



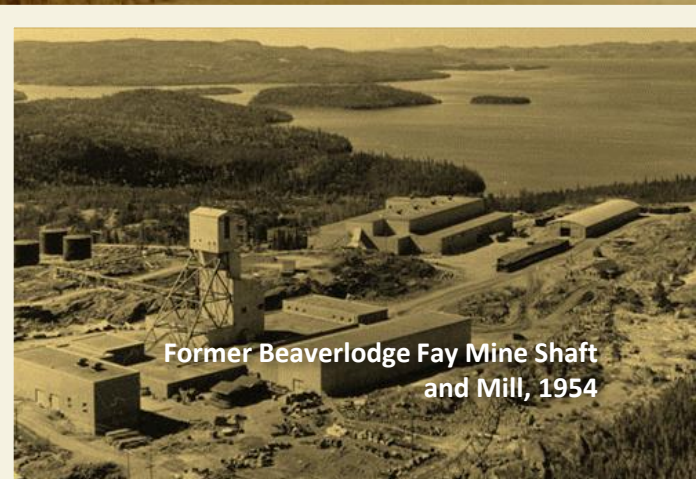
# Request to Revoke Current Licence and Release the Beaverlodge Project to the ICP

## CNSC Staff Presentation

Commission Hearing

January 30, 2025

CMD 25-H3.A



Former Beaverlodge Fay Mine Shaft  
and Mill, 1954



# Purpose and Outline

Consideration of Cameco's request to revoke the Beaverlodge licence, to allow transfer of the site to Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program (ICP)

## Provide information on:

- Saskatchewan's ICP
- Site history, performance objectives, CNSC staff's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program results, and Indigenous engagement efforts
- Conclusions and recommendations



View of Beaverlodge Lake from 'mill hill', September 2022  
(Source: CNSC staff)



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# INSTITUTIONAL CONTROL PROGRAM IN SASKATCHEWAN



# Institutional Control Program in Saskatchewan

## What is the ICP?

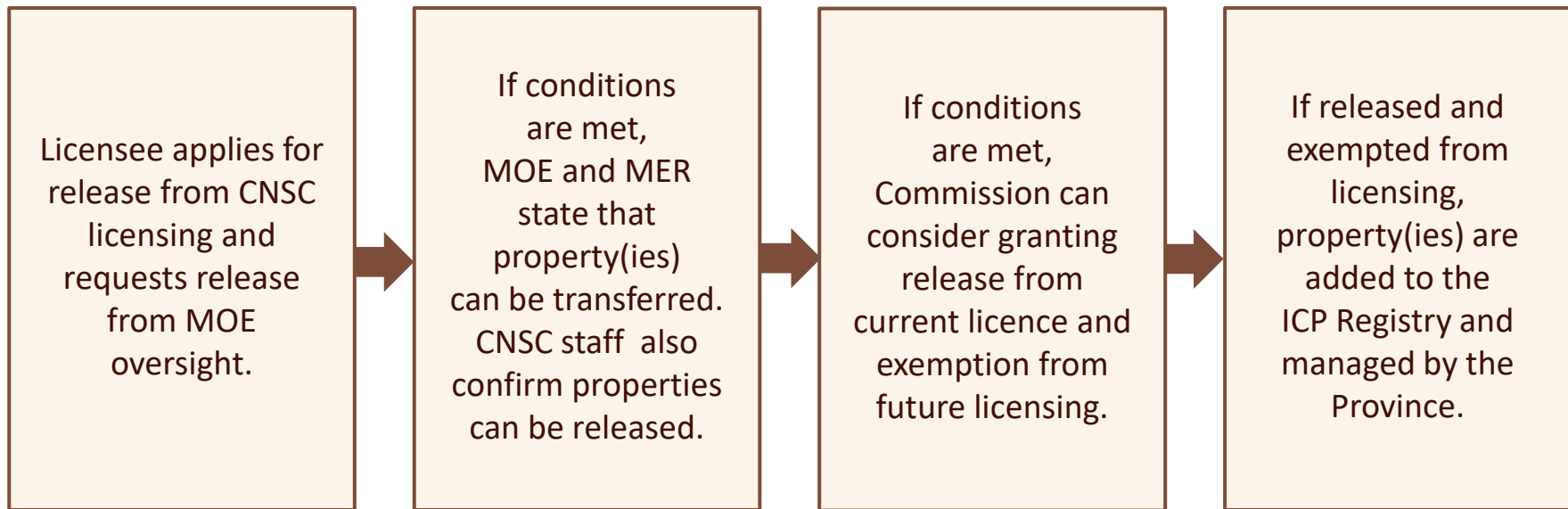
- Outlines a formal regulatory process for long term property management of mine and mill sites by the Province of Saskatchewan
- Transfer of properties/facilities into ICP can only occur after:
  - Decommissioning is complete
  - Properties are safe and stable
  - Sufficient funds in place for monitoring and maintenance and unforeseen events
  - No longer regulated by any other level of government

