



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

Environmental Assessment and Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

CNSC Staff
Presentation

Commission Hearing –Part 2
February 9 to 12, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C





- Updates since Part 1 of this hearing (November 19, 2025)
- Interventions
- Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
 - Background and context
 - Consultation activities
 - Assessment of Potential Impacts on Rights
 - Commitments and next steps
- CNSC Staff Conclusions and Recommendations



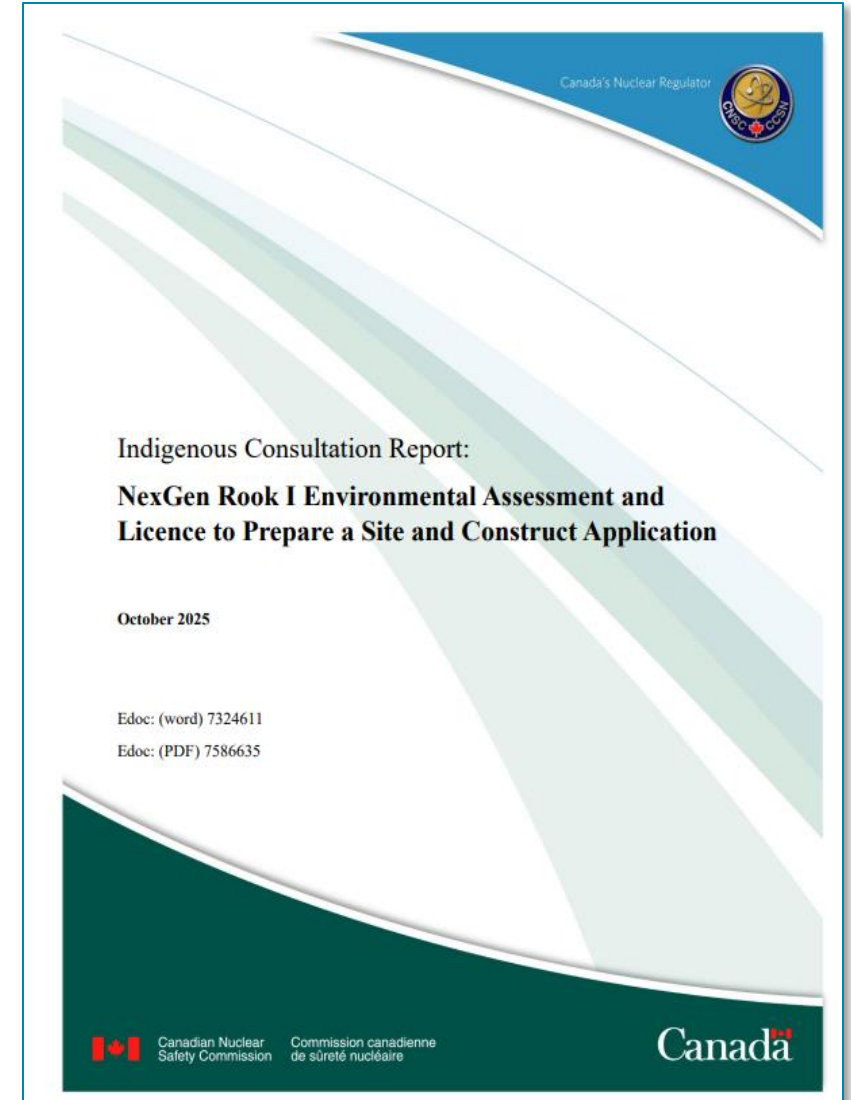
Commission Member Document Submission

3

On January 28th, CNSC staff submitted a supplemental CMD.

This supplemental CMD provided an update on activities, including:

- Updated consultation and engagement information
- CNSC staff's conclusions and recommendations regarding Indigenous consultation efforts
- EA Report corrections





Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

**UPDATES SINCE PART OF THIS HEARING (NOVEMBER 19,
2025)**



Environmental Assessment (EA) Conditions

All
3 proposed EA
conditions
contain closure
criteria to be
met prior to the
commencement
of site
preparation
activities.

