1 Project or the Whiteshell Laboratories more generally.

Since 2020, CNL has shared information and requests for participation and feedback on the WR-1 Project, community information bulletins on the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down and other information, invitations to meet, information on leadership changes, the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, information on land use end state and offers of capacity to support engagement.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024.

On March 22, 2024, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation for review and verification. CNL

asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19. CNL did not receive any feedback from Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation.

On May 15, 2024, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal hearing. On June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024. CNL followed up on June 20 to see if Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation was interested in reviewing the Commission Member Document. CNL did not receive feedback from Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation.

CNL continues to share information about ongoing and future activities at the Whiteshell site with Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 and remains open to engagement if Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 expresses interest.

CNL is also engaging Grand Council Treaty #3, of which Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 a member.

#### **4.10 Northwest Angle No. 33 (Treaty No. 3)**

Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation northwestern Ontario. Northwest Angle No. 33 is a member of the Grand Council of Treaty 3.

CNL has continually reached out to Northwest Angle No. 33 over the past five years via correspondence and telephone calls. Northwest Angle No. 33 has yet to respond or indicate an interest in engaging with CNL on either the WR-1 Project or the Whiteshell Laboratories more generally.

Since 2020, CNL has shared information and requests for participation and feedback on the WR-1 Project, community information bulletins on the Whiteshell Safety Stand Down and other information, invitations to meet, information on leadership changes, the CNL Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy, information on land use end state and offers of capacity to support engagement.

In March 2024, CNL shared information on how to participate in the CNSC's public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024.

On March 22, 2024, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 IER with Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19. CNL did not receive any feedback from Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation.

On May 15, 2024, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal hearing. On June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024. CNL followed up on June 20 to see if Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation was interested in reviewing the Commission Member Document. CNL did not receive feedback from Northwest Angle No. 33 First Nation.

CNL continues to share information about ongoing and future activities at the Whiteshell site with Northwest Angle No. 33 and remains open to engagement if Northwest Angle No. 33 expresses interest.

CNL is also engaging Grand Council Treaty #3, of which Northwest Angle No. 33 a member.

#### **4.11 Peguis First Nation**

Peguis First Nation is a Treaty 1 First Nation, located approximately 163 km from the Whiteshell site and is the largest First Nation community in Manitoba.

Peguis First Nation's Director first reached out to CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor on August 24, 2023, inquiring about ongoing and upcoming work at the Whiteshell site. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) responded and looked to coordinate a discussion. After this, CNL began to share regular updates with Peguis.

On September 14, 2023, CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor shared that they were leaving CNL to pursue another role and Peguis reiterated their interest in meeting with CNL.

In February 2024, CNL's Manager of Communications and Engagement reached out via email and telephone to reconnect and coordinate a meeting with Peguis First Nation's Director of Consultation and Special Projects between representatives of CNL and Peguis.

On March 5, 2024, Peguis First Nation, CNL and Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) met in Winnipeg to discuss CNL, in general, the Whiteshell Restoration Project, the WR-1 Project, an overview of CNL, reconciliation, engagement, and next steps between Peguis, AECL, and CNL.

Later that month, CNL shared information on how to participate in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) public hearing for the Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal, which is to be held in October 2024.

On March 20, 2024, CNL shared the engagement summary section to be included in the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report with Peguis First Nation for review and verification. CNL asked for any feedback on this document to be shared back to CNL by April 19, 2024. CNL followed up with a phone call from the Manager of Communications and Engagement to Peguis First Nation's Director of Consultation and Special Projects.

On March 28, 2024, CNL's Indigenous Engagement Officer reached out to invite Peguis First Nation representatives to Whiteshell site, including a tour to the WR-1 reactor on April 23, 2024. Peguis and CNL exchanged several emails with questions about the site and visit in advance of this meeting.

CNL followed up on this meeting with telephone calls and invitation to meet and tour at the Whiteshell site.

In April, CNL invited Peguis to participate in the 2024 Regional Leaders Gathering in June 2024 and to attend CNL's April public webinar on April 25, which focused on the Whiteshell Fire Program. Note that a Peguis staff member on the Special Projects team on did attend this webinar.

On April 17, 2024, Peguis sent a formal consultation package to CNL for consideration to formalize a relationship and engagement.

