



Oral presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Victor Fern Sr**

**Mémoire de
Victor Fern Sr**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

Cameco Corporation, Beaverlodge Project

**Cameco Corporation, le projet de
Beaverlodge**

Application for the Licence Revocation and
Transfer of Properties to Saskatchewan
Institutional Control Program

Demande de révocation de permis et de
transfert de propriétés au programme de
contrôle institutionnel de la Saskatchewan

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

January 30, 2025

30 janvier 2025

December 6, 2024

Victor Fern Sr.
General Delivery
Fond du Lac, SK
S0J 3C0

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St. Ottawa ON
Email: interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca

Re: Cameco Corporation's application for revocation of the CNSC Licence for the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties

Senior Tribunal Officer:

Edlanet'e

Thank you for the opportunity to intervene in support of Cameco's application for release from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Beaverlodge Waste Facility Operating license, which would allow for the transfer of the remaining 27 properties to the Province of Saskatchewan for long-term oversight, under the Institutional Control Program (ICP).

I am Victor Fern and I am a Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation band member. I was raised in Fond du Lac and lived there all my life. At a young age I was taught my Dene culture and how to live off the land. I was taught to respect the environment because it provides for our family and our people. I believe the environment connects us with our community and culture. I am proud of who I am and where I come from.

Cameco has over a 40-year history in the Athabasca region with its management of the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties and their uranium mining and milling operations. Fond du Lac and Cameco have a long history of working together. The collaboration agreement we signed brought Athabasca Basin leadership closer together, created a way we can work along side our industry partners. The seven Athabasca Basin communities and industry signed the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement in 2016.

I am a former Chief of the Fond du Lac Denesųliné First Nation and I was Chair of the Ya'thi Néné Board that negotiated the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement in 2016. The agreement builds on the Impact Management Agreement signed in 1999. The Agreement was a step forward on how things should be done with the communities. As a previous Chief of Fond du Lac, serving on boards in support of the region, working in the mines, and currently as the Cameco and Orano community liaison for Fond du Lac, Uranium City and Camsell Portage, I have had different opportunities to serve my community.

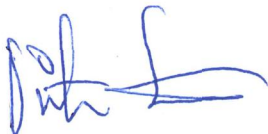
Living a traditional way of life is important to me. I am teaching my children and my grandchildren how to live off the land. I am teaching them our culture and our language. My culture is part of who I am and connects me to the land and to my community. My family continues to thrive on hunting and fishing, we utilize the land and the water almost everyday.

I have learned a lot from my involvement in the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program (CBEMP; previously the Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program), which has been conducting monitoring in the region since 2000. This program is overseen by the Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environment Subcommittee (AJES) which is responsible for reviewing information from environmental monitoring programs such as the CBEMP. I worked with the traditional land and resource users and I received training on interviewing and mapping.

Part of the most recent program for Uranium City and Camsell Portage in 2021 was to include a more inclusive role for Ya'thi Nene Lands and Resource Office that provides technical support to the AJES. The Ya'thi Nene Land Technician and I conducted interviews and mapped out the Uranium City and Camsell Portage areas as part of the program. I have talked a lot with the land and resource users in my Dene language. I have discussed the 2019 and 2021 CBEMP results with Fond du Lac, Uranium City, and Camsell Portage leadership and community members that showed the country foods remain safe and the water remains safe. I feel comfortable with the knowledge that we can continue our traditional way of life and share that information with community members.

I also participate in AJES meetings as the community liaison, including the 2023 Beaverlodge Long Term Monitoring Program workshop. Most recently, during the February 9, June 25, March 27 and June 25 AJES meetings, as well as the May 2024 public meeting in Uranium City. Cameco presented information regarding the 27 properties and demonstrated that they have met the established performance objectives of physically safe, secure and stable/improving as well as pose minimal risk to public safety or to the local environment. It is understood that Cameco has applied for the release of the remaining 27 properties and revocation of the CNSC license and I am in support of this application.

Marsi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Victor Fern Sr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Victor Fern Sr.