EA condition reviews are in progress for the following:

- **EA1 (additional wetland baseline data):**
Has been submitted to CNSC staff and is currently being reviewed
- **EA2 (caribou mitigation and offsetting plan in line with the federal recovery strategy):**
Has been submitted to CNSC staff and is currently being reviewed
- **EA3 (monitoring of adverse effects on listed wildlife species):**
CNSC staff completed technical review, comments are being considered and addressed by NexGen



Regulatory Commitments

Of the
7 regulatory commitments proposed,
3 contain closure criteria to be met prior to the commencement of early phases of construction activities.

Regulatory commitment reviews in progress:

- **Environmental Protection-01 (Best Available Technologies and Techniques Assessment (BATEA) for Construction Phase Effluent Treatment Report):**
Responses to CNSC staff technical comments have been submitted and are under CNSC staff review
- **Environmental Protection-02 (Update to Environmental Risk Assessment)**
Responses to CNSC staff technical comments have been submitted and are under CNSC staff review
- **Physical Design-05 (Construction Quality Management):**
The criteria have been submitted and CNSC staff determined that it has **met the closure criteria**



Financial Guarantee

- On November 7, 2025, NexGen submitted a draft financial guarantee instrument for consideration by CNSC staff and the Commission
- The draft financial guarantee amount reflects the CNSC staff accepted PDP and cost estimate
- CNSC staff recommend a licence condition requiring NexGen to submit a final financial guarantee instrument to the Commission 60 days after a decision and before any constructions activities are to commence on site
- CNSC staff continue to collaborate with the Saskatchewan government on financial guarantee matters through the Memorandum of Understanding on this topic



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

INTERVENTIONS



Participant Funding Program

NexGen Rook I Project:

Stage 1: Review of the Draft EIS

Stage 2: Participate in the final stages of the regulatory process

Stage 1: \$409,079

Stage 2: \$464,980

Additional: \$218,862

Total awarded:
\$1,092,921

- Clearwater River Dene Nation
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- Buffalo River Dene Nation
- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
- Willow Lake Métis Nation
- Mikisew Cree First Nation
- Saskatchewan Environmental Society
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- Saskatchewan First Nations Natural Resource Centre of Excellence



Key Themes arising from Interventions

10

Intervenors:

14 from Indigenous Nations & Communities

6 from industry

9 from members of the public

19 from other organizations



Indigenous
Consultation



Impacts to land
and waters



First use
of underground
tailings storage at a
Canadian
uranium mine



Applicant's
regulatory
compliance
history



Decommissioning,
including safety
and financial
guarantees



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT: BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

