

CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application to amend the licence and
licensing basis for the Gentilly-1 Waste Facility**

WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS

Request for Ruling under Rule 20

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PART I – STATEMENT OF FACT

A. Overview

1. This is a request for a procedural ruling, under Rule 20 of the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure* (“**Rules**”),¹ concerning Canadian Nuclear Laboratories’ (“**CNL**”) application for an amendment to the Gentilly-1 Waste Facility’s nuclear decommissioning licence.
2. The Concerned Citizens of Renfrew County and Area (“**CCRCA**”) submit that the Commission must hold an in-person, oral hearing.
3. The Commission is required by s. 40(5)(a) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (“**NSCA**”)² to hold a public hearing. The text, context, and purpose of this provision and the *Rules* indicate that a public hearing must be held in person, orally, and for at least one day. It cannot be conducted solely in writing. Additionally, the Commission cannot use its Rule 3 sub-delegated power to vary the *Rules* to override the statutory requirement for a public hearing.

B. Licence Amendment Application

4. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories has applied to amend its waste facility decommissioning licence for the Gentilly-1 Waste Facility. This amendment would allow it to dismantle and demolish all remaining facilities at the site to achieve a brownfield end state for industrial reuse (“**Licence Amendment Application**”).

¹ *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211.

² *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [40\(5\)\(a\)](#).

5. Under the *Impact Assessment Act*,³ the Commission is required to determine whether the proposed activities are likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

C. Notice of Hearing in Writing

6. On May 12, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Hearing in Writing and Participant Funding (“**Notice of Hearing in Writing**”).⁴
7. This Notice of Hearing in Writing stated that the Commission will determine the Licence Amendment Application on the basis of written submissions alone at some time during the month of July 2026, and there will not be an oral or in-person public hearing.
8. The Notice of Hearing referred to this as a “public hearing based on written submissions”, but, in doing so, misused the term “public hearing”, since a determination made solely on the basis of written submissions is not a “public hearing” under the *NSCA* or *Rules*.
9. Under s. 40(5)(a) of the *NSCA*, a public hearing is required for the determination of licence amendments, yet the Notice of Hearing in Writing did not identify any legal authority under which the Commission was acting when it disposed of the public hearing requirement.

³ *Impact Assessment Act*, SC 2019, c 28, s 1, s [82](#).

⁴ Document Reference number 2026-H-100.

PART II – POINTS IN ISSUE

10. There are two issues to be determined:

ISSUE 1: What is the meaning of a “public hearing” under s. 40(5)(a) of the *NSCA*?

ISSUE 2: Can the Commission forego a public hearing using its discretionary authority under Rule 3 of the *Rules*?

11. The CCRCA submits that a public hearing under s. 40(5)(a) must be an oral, in-person hearing held for at least one day; and the Commission does not have authority to forego a public hearing using Rule 3.

PART III – SUBMISSIONS

1. Public Hearings Must be Oral and in Person

12. Subsection 40(5) of the *NSCA* requires the Commission to hold a public hearing for any licence amendments unless a by-law or regulation says otherwise:

(5) The Commission shall, subject to any by-laws made under section 15 and any regulations made under section 44, hold a public hearing with respect to

(a) the proposed exercise by the Commission, or by a panel established under section 22, of the power under subsection 24(2) to issue, renew, suspend, amend, revoke or replace a licence,⁵

13. The Commission cannot interpret “public hearing” to include a determination made solely on written submissions simply because it is

⁵ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [40\(5\)](#).

more expedient. The Commission must ascertain the legislative intent.⁶ To do so, it must use the modern approach to statutory interpretation, considering the provision's text, context, and purpose.⁷

14. As explained in the sections below, each of these three elements supports the conclusion that a “public hearing” must be an oral hearing.

1.1. Text

15. The plain meaning of “public hearing” is an oral hearing.

1.1.1. Black's Law Dictionary

16. Black's Law Dictionary defines a “public hearing” as an event where parties can appear and presentations are made:

Public hearing before any tribunal or body means right to appear and give evidence and also right to hear and examine witnesses whose testimony is presented by opposing parties.⁸

1.1.2. Cambridge Dictionary

17. The Cambridge Dictionary has four definitions for “hearing”, all of which indicate there must be a specific time at which people meet contemporaneously to exchange information:

1. an official meeting that is held to collect the facts about an event or problem
2. an occasion when you listen to what someone has to say or give them a chance to express their opinions

⁶ *Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration) v Vavilov*, 2019 SCC 65 at para [121](#).

⁷ *Ibid* at paras [118](#) & [120](#).

