



**CMD 25-H12.17**

Date: 2025-01-06

**Written Submission from  
Buffalo River Dene Nation**

**Mémoire de  
Buffalo River Dene Nation**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

**NexGen Energy Ltd.**

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License application to prepare a site for  
and construct its Rook I uranium mine and  
mill project

**NexGen Energy Ltd.**

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Demande de permis concernant la  
préparation de l'emplacement et la  
construction de son projet de mine et  
d'usine de concentration d'uranium Rook I

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

February 2026

Février 2026



Buffalo River Dene Nation  
Band No 398  
Box 40  
Dillon, SK, S0M 0S0

January 8, 2026

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Re: Full Consent and Support for the Rook I Project (the Project) – NexGen Energy Ltd. (CMD 25-H12)

Dear Commissioners,

Please take this written submission from Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN) for February 9, 2026, Part 2 Commission Hearing for the NexGen Energy Rook I Project. This written intervention will outline and support the oral intervention where I (Chief Kelly Montgrand) and Elmer Campbell will speak to the information provided in this written intervention on the week of February 9, 2026, in Saskatoon.

BRDN and NexGen have a long history of engagement and collaboration together, with relationships being developed with BRDN community and leadership as far back as 2016. From engagement during exploration, through the establishment of the Study Agreement (SA) in 2019, and the signing of the Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) in 2020, NexGen has treated our Nation with respect and as true partner in responsible mine development.

Among the many engagement initiatives that NexGen has undertaken, the establishment of the SA between NexGen and BRDN commenced in September of 2019 and serves as an impactful demonstration of NexGen's commitment to engaging with the local Indigenous communities. The SA, fully funded by NexGen, defined a collaborative approach to identifying potential impacts of the proposed development and operations of the mine, as well as identifying potential avoidance and accommodation measures in relation to the Rook I Project. As part of the SA, a Joint Working Group (JWG) was established to support the inclusion of BRDN's traditional knowledge throughout the EA process. These meetings created a balanced and transparent approach to engaging on technical aspects as well as providing the opportunity for our people to educate NexGen on our ways of life and how important our culture and the lands are to us. In addition to the JWG, the SA provided capacity support for our community to undertake an independent Traditional Land Use Study (TLU), that was used to support BRDN's traditional knowledge throughout the EA process, in addition to becoming a much-needed asset for the Nation to capture and document the history of our people and our traditional lands.

The important work that was done through the SA led to the signing of an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) between NexGen and BRDN on December 14, 2020. This agreement reflects trust, respect, and confidence between NexGen and BRDN, and is a major opportunity for our community now and for future generations. The IBA sets out how BRDN and NexGen will continue to work together to continue NexGen's proven commitment to the highest standards of



environmental and social stewardship, including education, career training, and economic capacity building. Included among the IBA benefits to BRDN are mechanisms to maximize local employment, local contracts, and continued community investment in culture, education, and health and wellness, to ensure long-term positive developments to our community. From a broader perspective, this IBA acknowledges the importance of environmental protection – a fundamental principle to BRDN upon which the most diligent consideration is taken by BRDN leaders, council, and community members. Through IBA mechanisms like the Implementation Committee, Environmental Committee and the self-directed first of its kind BRDN Environmental Monitor, our Nation will continue to work collaboratively with NexGen as its Indigenous Partner for the life of the mine.

Regarding the Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), BRDN was part of NexGen's collaborative and transparent approach to the EA process. Through established community meetings, working groups (including JWGs) and capacity support for technical consultants, BRDN was given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations in the drafting stages of the EIS, and this feedback is reflected in the Project EIS.

The BRDN has participated in the provincial and federal regulatory processes for the Project, and when applicable, has worked directly with NexGen to discuss and address community interests as part of these processes.

For the Saskatchewan provincial 30-day public review of the EIS, BRDN provided their support letter to the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment on November 2, 2023, stating that they had no concerns and fully signed off on the provincial Project EIS.

Through the Federal review process the BRDN participated in the issues and concerns validation process with NexGen as part of the Environmental Assessment for the Project. The BRDN and NexGen collaboratively discussed and addressed the BRDN's issues and concerns through the Environmental Committee of the IBA; where concerns were more forward-looking or could not be immediately addressed, the BRDN confirmed that the BRDN and NexGen have the engagement relationship and mechanisms in place to continue to address concerns or topics of interest throughout the life of the Project. Through a letter sent to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on November 3, 2023, BRDN confirmed that they have formally accepted how NexGen addressed or responded to the BRDN's issues and concerns.

The BRDN fully supports the Rook I Project and the transparent, and collaborative approach we have with NexGen provides us the confidence that NexGen's commitment to environmental stewardship, community advancement, and the health and safety of our community, is genuine and already proven.

In conclusion, the BRDN has been adequately consulted and engaged by the CNSC regarding the Rook I Project in consideration of our established Indigenous and treaty rights, pursuant to Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The CNSC has worked in collaboration and consultation with BRDN as a potentially impacted Indigenous Nation; and together with NexGen, we have assessed the potential impacts to rights and have discussed mitigation and/or accommodation measures. NexGen has fulfilled their engagement and procedural aspects of the consultation process to support the CNSC in meeting its consultation obligations with the BRDN.



The BRDN fully supports and provides its free, prior, and informed consent to the Rook I Project and as a directly impacted Indigenous Nation we respectfully request the timely approval of the Rook I Project by the Commission to deliver significant economic and social benefits for current and future BRDN members.

Sincerely,

*Kelly Montgrand*

Chief Kelly Montgrand