**Only low risk  
properties  
are accepted  
by the  
Province  
into ICP**



# Institutional Control Program in Saskatchewan

## Summary of Process





## Institutional Control Program in Saskatchewan

# CNSC's Role

Coordinated and cooperative approach with Province

### Legislative Authority

- **Section 7** of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*
- **Section 11** of the *General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations*

**CNSC staff will only recommend transfers into the ICP  
for successfully decommissioned sites**



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# SITE OVERVIEW AND HISTORY



# Site Overview and History Location



Source for Base Map: Government of Canada - Open Government 2024  
Source for Highlight Map: Google Maps





# Site Overview and History

## History

- Located in northwestern Saskatchewan, near Uranium City
- Operated (1952-1982)
- Decommissioned (1982-1985)
- Monitoring and Maintenance (1985-Present)



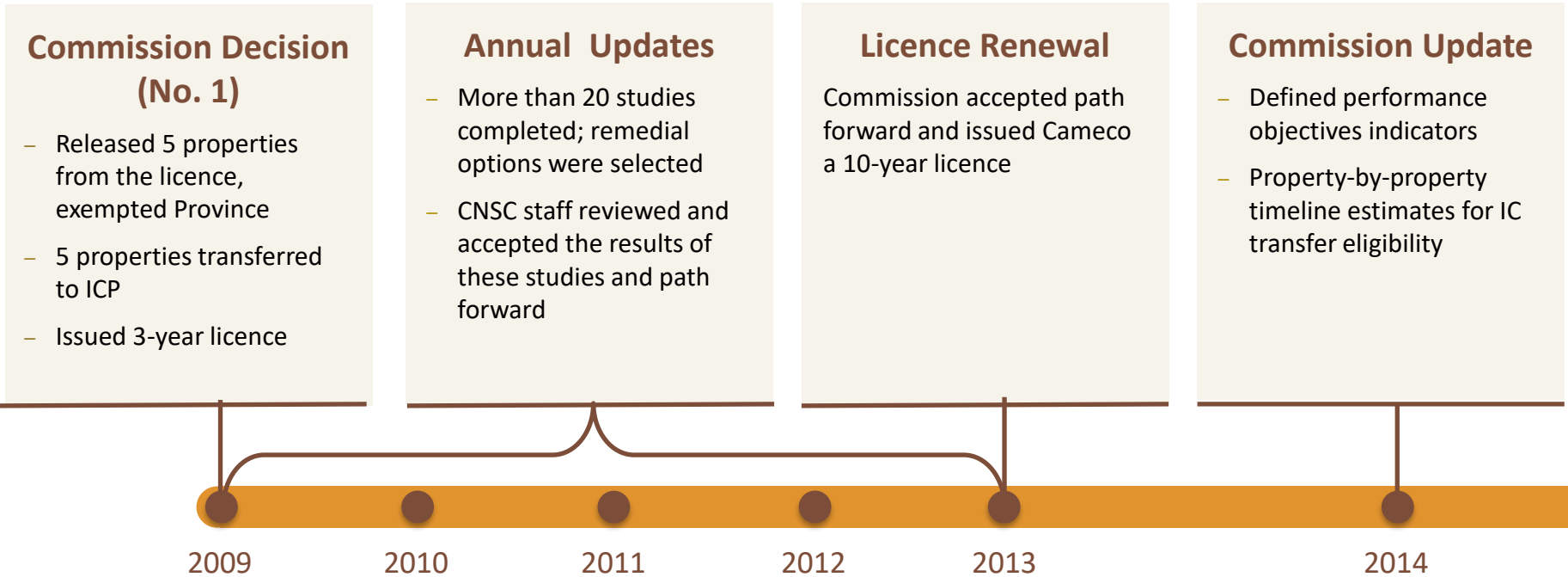
Former Beaverlodge Fay Mine and Mill, 1977