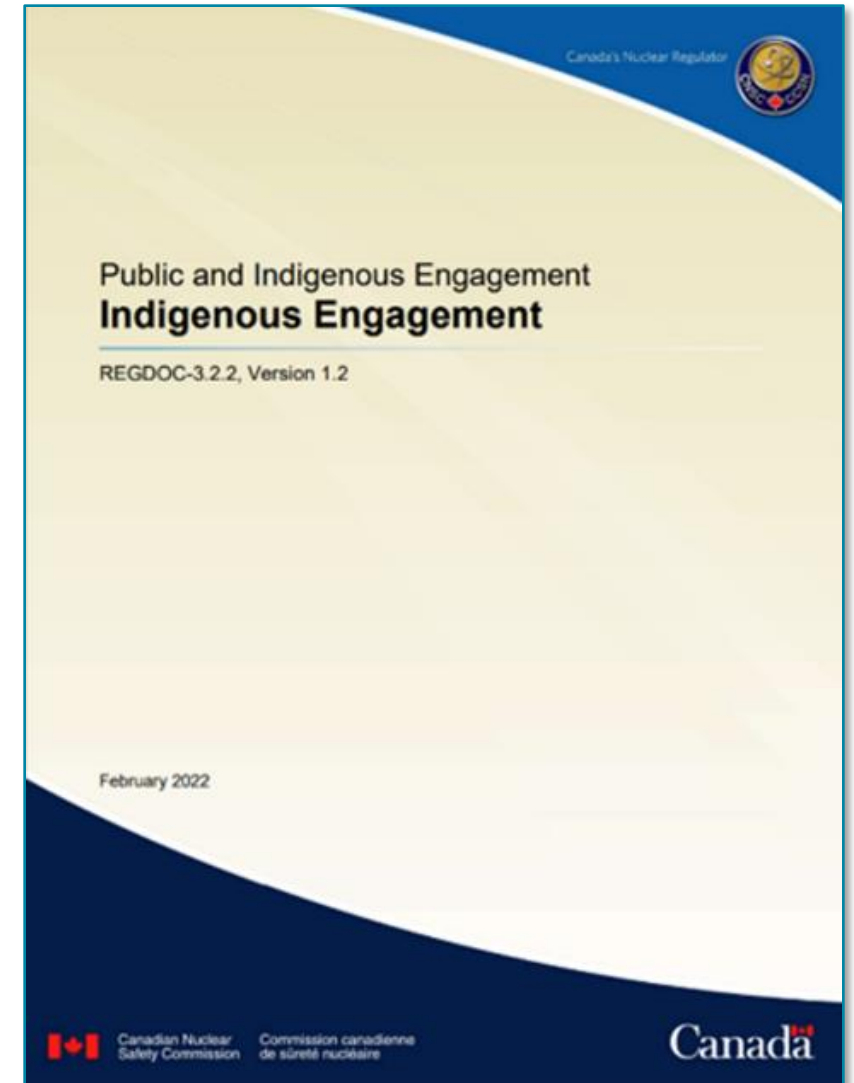


Approach to consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities (1/2)

12

CNSC staff approach to consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities is guided by:

- The CNSC's commitment to **Reconciliation**
- The **Duty to Consult**, and where appropriate, Accommodate
- *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*
- **REGDOC-3.2.2, Indigenous Engagement**





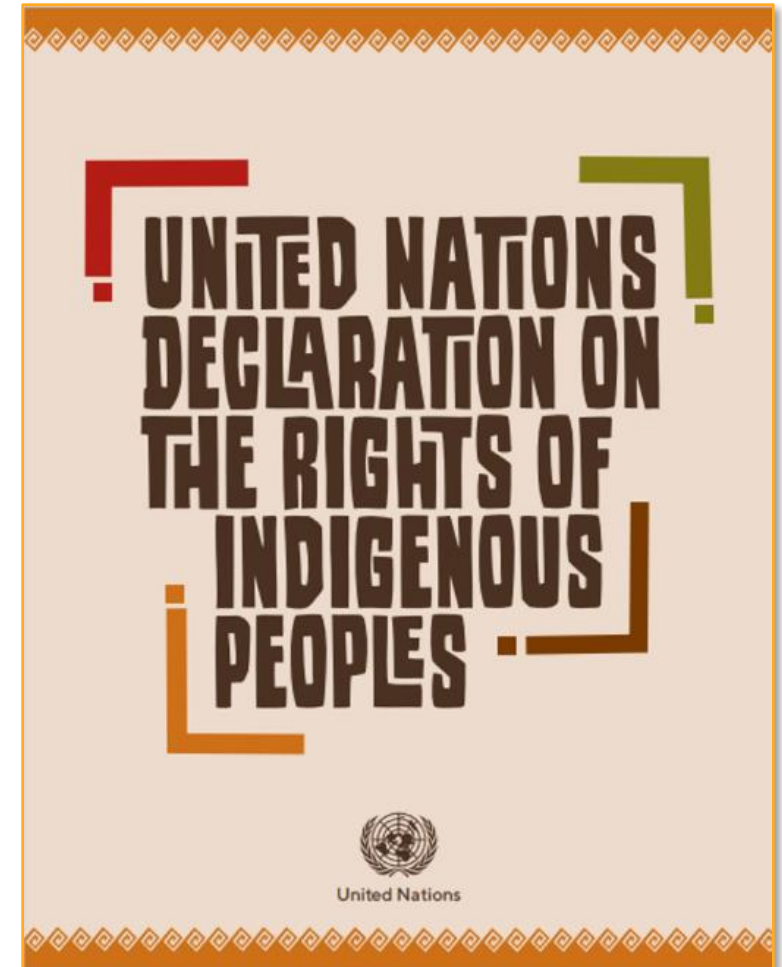
Approach to consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities (2/2)

13

The CNSC's approach to consultation is mindful of the principles articulated in the ***United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDA)***, including **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**.

The CNSC is currently using the following sources of guidance on FPIC:

- *Principles Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship with Indigenous Peoples*
- *Backgrounder: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*





The Rook I Project
is located in Saskatchewan's **Athabasca Basin**,
within the boundaries of
Treaty 8,
the No Hoe Nénéh Ancestral Lands of Clearwater
River Dene Nation, the Homeland of the Métis, and
is within NuheNéné, the traditional territory of the
Athabasca Denesuline, Buffalo River Dene Nation
and Birch Narrows Dene Nation.





