



Date: 2025-01-08

**Written Submission from  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

**Mémoire de la  
Nation des Dénés de Birch  
Narrows**

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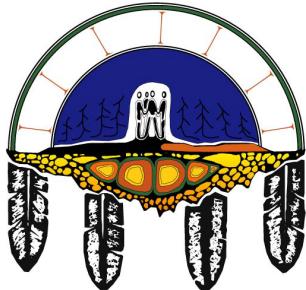
Demande de permis concernant la  
préparation de l'emplacement et la  
construction de son projet de mine et  
d'usine de concentration d'uranium Rook I

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

February 2026

Février 2026



# Birch Narrows Dene Nation

Administration

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January 9, 2026

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

**Re: Rook I Project (the Project) – NexGen Energy Ltd. (CMD 25-H12) – Written Intervention**

On behalf of the Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), this submission is provided as BNDN's written intervention in respect of the Rook I Project (the Project) proposed by NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen) and the Commission Hearing for the Project scheduled for February 9, 2026.

BNDN has been in dialogue and working collaboratively with NexGen on the Project since 2017. This engagement provided the groundwork that led to the signing of the Study Agreement between BNDN and NexGen in 2019, formalizing the positive relationship built. The Study Agreement formalized BNDN and NexGen's commitment to work collaboratively with community members and BNDN Leadership to review and provide insight on the Rook I Project.

The early engagement included a Traditional Knowledge and Land Use Study to facilitate the inclusion of the BNDN's traditional knowledge throughout NexGen's EA process. It also included a Joint Working group with regular meetings on the Project to understand the potential impacts and discuss means by which those impacts could be mitigated. Through the mechanisms of the Study Agreement, capacity support was also provided by NexGen to BNDN with the objective of negotiating a mutual benefit agreement.

BNDN and NexGen signed a Mutual Benefit Agreement (MBA) for the Project in 2021. The MBA defines the environmental and cultural protections as well as social and socio-economic benefits throughout the life cycle of the Project for BNDN. It also provides capacity building opportunities through infrastructure, employment, and business development and oversight of the Project through a joint Implementation Committee.

As the protection of environment and our continued ability to exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights is of utmost importance to BNDN and its members, the MBA has

mechanisms to protect our lands and waters. This includes an Environmental Committee and funding for a BNDN Environmental Monitor, providing a collaborative platform for BNDN and NexGen to continue to work together throughout the life of the Project. The MBA also defines environmental, cultural, economic, training, employment, financial, and other benefits to be provided to BNDN by NexGen in respect to the Project.

Presently, BNDN has been adequately engaged by NexGen and CNSC staff regarding the Rook I Project in consideration of our inherent and protected Aboriginal and Treaty rights, pursuant to Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. All parties have worked collaboratively on a meaningful consultation process and respectful relationship and will continue to do so in good faith for the life of the Project.

BNDN participated in the federal regulatory processes for the Project by submitting comments as part of the public review process of the draft EIS for the Rook I Project. Since those comments were submitted to the CNSC, BNDN and NexGen have collaboratively discussed and continued to work together to address those comments through the Implementation and Environmental Committees.

BNDN also participated in the issues and concerns validation process with NexGen; where the concerns were more forward-looking. Through this process we have determined that the MBA includes mechanisms to address concerns and BNDN's topics of interest throughout the life of the Rook I Project.

It is from this thorough consultation and accommodation process that BNDN provides its support and consent to the Rook I Project; in accordance with the terms of our MBA with NexGen.

As Chief of Birch Narrows Dene Nation, I want to thank all our Elders, youth, and the entire BNDN membership for their support through this process. We look forward to working alongside NexGen and CNSC throughout the life of the Rook I Project.



Marsi cho,  
Chief Jonathon Sylvestre

Cc:  
Nicole Frigault, CNSC  
Justin McKeown, CNSC  
Adam Engdahl, NexGen