



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

CMD 25-H12.48

Date: 2026-01-19

**Written Submission from
English River First Nation**

In the matter of

NexGen Energy Ltd.

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

Commission Public Hearing

February 2026

**Mémoire de la
Première Nation d'English River**

À l'égard de

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

Audience publique de la Commission

Février 2026



**English River
First Nation**

Tel: 306.291.6808

Fax: 306.664.8923

**English River First Nation
Lands & Resources Office
321-2555 Grasswood Road
Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1**

E: cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com

January 19, 2026

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P5S9

“VIA EMAIL cnsn.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca”

RE: ERFN Intervention- NexGen Energy Ltd.’s Rook 1 Project

This submission is made on behalf of the English River First Nation (ERFN). This topic is of great importance to the people of the ERFN, because of the presence of the Uranium Mines and Mills located within English River First Nation Ancestral Lands. Although NexGen Energy (NexGen) Ltd’s Rook 1 project exists outside of ERFN’s Ancestral Lands (Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne), NexGen is actively engaging in exploration within Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne. The people of ERFN have and continue to subsist on this land for generations- fishing, hunting, gathering, and thriving.

English River First Nation is comprised of 19 reserves located in Northern Saskatchewan. ERFN has a population of approximately 2,100 people. The on-reserve members of the First Nation reside at two small remote Northern Saskatchewan reserves called Wapatauanak and La Plonge. These reserves are located approximately 600 km north of Saskatoon.

ERFN has intervened on the NexGen hearing so that we may understand the reason for NexGen having been issued an Administrative Monetary Penalty (AMP) for beginning to build a uranium mine without a license. Essentially, ERFN questions the repercussions of such a significant derogation from the licensing and regulatory process. What significance will the AMP have o? licensing?

ERFN has been following the proceedings as they unfold between the CNSC and NexGen. ERFN has been building a relationship with the CNSC for approximately 9 years now. During that time, the engagement with our Nation (and others) has progressed. This is Reconciliation in action. The issuance of a \$29,080 monetary penalty, which was then

reduced to \$10,000, seems like an insignificant penalty to a large company like NexGen. From our perspective, they have paid \$10,000 penalty to proceed with building a mine without a license. Has NexGen contravened the Regulatory standards or not? If so, to what extent? The issuing of an AMP and the subsequent amending reduction of that AMP has eroded the trust between ERFN and the CNSC.

NexGen is active within ERFN's Ancestral Homelands. ERFN has maintained a good relationship with NexGen over the years- with routine engagement taking place. NexGen has also been active with ERFN's Guardians Program, welcoming our Guardians into their exploration sites. To hear that NexGen was given an AMP caused ERFN to take pause; it raised concerns about NexGen and their ability to work ethically within our Territory.

Our Nation has continually been told to "trust the government and our agencies, because the government knows what is best for you and your Nation." In our experience, "knowing what is best for the Nation" has resulted in Residential schools, the Pass system, Reserves, breaking of Treaties signed, and unclean drinking water. ERFN respectfully asks for clarity and information.

Sincerely,



Cheyenna Hunt BA, LL.B.
English River First Nation
Director, Lands & Consultation