



**Written submission from  
CANDU Owners Group Inc.**

**Mémoire du  
CANDU Owners Group Inc.**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd.**

---

**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens Ltée**

---

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

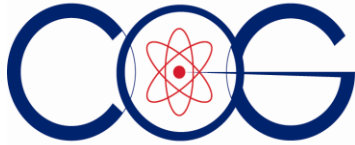
Demande visant le renouvellement du permis de  
déclassement d'un établissement de recherche  
et d'essais nucléaires pour le site des  
Laboratoires de Whiteshell

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

**October 23-24, 2024**

**23-24 octobre 2024**



September 13, 2024

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Secretariat  
c/o Ms. Julie Bouchard  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Subject: Request from the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd. For a Three-Year Renewal of its Decommissioning Licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories site.**

Dear Ms. Bouchard,

This submission supports the request from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) for a Three-Year Renewal of its Decommissioning Licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

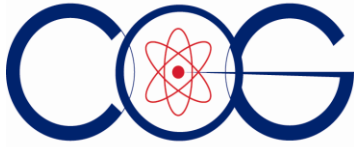
The CANDU Owners Group (COG) is a not-for-profit organization funded voluntarily by CANDU operating utilities worldwide, CNL, supplier, and program participants. COG focuses on achieving excellence through collaboration and is dedicated to sharing information and collaborating on nuclear sector research and development for CANDU and advanced nuclear technologies for the complete nuclear reactor lifecycle. Together with its members, suppliers, research, and partner organizations, COG is continually innovating nuclear plant equipment and processes to ensure the highest safety, efficiency, and environmental performance standards.

To fulfill these objectives, COG is organized around the following four operational program areas:

- Nuclear Safety and Environmental Affairs
- Research and Development (R&D)
- Information Exchange
- Joint Projects

COG members spend about \$75 million per year on research and development and joint projects to improve the safety, reliability, environmental impact, and cost performance of CANDU nuclear plants, including strategic R&D in areas including decommissioning and nuclear waste management. This benefits the entire CANDU community, both domestically and internationally. Additionally, COG has developed a leadership and knowledge management training program to enhance leadership and management skills among high-potential technical managers in the nuclear industry.

The work facilitated by COG on behalf of its members relies on capable, knowledgeable suppliers with deep expertise, human capacity, and facilities to undertake ground-breaking



nuclear science. This research, and the associated engineering activity, is primarily carried out in Canada by the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories. As a member of COG, CNL also implements the learnings and best practices shared through COG.

Since its establishment in 1960, the Whiteshell Laboratories have been involved in research to support COG members and the Canadian Nuclear Industry at large. Among their achievements are the design of the Organic-Cooled Deuterium-Reactor Experiment, which later became known as the Whiteshell Reactor #1 (WR-1), and the development of the successful SLOWPOKE reactor design, which was sold globally. More recently, the Whiteshell Laboratories and COG have worked on programs to examine potential hydrogen release sources in CANDU reactors. Throughout its support for COG and as a key member of COG, CNL has demonstrated their strong commitment to nuclear safety and ensuring their facilities and practices adhere to the highest standards of nuclear safety for laboratories performing radioactive work. Further the CNL staff at Whiteshell recently participated in COG's nuclear safety culture and leadership training program, demonstrating their commitment to continuous growth and learning for their leaders.

The current decommissioning licence for CNL's Whiteshell Laboratories site is set to expire on December 31, 2024. Therefore, a new three-year licence is required to allow CNL to continue their decommissioning activities at the site. These activities include the decommissioning of the WR-1 reactor, waste management areas, storage facilities, and other nuclear and non-nuclear buildings. Currently, the reactor site is in a "storage-with-surveillance" phase as part of the decommissioning process.

In summary, COG and its members (including CNL) are dedicated to enhancing safety, reliability, affordability, and environmental impact in Canada's nuclear plants. The Canadian Nuclear Laboratories is at the forefront of these endeavors. COG endorses CNL's request for a three-year extension to the decommissioning licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachna Clavero', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachna Clavero  
President and CEO  
CANDU Owners Group