(Source: Cameco)



# Site Overview and History

## Recent CNSC Licensing (1/2)





# Site Overview and History

## Recent CNSC Licensing (2/2)

### Commission Decision (No. 2)

- Released 20 properties from licence, exempted Province
- 19 properties transferred to ICP

### Commission Decision (No. 3)

- Released 18 properties from licence, exempted Province
- 18 properties transferred to ICP

### Licence Renewal

Commission issued Cameco a 2-year licence

### Today's Hearing

- CNSC staff assess that properties meet criteria
- Propose licence revocation
- Recommend exempting Province from CNSC licensing

2019



2022

2023



< --- > Not to scale

2025



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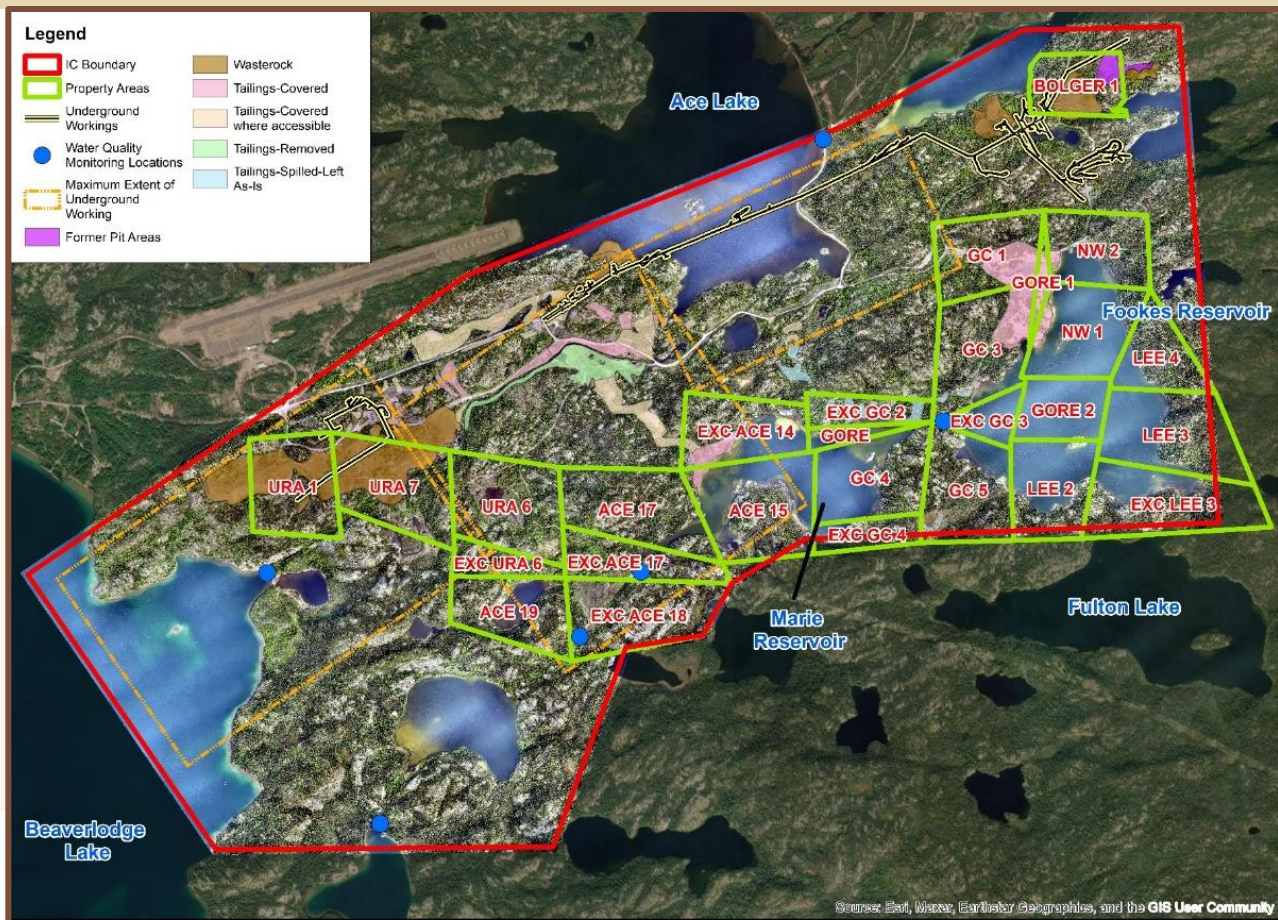
# PROPERTIES, CRITERIA AND MONITORING