On April 23, 2024, CNL hosted an in-person meeting at the Whiteshell Laboratories site between Peguis First Nation, including the Lead Consultant, Human Resources Consultant, Human Resources Delegate, a Knowledge Holder, a Knowledge Keeper and Environmental Specialists, and CNL staff, including the Director of End State Strategy, the General Manager and Site License Holder, the Manager of Regulatory Approvals, a Senior Environmental Specialist, an Environmental Analyst, the Communications and Engagement Manager, the Indigenous Relations Advisor, Indigenous Engagement Officers, and the Facility Authority. At the meeting there was a tour of the WR-1 facility and presentation about its decommissioning, a tour of the Waste Management Area sites and a presentation and discussion on environmental monitoring and land use end state strategy.

This month, CNL also shared information on the CNSC's Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund.

On May 2, CNL followed up with further information on the Regional Leaders Gathering and on May 15, CNL invited review on the engagement section of CNL's Commission Member Document for the 2024 Whiteshell Laboratories licence renewal hearing. On June 10, CNL shared this section, offering capacity for review and requesting any feedback be shared by July 5, 2024.

Three representatives from Peguis First Nation attended the second annual Regional Leaders Gathering in Beausejour on June 4. The Director of Special Project, the Lead Consultant, an Environmental Lead and an Elder all participated in the event. The Regional Leaders Gathering facilitated discussions amongst leaders from Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities with CNL. The focus was on CNL projects, including WR-1, environmental monitoring, and gathering feedback on Trenches and Land Use End State.

On June 18, 2024, Peguis' Lead Consultant emailed CNL to share that Peguis First Nation would not provide comments on the WR-1 Indigenous Engagement Report or the WL site licence renewal Commission Member Document until a formal consultation was established, noting that CNL had not replied to the consultation package sent in April 2024.

The following day, CNL's Indigenous Engagement Officer replied to Peguis' Lead Consultant noting that CNL would be responding to Peguis' proposed workplan and budget with a draft engagement plan.

On July 4, Peguis' Director of Consultation emailed CNL's Whiteshell General Manager to request a leadership meeting on Peguis' involvement in the Whiteshell Laboratories site decommissioning.

Towards the end of July, CNL's Indigenous Relations Advisor sent a proposed contribution agreement to Peguis' Director of Consultation and requested a meeting with Chief and Council to share more information on the Whiteshell Laboratories Restoration Project, the WR-1 environmental assessment and the future of work CNL is performing as the contractor at the Whiteshell Laboratories site. CNL also followed up by email and phone with Peguis' Lead

Consultant to confirm a leadership meeting date involving Peguis Chief and Council for August 23, 2024.

CNL is committed to meaningful engagement with Peguis First Nation on Whiteshell Laboratories going forward.

#### **4.12 Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation**

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (AOPFN) are Algonquin peoples of the Ottawa River (Kichi-Sibi) Valley. Algonquin people have lived in the Ottawa River Valley for at least 10,000 years before Europeans arrived in North America.

The AOPFN has never ceded any traditional Algonquin territory in Treaty with the Crown. Members of the AOPFN have, since time immemorial, exercised their Rights to hunt, trap, fish, gather, and perform other activities integral to their culture and way of life throughout the unceded traditional territory, including in the area where CNL's main site, Chalk River Laboratories (CRL), is located. Members of the AOPFN have long exercised governance and stewardship activities in Algonquin territory.

The AOPFN continues to exercise Algonquin Aboriginal Title and Aboriginal Rights to and in all parts of AOPFN unceded traditional territory, including lands under water. The AOPFN has an obligation to its members to plan for the future and to ensure self-determination, self-reliance, and self-governance. The AOPFN is committed to respecting and protecting its unceded traditional territory and the Rights and interests of its members.

The AOPFN relies on the health of the environment for survival, and therefore the health of the lands and waters is essential to the continued existence of the AOPFN people. The AOPFN must be recognized — and is recognized by CNL and AECL — as a rightful, respected, and principled steward of the environment.

Since 2020, AECL and CNL have participated in extensive engagements with the AOPFN, particularly related to CNL's Near Surface Disposal Facility project. With the Near Surface Disposal Facility project, CNL has proposed an engineered containment mound to permanently dispose of one million cubic metres of low-level waste (LLW). Of this waste, up to five per cent (%) originates from WL and other AECL nuclear liabilities. As well, CNL is planning to consolidate intermediate-level waste (ILW) and high-level waste (HLW) from the WLRP in storage at CRL until disposal facilities become available.

