



**CMD 25-H12.19**

Date: 2025-01-08

**Written Submission from  
Jimmy Montgrand**

**Mémoire de  
Jimmy Montgrand**

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

## Call for the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to Immediately Approve the NexGen Energy Rook I Project in Our Traditional Territory

Dear Commissioners,

We, the Elders of our people's traditional territories in northwestern Saskatchewan, write to you today as custodians of our ancestral lands, waters, and resources. For generations, we have stewarded these territories with respect for the land, our people, and future descendants. It is in this spirit that we express our strong support for NexGen Energy's proposed Rook I Project within our traditional lands. This project represents a positive step forward in responsible uranium development that honours our values, strengthens our communities, and advances meaningful reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and the Crown by helping restore the characteristics of the Dene: strength, resilience, adaptability, perseverance, industriousness, and charity. Our people are struggling, and we are tired of burying people while waiting for an opportunity for real multigenerational change.

NexGen Energy has demonstrated an exemplary approach to engagement with our Nation's leadership and communities. Since 2013, they have prioritised open dialogue within the Local Priority Area, which includes all the Nations on whose territory the project lies—Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN), Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), and Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN), as well as Métis communities of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S) Northern Region 2 (NR2). Over the past 12 years this open dialogue and collaborative approach have resulted in Indigenous inclusion on the Project in a way our communities have never had in the past. This important inclusion has evolved from regular meetings with elected leadership, workshops, presentations, community information sessions, site tours, and the establishment of a regional community liaison office in La Loche. Information sharing through local media, radio announcements, and dedicated websites has further built transparency, a strong relationship and mutual understanding between NexGen and our communities. Unlike past experiences where external interests overlooked our rights and concerns, NexGen Energy has fostered trust through consistent communication and a commitment to addressing potential environmental, socio-economic, and cultural impacts. Their efforts align with the principles of free, prior, and informed consent, promoting a partnership that respects our sovereignty and self-determination.

In addition to their engagement practices, NexGen Energy has provided substantial support to our communities through a range of initiatives that promote long-term well-being and capacity building, particularly for our youth, who are our future. These contributions have been instrumental in addressing local needs and creating opportunities for our people, with a strong emphasis on prioritising training, employment, and business opportunities for residents of their Local Priority Area (LPA), and particular attention and resources dedicated to our youth, including:

- Funding and collaboration on community program initiatives that enhance health, well-being, and cultural preservation, helping to maintain our Dene and Métis way of life while adapting to modern challenges.
- Investments in school programs focused on educational resources and infrastructure, enhancing learning environments for our youth.
- Providing financial assistance for post-secondary education through scholarships, which enable our young people to pursue studies in fields relevant to resource management, environmental science, and leadership.

- Offering hands-on employment and mentorship opportunities during the summer months through their summer student programs, which allows our regional students to gain practical experience in industrial activities while staying connected to their homelands.
- Delivering specialised training in skills such as pathways to employment, trades, and environmental monitoring, which equip community members for meaningful roles within the project and beyond, including positions in construction, skilled trades, mining, and environmental roles.

These programs are not mere gestures but demonstrate NexGen Energy's dedication to building impartial and sustainable benefits for all involved. By focusing on comprehensive development that encompasses economic, social, and cultural dimensions, NexGen Energy is helping to create a legacy of prosperity that will endure for generations. We have seen tangible improvements in community vitality, with increased access to education and employment resulting in a reduction of reliance on external aid and empowering our people to rediscover their past qualities and lead their own futures.

Furthermore, NexGen Energy is leading the way in Indigenous engagement and partnerships, setting the bar for true reconciliation in the resource sector. Their model goes beyond compliance with legal requirements, embodying a genuine commitment to shared decision-making and mutual respect through ongoing engagement since 2013. In a time when reconciliation must move from words to actions, NexGen Energy's approach exemplifies how industry can work hand-in-hand with Indigenous Nations to achieve broad-based outcomes. This includes integrating Dene and Métis perspectives on land stewardship to minimise environmental risks, such as through their innovative Underground Tailings Management Facility, which stores all tailings underground to reduce surface impacts and set a new global standard for environmental protection. We believe this sets a precedent for other companies and governments to follow, promoting a future where resource projects contribute to healing historical injustices and building stronger relationships.

We urge the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to approve and support NexGen Energy's Rook I Project without delay. This initiative not only promises economic benefits to the people within the traditional territories where the project is located, but also aligns with federal commitments to Indigenous reconciliation, as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and related policies. By endorsing this project, the Commission will reinforce its commitment to partnerships that respect the Treaty rights of the CRDN, BNDN, BRDN, and the MN-S NR2 on whose traditional territories the project is located, and foster comprehensive growth while upholding the highest standards of nuclear safety and environmental protection.

We stand ready to continue our collaboration with NexGen Energy and the Commission to ensure the project's success. Thank you for considering our perspectives as Elders. We look forward to a positive response that honours our shared path forward.

Sincerely,

*Elders.*  