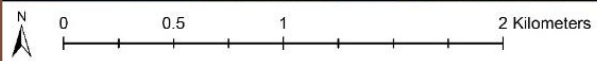
# Properties Proposed for Release

## Properties proposed for release:

- Properties shown in green
- ICP Boundary in red



Sources: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community



(Source: Cameco 2024)





# Performance Objectives and Indicators

**Performance Objectives:**

**Safe**  
Maintain  
Long Term Safety

**Secure**  
Long Term  
Risks Assessed

**Stable/Improving**  
Recovering  
as Predicted

**Performance Indicators:**

✓  
Acceptable Gamma Levels  
Boreholes Plugged  
Stable Caps on Mine Openings  
Stable Crown Pillar  
Site Free From Debris

✓  
Water Quality  
Within  
Modelled  
Predictions



# Environmental Protection Review & SCAs

## **General assessment of SCAs is completed:**

All relevant safety and control areas rated as 'satisfactory'

## **CNSC staff performed an Environmental Protection Review under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*:**

Properties proposed for release are performing as expected

**CNSC staff concluded there has and will be adequate provision for the protection of the environment**



CNSC staff inspecting the outflow of Marie Reservoir, September 2022 (Source: CNSC staff)



# Long Term Monitoring, Maintenance and Reporting

## **Monitoring and maintenance activities outlined and budgeted**

- Monitoring (waste rock, caps, vegetation, crown pillar, etc.) and maintenance of physical structures (mine caps, etc.)
- Water quality monitoring and comparison to long term predictions
- Long-term water quality and fish chemistry monitoring program

## **Federal Crown commitment for obligations and liabilities (failure event)**

## **MER monitors and manages sites**

- Inspection reports and financial status of ICP available to the public on-line
- Funds provided to undertake outreach/engagement once site is in the ICP





# Uranium City Area IEMP

The CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) is an added measure to verify that the public and environment are protected

CNSC staff engaged directly with Indigenous Nations and communities. Sampling included:

- Surface water
- Blueberries/Cranberries
- Fish (various species)
- Labrador tea
- Spruce Grouse
- Moose

**All results are consistent with past results and with CNSC staff expectations; all data is available to the public on the CNSC's IEMP website.**



CNSC Staff and YNLR Community Land Technician Processing Fish Samples on Lake Athabasca in 2023 (Source: CNSC)



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# ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION



# Indigenous Consultation & Engagement (slide 1/3)

- Committed to meaningful consultation and engagement with Indigenous Nations and Communities
- Committed to continuing to establish Terms of Reference for long-term engagement
- Regular meetings to discuss the Beaverlodge project and answer questions
- CNSC staff continue to consult and engage with identified Indigenous Nations to address and respond to concerns raised



CNSC booth at *Back to Batoche*, July 2024. (Source: CNSC)



# Indigenous Consultation & Engagement (slide 2/3)

## CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities who have rights or interests in relation to the Beaverlodge Project

**February 2024:** Letters of notification sent

**April 2024:** Follow-up emails and virtual meetings with offers to meet to discuss further

**August 2024:** Funding awarded through CNSC's Participant Funding Program

**October 2024:** Link for CMDs sent to all interested Nations

**November 2024 to January 2025:** Project updates and ongoing discussions on the Beaverlodge Project and opportunities to collaborate on regional data gathering and mapping

**Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation**

**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

**Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office**  
which includes:

- **Black Lake Denesuline First Nation**
- **Fond-du-Lac Denesuline First Nation**
- **Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation**



# Indigenous Consultation & Engagement (slide 3/3)

- Community meeting in Fort Chipewyan
- Oversight of Cameco's engagement activities and reporting as per REGDOC 3.2.2, *Indigenous Engagement*
- Awarded funding and initiated dialogue on Uranium City regional mapping exercise
- Encourage Province to conduct on-going engagement & collaboration with Indigenous Nations and communities as part of the ICP



CNSC presenting in Fort Chipewyan, September 2024. (Source: CNSC)

**CNSC staff consulted and engaged Indigenous Nations and communities and worked to address and respond to their concerns and recommendations**



# Indigenous & Public Engagement

- Annual CNSC outreach session in the fall
- Annual in person and virtual (during COVID) public meetings in Uranium City
- Presented Beaverlodge information during regular meetings and/or outreach sessions
- Presented at Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee meetings



CNSC presenting in Uranium City, May 2024. (Source: CNSC)



# Participant Funding Program

**The Participant Funding Program** provides funds to assist members of the public and Indigenous Nations and communities in providing valuable information on licensing actions, directly to the Commission

Funding was awarded  
in the amount of **\$188,259**

## Funding awarded to:

- *Métis Nation-Saskatchewan*
- *Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office*
- *Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation*
- *Nuclear Transparency Project*



# Interventions (1/2)

CNSC received 11 interventions, main themes included:

- Supportive comments from some companies, associations, residents
- Indigenous engagement and consultation, Duty to Consult and Treaty Rights
- Safety of properties and consumption of traditional foods
- Data availability





# Interventions (2/2)

Other key themes included:

- Performance indicators
- Issues raised at past Hearings
- Cumulative effects
- CNSC's continued oversight
- Long Term Monitoring Program
- Engagement and involvement once site is in the ICP



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# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



# Conclusions

## CNSC staff concluded that:

- **All 27 properties proposed for release** from licensing and exemption from future CNSC licensing meet the applicable performance indicators and regulatory acceptance criteria
- **No unreasonable risk** to environment or health and safety of persons
- **The ICP will provide ongoing regulatory oversight** by a competent authority for those properties that require long term monitoring and control

CNSC staff have conducted consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities in support of meeting consultation obligations and upholding the honour of the Crown



# Recommendations

**CNSC staff recommend that the Commission consider the following actions:**

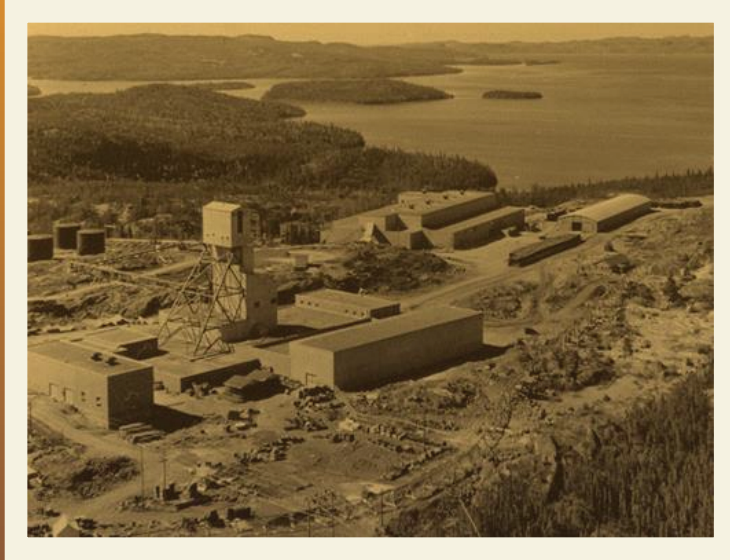
- **Revoke** Waste Facility Operating Licence WFOL-W5-2120.0/2025
- **Exempt** the Government of Saskatchewan from licensing under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* for the 27 properties proposed for transfer into Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

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de sûreté nucléaire

Canada



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