In May 2023, the AOPFN, AECL, and CNL signed a Long-Term Relationship Agreement (LTRA). The LTRA was the culmination of intensive efforts, negotiations, and engagement to establish a productive relationship between the owner and operator of Canada's national nuclear laboratories and the AOPFN, built on mutual respect and understanding, and cultivated through ongoing opportunities for dialogue and participation. It also partially resolves and addresses key areas of concern identified by the AOPFN, including environmental protection, radioactive waste management, cultural protection and promotion, and the pursuit of collaborative economic and business opportunities.

An important outcome of the LTRA was CNL's commitment to the AOPFN for engagement on the importation of waste from outside of AOPFN territory. The AOPFN do not endorse any importation of waste into their territory — including waste from WL.

CNL has ongoing dialogue with the AOPFN on waste management, including importation, via the Radioactive Waste Subcommittee, which was established by the LTRA.

## **5. Indigenous Input**

CNL seeks input and feedback on several documents related to activities and projects at Whiteshell Laboratories and provides opportunity for Indigenous communities and organizations to review and provide comment on project activities, draft communications products, reports, and plans on technical and procedural aspects of the projects.

In the last five years, CNL has circulated the following documents for review and input:

- Draft Indigenous Relations Procurement Strategy
- Draft Land Use End State Plan

Additionally, CNL has shared relevant sections from the following documents for review and input:

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement for WR-1
- Draft Indigenous Engagement Report for WR-1
- CNL's draft written submission for the hearing on the application for the renewal of the nuclear research test establishment decommissioning licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories site

Feedback on these documents has been incorporated back into subsequent versions of these documents to the full extent possible. Feedback has also led to deeper discussions on areas of interest or concern.

## **6. Addressing Interests, Issues and Concerns**

Through ongoing engagement with Indigenous communities, specific interests, issues and concerns have been raised including (but not limited to) the following:

- Participation in environmental monitoring at and around the site
- Next land use and end state at the site
- What waste should or shouldn't remain at the site, in particular in relation to waste from the WR-1 reactor and the Low-Level Waste Trenches
- Locations of sampling/monitoring
- Plant species of cultural significance
- Information sharing with in a transparent, accessible and culturally-relevant way
- Ongoing engagement



The table below outlines some of the ongoing ways that CNL is working with Indigenous Nations to address these issues, noting that this work will extend beyond the next licensing period.

**Table 1: Ongoing Work to Address Interests, Issues and Concerns**

<b>Interest, Issue, and/or Concern</b>	<b>Ongoing Work to Address the Interest, Issue, and/or Concern</b>
<b>Participation and observation in environmental monitoring at and around the site</b>	CNL is committed to facilitating Indigenous participation and observation in environmental monitoring by supporting inclusion of representatives from interested Nations.
<b>Next land use and end state at the site</b>	CNL is committed to including Indigenous perspectives in its Land Use End State plan and shared a draft of this plan for feedback from Indigenous Nations in 2023. CNL is also supportive of Sagkeeng’s Long-Term Vision for the Whiteshell Site, a distinct study, which will look at end state from Sagkeeng’s perspective.
<b>What waste should or shouldn’t remain at the site, in particular in relation to waste from the WR-1 reactor and the Low-Level Waste Trenches</b>	CNL is currently engaging on its waste management, including through the environmental assessment for WR-1 and is exploring options for the Low-level Waste Trenches with Indigenous Nations.
<b>Plant species of cultural significance</b>	CNL has begun sampling blueberries and mushrooms as the result of Indigenous participation in the monitoring program.
<b>Information sharing with in a transparent, accessible, and culturally relevant way</b>	CNL is committed to working with Indigenous Nations to provide information in a way that each Nation wants. For instance, CNL shared follow-up, plain language information on the elevated levels of manganese in 2023, and has created a new brochure to highlight environmental monitoring program results.
<b>Ongoing engagement</b>	CNL currently has regular meetings with four Indigenous Nations in relation to Whiteshell Laboratories and shares information about projects and activities with all Nations mentioned in this Report. CNL remains open to engagement with any interested Indigenous Nation.

