



**Written submission from the
Northern Saskatchewan
Environmental Quality Committee**

**Mémoire du
Northern Saskatchewan
Environmental Quality Committee**

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

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

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

Senior Tribunal Officer:

On behalf of the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC), I am pleased to provide a written intervention for the upcoming hearing (January 30, 2025) regarding Cameco's application for the revocation of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Beaverlodge Waste Facility Operating license. Such a decision would enable the transfer of the remaining 27 properties to the Province of Saskatchewan for long-term oversight, under the Institutional Control Program (ICP).

During the 1990s, a joint federal-provincial panel reviewed uranium developments proposed at a time of rapid expansion within the sector. The panel recommended local residents have more input into decisions about uranium mines. As a result, the province established the NSEQC in 1995.

The NSEQC is a Saskatchewan provincial government advisory committee representing 22 municipalities and First Nations communities, from across the Northern Saskatchewan Administration District (NSAD). These communities and their representatives have given northerners an effective voice and served as a direct link with the uranium industry for over 29 years. The NSEQC helps bring Northern residents together to consider issues surrounding the development and operation of uranium mining and milling facilities. Since its establishment, over 400 people from Northern Saskatchewan have represented their communities, with the majority being Indigenous.

Key roles and responsibilities of the NSEQC include providing communication links among communities, industries, and regulators; participating in learning opportunities and information sessions; and stimulating discussion while raising concerns to attention of industry and government officials. The NSEQC also reports annually to the provincial government and Northern communities, where it summarizes the activities, conclusions and recommendations on uranium industry development and operations. The NSEQC has developed into a long-respected voice for Northern input.

Over the last 29 years, mine operators have committed to discussing environmental practices with the NSEQC, where Northerners freely share concerns, ask questions, make recommendations concerning environmental and worker safety, and share their traditional knowledge. The continued success of this partnership builds strong and meaningful collaboration, community involvement and valued Northern perspectives.

Over the years we have followed the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties closely, and representatives have visited a number of the properties while attending the annual public meetings in Uranium City. NSEQC representation also participated in the remedial workshops Cameco hosted in 2009 and 2012 in an effort to incorporate and address feedback from Northern communities into the Beaverlodge Management Framework. In addition, NSEQC representatives participated in the 2023 workshop on the development of the Long-Term Monitoring Program, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Energy and Resources following the transfer of the properties into the provincial Institutional Control Program (ICP) program. Cameco and the regulators have helped us understand the steps that have brought us to this day. We are satisfied that the remaining 27 properties in question have been adequately remediated and that they do not pose a risk to humans or the environment. With that said, we are glad to know that monitoring efforts will continue even after the properties are released and transferred to the provincial ICP. Northerners frequently comment that they do not want the sites to be forgotten.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff and the expertise they possess in regulating uranium operations in this region. We get responses when we ask for them, and we feel our input is valued. The staff are helpful, approachable and professional.

In closing, we do not object to the release of the remaining 27 properties from licensing under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (NSCA) and Cameco's application to revoke the current Waste Facility Operation Licence. We encourage the continued diligence of provincial regulators in ensuring the proper management and monitoring of the properties under the Institutional Control Program.

Sincerely,

On behalf of NSEQC co-chairs,

Jamie Chester – Manager, NSEQC

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