



CMD 25-H12.36

Date: 2025-01-09

**Written Submission from
Marlene Hansen**

**Mémoire de
Marlene Hansen**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

NexGen Energy Ltd.

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

NexGen Energy Ltd.

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

Canadian NUCLEAR Safety Commission
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1064, Station B
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

January 8, 2026

To the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission:

I am Marlene Hansen, former President of the Buffalo Narrows Métis Community Council (BN-MCC) from November 2017 to May 2024. In that role, I represented the Métis citizens in the community of Buffalo Narrows and worked closely with NexGen Energy on the Rook I Project from its early stages until April 2024.

The Rook I Project is situated in the heart of the traditional homeland of Northern Region 2 (NR2) within Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S), encompassing the Clearwater Clear Lake Region. It is directly connected to our rights-bearing Métis communities of Buffalo Narrows, Bear Creek, and La Loche via Saskatchewan Highway 155, the sole direct route to the project site. This development represents a transformational opportunity for our primarily impacted communities. On June 15, 2023, an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) was signed among NR2, MN–S, and NexGen, marking a historic partnership.

Northern Saskatchewan hosts five active uranium mines and mills within our homelands, with the former Cluff Lake Mine in BN-MCC's traditional territory operating from 1979 to 2002 and returned to institutional control in 2023. Our communities have extensive experience with uranium mining licensing and operations, yet past partnerships have often fallen short of true collaboration. NexGen Energy has fundamentally changed this dynamic.

From a Métis cultural perspective, rooted in strong values of respect for the land, water, air, animals, and environment passed down through generations of harvesting, fishing, trapping, and hunting. I am proud to highlight the exemplary process NexGen has followed. Our initial meetings in Buffalo Narrows were respectful, informative, and collaborative, fostering an open dialogue that built a strong relationship founded on mutual understanding.

Through this collaboration, a deep trust and team mentality emerged. NexGen demonstrated genuine openness to incorporating Métis knowledge, ensuring our communities had meaningful input and validation in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Study Agreement signed in 2019 and the IBA in 2023 enabled unprecedented

engagement, including Joint Working Groups, Traditional Land Use Studies, and ongoing committees such as the Implementation Committee and Environmental Committee, supported by NR2 and MN–S environmental monitors. This industry-leading approach has established a new standard for partnership, ensuring the land, animals, water, and environment are protected throughout the life of the Rook I Project and for generations to come.

NR2 and MN–S independently reviewed and approved key aspects of the EIS, confirming satisfaction with project duration, environmental protections, and sustainability for harvesting and wildlife. Throughout the process NexGen's support has also helped strengthened local governance, rebuilt Métis pride, supported youth reconnection to the land, provided training and employment opportunities, and extended health benefits for Elders integrating our culture into their operations while reconciling past inequities.

Specific engagements include:

- Participation in reviewing the Project Description and submitting comments to the CNSC in June 2019.
- Involvement in the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT), with confirmation of acceptance of responses to information requests on December 5, 2023.
- Validation of issues and concerns during the Environmental Assessment, confirmed in a letter to the CNSC on January 23, 2024.
- Collaborative resolution of public comments, with a letter to the CNSC on November 4, 2024, confirming satisfaction and closure.

This level of inclusive, collaborative engagement combined with our community's lived experience in uranium development demonstrates that NexGen has set a new benchmark for involving Métis rights-bearing communities. It has fostered greater understanding of responsible uranium mining and forged a sustainable partnership for future generations.

NR2 and MN–S support advancing uranium development in a safe and responsible manner. Based on our direct involvement, we are confident in NexGen's competence, culture of safety, and commitment to environmental stewardship. We are proud to partner with a company fully capable of safely and responsibly developing the Rook I Project.

I respectfully request that the Commission approve the Rook I Project without further delays. The project is ready, as are the rights-bearing communities in NR2.

Sincerely,

Marlene Hansen, Metis Citizen