<p><b>Participation in environmental monitoring at and around the site</b></p>	<p>CNL is committed to ongoing inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge into its environmental monitoring through support for the Sagkeeng-led Niigan Aki program, as well as an open invitation (with regular follow-up invitations) for all interested First Nations and the MMF to participate.</p>
<p><b>Waste from Whiteshell Laboratories being managed at Chalk River Laboratories</b></p>	<p>CNL, AECL and AOPFN have established a Long-Term Relationship Agreement in which to discuss AOPFN’s concern with waste from Whiteshell Laboratories and other CNL-managed sites being sent to Algonquin territory.</p>

**7. Participation in Environmental Monitoring at Whiteshell Laboratories**

CNL’s environmental monitoring for Whiteshell Laboratories seeks to include Indigenous Knowledge by inviting interested Indigenous Nations to participate in CNL’s monitoring and through support of the Sagkeeng-led Niigan Aki program.

CNL has an open invitation for any Indigenous Nation to participate in fieldwork sampling that the Environmental Protection team conducts at Whiteshell and shares the annual fieldwork schedule with all Nations that have indicated an interest in monitoring participation.

In late 2022, Sagkeeng, AECL and CNL launched the Niigan Aki program as a collaborative and rights-based environmental monitoring program, which is administered by Sagkeeng, with resources and support provided by AECL and CNL. The program was established to empower Sagkeeng’s ability to monitor and steward Sagkeeng’s territory, and improve understanding of the Whiteshell site and operations, which is located in the Sagkeeng’s unceded traditional territory.

CNL is committed to working with Sagkeeng’s Niigan Aki program and continuing to support Indigenous participation in environmental monitoring for the site.

Table 2 below includes a list of monitoring activities from the licensing period where community members participated for observation and/or collection.

**Table 2: Examples of Indigenous Participation in Environmental Monitoring for Whiteshell Laboratories**

Date	Activity	Participation
June 17, 2021	Well Sampling	Manitoba Métis Federation
September 2022	Plant Walkdown	Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation

April 17, 2023	Well Sampling of the Primary Cell Lagoon	Manitoba Métis Federation
September 8, 2023	Mushroom Collection	Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation
November 23, 2023	Waste Management Area Well Sampling	Manitoba Métis Federation
May 22, 2023	Mushroom Collection	Sagkeeng First Nation, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation
June 19, 2024	Milkweed Walkdown	Sagkeeng First Nation, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation
July 11, 2024	Environmental Monitoring - Field Sampling	Sagkeeng First Nation
July 16, 2024	CNL Well Sampling of 50+ Wells on the Whiteshell site	Sagkeeng First Nation
July 18, 2024	WR-1 Bat Exit Survey	Sagkeeng First Nation, Black River First Nation, and Hollow Water First Nation
July 24, 2024	Berry Collection – on site at WL	Sagkeeng First Nation

## 8. Agreements with Indigenous Nations

CNL supports the development of Contribution Agreements and/or Relationship Agreements with Rights holders to provide funding to ensure communities remain actively involved in CNL communications, engagement, and project planning.

Contribution Agreements may include financial support for staff time related to administration, community liaison activities and meetings; technical documentation review; Indigenous-led studies; involvement in monitoring and/or Indigenous-led monitoring; and for community capacity building through skills training and job shadowing.

CNL currently holds an active Contribution Agreement with Sagkeeng First Nation, as well as an active Contribution Agreement with Black River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation jointly. CNL remains open to additional agreements with other Indigenous Nation with Rights and/or Interests in the region of the Whiteshell site.

## 9. Program Evaluation and Improvement

CNL maintains an open two-way dialogue with Indigenous Nations, communities, and organizations to monitor and gather opinions, concerns and input about activities at Whiteshell

Laboratories, and to garner an understanding of Indigenous perspectives and relationship with the land. This knowledge is incorporated back into information-sharing, project reporting, planning, and decommissioning activities at the site.

Questions, concerns and input about Whiteshell Laboratories and impacts related to the decommissioning are dispositioned with details on how this valuable feedback will be considered in project planning and activities, as well as explanations when feedback cannot be incorporated.

CNL conducts regular self-assessments on its engagement with Indigenous Nations, communities and organizations and works in collaboration with Indigenous Nations, communities and organizations to: ensure two-way communications; provide better access to information about the site and projects; incorporate Indigenous perspectives into planning and support confidence in CNL's activities and operations.