Identified Indigenous Nations and communities

15

CNSC staff identified the following Indigenous Nations and communities:

Who have **Indigenous and/or Treaty rights that may be potentially impacted** by the Rook I Project as proposed:

- Clearwater River Nation (CRDN)
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
- Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN)

That have **expressed an interest** in the Rook I Project:

- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR)
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN)
- Willow Lake Métis Nation (WLMN)
- Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN)



Timeline of Consultation and Engagement for Rook I

16

2019 - 2020

Opportunities for consultation began on the Rook I Project Description and EA process including opportunity to **review** the **Project Description** and to **comment** on the scope of the **EA decision**.

2020 - 2021

Ongoing opportunities for engagement and consultation on the EA and **participant funding made available** to review the draft EIS.

2022 - 2024

NexGen submitted draft EIS and licence application for the Rook I mine. **Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT)** established for draft EIS review. **Ongoing consultation and engagement activities with** Indigenous Nations and communities.

Nov 2024 –
Jan 2025

NexGen submitted Final EIS and CNSC's final review began. **CNSC accepted NexGen's final EIS**. **Ongoing consultation and engagement activities with** Indigenous Nations and communities.

2025 - 2026

Participant Funding made available to participate in the hearing process. **Consultation efforts and next steps** for both EA and licence application.
November 2025 - Part 1 hearing. February 2026- Part 2 hearing.

Ongoing (should
a licence be issued)

Lifecycle consultation and engagement related to Rook I, should a licence be issued.



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT: CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES



Consultation and engagement activities with identified Indigenous Nations and communities (1/2)

18

- Initial notification sent in April 2019 inviting the Nations and communities to meet and discuss the Project
- Monitoring NexGen's engagement activities in accordance with REGDOC-3.2.2
- Provided multiple opportunities for dialogue through phone calls, correspondence and meetings with Leadership and community representatives
- Offered opportunities for consultation through the EA and Licensing process
- Participating in community and cultural events



A community visit to Turnor Lake to meet with BNDN in May 2024



Consultation and engagement activities with identified Indigenous Nations and communities (2/2)

19



MN-S Back to Batoche Days –
July 2024



Opening ceremonies for
Treaty Day at CRDN



Community meeting in
Buffalo Narrows



CNSC staff visit BNDN
community event



CNSC staff with Elder at
BRDN community event



Community meeting in
Fort Chipewyan



Key consultation activities:



Regular agreed upon monthly meetings



Working to understand and to assess potential impacts on rights



Collaboration on the review of key documents



Participate in the FIRT for the EA Process



Meetings with community representatives and leadership



Funding support provided



Relationship building activities and community visits

CRDN has given their **consent** and **support** for the Rook I Project to proceed and all concerns regarding the Project have been addressed

Initial concerns identified by CRDN:

- Environmental and wildlife concerns
- Loss of access to cultural and harvesting areas
- Potential contamination of lands and water
- Diminished connection to the land



Key consultation activities:



Regular agreed upon monthly meetings



Working to understand and to assess potential impacts on rights



Collaboration on the review of key documents



Participate in the FIRT for the EA Process



Meetings with community representatives and leadership



Funding support provided



Relationship building activities and community visits

MN-S has given their **consent** and **support** for the Rook I Project to proceed and all concerns regarding the Project have been addressed

Initial concerns identified by MN-S:

- Water quality and contamination risks
- Wildlife displacement
- Access restrictions
- Cultural continuity risks from reduced land use
- Metis involvement in oversight and monitoring



Key consultation activities:



Regular agreed upon monthly meetings



Working to understand and to assess potential impacts on rights



Collaboration on the review of key documents



Meetings with community representatives and leadership



Funding support provided



Relationship building activities and community visits

BNDN has given their **consent** and **support** for the Rook I Project to proceed and all concerns regarding the Project have been addressed

Initial concerns identified by BNDN:

- Road safety and maintenance
- Maintaining culture and land use
- Community wellbeing
- Water quality concerns
- Cumulative effects



Key consultation activities:



Meetings as requested with leadership



Working to understand potential impacts on rights



Opportunity to review of key documents



Funding support provided



Relationship building activities and community visits

BRDN has given their **consent** and **support** for the Rook I Project to proceed and all concerns regarding the Project have been addressed

Initial concerns identified by BRDN:

- Water quality concerns
- Cumulative effects due to surrounding mining and development
- Loss of access to cultural and harvesting areas
- Road safety and maintenance



Other interested Indigenous Nations and communities

Key engagement activities:



Introductory and technical meetings on Rook I



Included in all engagement opportunities, public webinars and correspondence



Efforts to collaborate on the review of key documents



Meetings with community representatives and leadership



Funding support provided

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR)
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN)
Willow Lake Métis Nation (WLMN)
Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN)

Concerns identified by interested Nations:

- Consultation and engagement
- Environmental monitoring
- Groundwater / surface water contamination
- Ensuring the lands are protected for future generations



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT: ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON RIGHTS



Assessment of Potential Impacts on Rights from NexGen's Rook I Application (1/3)

The Commission is required to uphold Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.

To support the Commission's decision-making, **CNSC staff assess and make recommendations to the Commission** on the potential impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty rights which take into account the proposed mitigations, follow-up measures, commitments and accommodations for the Project.

This assessment of potential impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty rights is completed through a **Rights Impact Assessment**.



Assessment of Potential Impacts on Rights from NexGen's Rook I Application (2/3)

- As part of the Crown's Duty to Consult, and where appropriate, Accommodate, the Commission will consider potential impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty rights and measures to mitigate and accommodate impacts in relation to this licensing and EA decision
- Rights Impact Assessments (RIAs) are a best practise utilized across the Federal Government for major projects and decisions that could potentially impact Indigenous and/or Treaty rights
- CNSC staff proposed conducting RIAs in response to traditional land use identified and concerns raised by Clearwater River Dene Nation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and Birch Narrows Dene Nation about the potential for the Project and Commission decision to impact their Indigenous and/or Treaty rights



Assessment of Potential Impacts on Rights from NexGen's Rook I Application (3/3)

CNSC staff have been seeking and providing opportunities for discussions with Indigenous Nations and communities regarding potential impacts to their Indigenous and/or Treaty rights.

CNSC staff engaged with, and heard concerns from

- Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN),
- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S),
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), and
- Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN)

regarding the potential for the NexGen Rook I project to impact their rights and interests.

CNSC staff proposed conducting collaborative Rights Impact Assessments for the **EA and licensing process** for three potentially impacted Nations and the RIAs evaluated how the residual impacts from the NexGen Rook I Project may interact and impact each Nation's or community's ability to exercise their rights.



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT: COMMITMENTS AND NEXT STEPS



Proposed Key Commitments and Accommodations:

NexGen:

- Surface water and groundwater monitoring programs
- Developing and implementing a monitoring approach and the framework for results sharing
- Commit to environmental monitoring and address concerns through the Environmental Committee
- Collaborating on the decommissioning plan
- Caribou Mitigation and Offset Plan

CNSC staff:

- Proposing licence condition on Indigenous engagement
- Continuing to support Indigenous Nations and communities through long-term TORs
- Collaboration on oversight and reporting on all relevant licence conditions
- Engagement and collaboration on CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program
- Inclusion of the Rook I Project into IEMP or other Monitoring Programs



Analysis and Conclusions

Regarding Potential Impacts on Rights for the Rook I Project:

- CNSC staff recommend that the Commission direct CNSC staff and NexGen to implement the commitments and proposed accommodation measures as outlined in the previous slide and Appendix A of the supplemental CMD
- CNSC staff will continue to work with the identified Indigenous Nations and communities on proposed commitments including addressing outstanding concerns, where possible
- Considering all information available to date, CNSC staff's view is that the potential impacts to Indigenous and/or Treaty rights **have been appropriately considered, assessed, mitigated and accommodated**, should the Commission grant a Licence to Prepare Site and Construct



Commission Hearing, February 9, 2026
CMD 25-H12.C – Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Rook I Project

CNSC STAFF CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



CNSC staff conclude that NexGen will develop the Rook I project in a way that is safe. Staff are ready to verify compliance if a licence is issued.

CNSC staff recommend that the Commission determine that:

- The Duty to Consult with and accommodate Indigenous Nations and communities has been fulfilled
- The Rook I project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects
- NexGen is qualified to prepare site for and construct the Rook I project, and will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons, the maintenance of national security, and measures required to implement international obligations



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