## **10. Indigenous Knowledge**

CNL is in the process of incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into its projects, guided by the CNSC's Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework [5]. Through ongoing work with Indigenous Nations, CNL is engaging on this subject in greater depth and is incorporating this information into environmental programming, project planning and project execution.

As noted in the CNSC framework, 'IK is a body of knowledge gathered by generations of Indigenous peoples living in close contact with their traditional territories and resources. IK is cumulative and dynamic. It is built on the historic experiences of a people and adapts to social, economic, environmental, spiritual and political change.'

An example of how Indigenous Knowledge has affected how CNL operates at Whiteshell Laboratories includes the incorporation of plant species of cultural significance into the environmental monitoring program and integrating lessons learned on harvesting techniques for samples of these plant species. Identification of these plant species and specific harvesting techniques came through Indigenous involvement in environmental fieldwork at the Laboratories. CNL looks to continue to deepen relationships to give space for Indigenous Knowledge to further impact what we do and how we do it.

## **11. Documentation and Disposition**

To measure the effectiveness of this engagement plan, all written, telephone and electronic communications, as well as follow-up actions or requests for information, are tracked and recorded.

Comments and questions at meetings are recorded by date/type of engagement (e.g., meeting, site tour, etc.), discussion topics, noted themes, interests, issues and concerns, as well as actions and mitigations. Where a response or follow-up is indicated, information is made available to all parties.

All records of CNL's outreach and/or engagement will be made available upon request.

## **11.1 Reporting**

CNL keeps the CNSC apprised of Indigenous communications and engagement activities through monthly, quarterly and annual reporting.

CNSC and CNL interactions are supplemented by regular meetings with regulatory, licensing, project and program staff, including those related to the WR-1 Decommissioning Project's environmental assessment.

## **12. CNL's Long-term Relationship with Indigenous Peoples**

CNL recognizes First Nations and the Red River Métis as stewards of the land and CNL is working towards developing long-term meaningful relationships with each Nation that occupies and have traditional territories and modern-day interests near its operations. CNL recognizes each Nation or community has its own unique set of interests and concerns associated with CNL's activities and project at Whiteshell Laboratories and CNL is committed to taking a distinctions-based approach to engagement to ensure each Nation's interests and concerns are addressed.

CNL also takes a holistic, relationship-based approach to engagement with each Nation, working closely with AECL, to help address interests and concerns regarding all aspects of projects and activities at Whiteshell Laboratories. As the federal Crown corporation with responsibility for the long-term stewardship of the site, AECL is committed to taking meaningful actions to support healing and to advance reconciliation through nation-to-nation dialogue and relationship-building.

This shift in CNL's Indigenous engagement approach from project-based engagement to a holistic, relationship, and distinction-based approach will support meaningful actions to build foundations for trust, understanding, and mutually beneficial relationships, including addressing broader issues and concerns such as the historical siting of the Whiteshell site.

CNL is currently working with each Nation on formalizing these relationships through relationship-building and corresponding agreements. These agreements are intended to help enable greater integration of Traditional Knowledge, ceremony, and cultural and stewardship practices into activities and projects at the Whiteshell site. These agreements will also enable dialogue and participation through the development of monitoring programs, culturally appropriate communications, and trauma-informed engagement. In addition, they help to enhance community engagement, building trust, and strengthen relationship-building, as well as setting up mechanisms to facilitate Indigenous participation and input into CNL's environmental monitoring program, economic development and procurement opportunities, future land use, and other areas of collaboration.

CNL continues to build relationships with First Nations and the Manitoba Métis Federation to support overall decommissioning of the Whiteshell site, including the Project. CNL is committed to learning about Indigenous values through ceremony and on-going dialogue, and discussing, incorporating, and addressing concerns to the extent possible.

**13. References**

- [1] Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Whiteshell Laboratories Decommissioning Project Comprehensive Study Report, Volume 1: Main Report, Volume 2: Appendices, Volume 3: Addendum, WLDP 03702 041-000, 2001.
- [2] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Indigenous Engagement, REGDOC-3.2.2, Version 1.2, 2022 February.
- [3] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Public Information and Disclosure, REGDOC 3.2.1, 2018 May.
- [4] Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, Public Information Program for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, CW 513430 REPT 001, Revision 9.
- [5] Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Indigenous Knowledge Policy Framework, December 2021.