⁸ Black's Law Dictionary, 6 ed, *sub verbo* “public hearing”, p 1229.

3. an official meeting that is held to gather the facts about an event or problem

4. a meeting of a group of people, for example judges or politicians, to hear the facts relating to a legal problem or subject of public interest before they make a decision about it⁹

18. Three of the definitions (1, 3, and 4) state that a hearing is a meeting. A determination made solely on written submissions does not involve any meeting with the parties, so it is not a hearing.

19. The second definition states that a hearing is an occasion during which expression is made while another party listens. A proceeding solely in writing does not include such an occasion, so it is not a hearing.

1.2. Context

1.2.1. *Opportunity to be Heard vs Public Hearing*

20. The NSCA contains three different levels of procedure for different types of decisions. The stakes, formality, and opportunities for participation increase at each level:

- 1) A “reasonable opportunity to be heard” by a designated officer under s. 39;¹⁰
- 2) An “opportunity to be heard in accordance with the prescribed rules of procedure” under s. 40(1);¹¹ and
- 3) A “public hearing” under s. 40(5).¹²

⁹ Cambridge Dictionary, *sub verbo* “hearing”, online <<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/hearing>>.

¹⁰ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [39](#).

¹¹ *Ibid*, s [40\(1\)](#).

¹² *Ibid*, s [40\(5\)](#).

21. The *NSCA* explicitly states, in ss. 39(2) and 40(2), that the first and second levels of procedure do not apply to licence amendment decisions.¹³ Under s. 40(5), the third, highest level of procedure, a public hearing, must be followed for licence amendments.¹⁴
22. The *Rules* set out the procedural requirements for each of these three levels of procedure, and these requirements indicate that a public hearing must be oral, in person, and for at least one day.

1.2.1.1. Rules Related to Public Hearings

23. The rules related to public hearings all contemplate a hearing in a specific place, at a specific date and time, and that lasts for at least one day.
24. Several rules contemplate a public hearing being held on either one or multiple days, but none contemplate zero hearing days:
- a. Subrule 17(1) states that when a public hearing is held, it may be held “on one or more days”.¹⁵
 - b. Subrule 17(4) gives two options for the hearing’s duration: “one day” and “more than one day”.¹⁶
 - c. Subrules 19(2) and (3) set out the deadlines to file a request to intervene only for one-day and two-day hearings.¹⁷
 - d. Subrule 13(4) states that a person who has been summoned must attend on “every day of the hearing” or “certain days” unless they are not required at all.¹⁸

¹³ *Ibid*, ss [39\(2\)](#) & [40\(2\)](#).

¹⁴ *Ibid*, s [40\(5\)](#).

¹⁵ *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211, r [17\(1\)](#).

¹⁶ *Ibid*, r [17\(4\)](#).

¹⁷ *Ibid*, r [19\(3\)](#).

¹⁸ *Ibid*, r [13\(4\)](#).

25. Several rules reference a start time and duration of the hearing:

- a. Subrule 17(2) states that the Commission “shall give notice of a public hearing to the parties at least 60 days before the start of the hearing.”¹⁹
- b. Subsection 17(3) states the same about notice to the public.²⁰
- c. Subrule 18(1) refers to the “start” of the hearing.²¹
- d. Subrule 21(1) states that participants may make presentations “[d]uring a public hearing”.²²

26. Several rules draw a distinction between events that happen before the start of the hearing and during the hearing. The rules are non-sensical if applied to a proceeding in writing, which only has one time period for participation; there is no period before the start of the hearing that is distinct from the period during the hearing:

- a. Subrule 18(2) requires that Commission employees and officers file materials that they will present “at the hearing” at least 30 days before the “start of a public hearing”.²³
- b. Subrule 20(1) states that participants may file requests for rulings “before the start of a public hearing”. By contrast, r. 20(3) states that participants may “make an oral request to the Commission for a ruling” “[a]t any time during the public hearing”.²⁴

¹⁹ *Ibid*, r [17\(2\)](#).

²⁰ *Ibid*, r [17\(3\)](#).

²¹ *Ibid*, r [18\(1\)](#).

²² *Ibid*, r [21\(1\)](#).

²³ *Ibid*, r [18\(2\)](#).

²⁴ *Ibid*, rr [20\(1\)](#) & [\(3\)](#).

- c. Subrule 13(1) states that a participant may request the Commission issue a summons “in writing before the hearing or an oral request at the hearing”.²⁵

27. Several rules state that submissions can be made orally at a hearing:

- a. Subrule 19(4) states that a request to intervene must include a statement about whether the requester wishes to participate by oral presentation.²⁶
- b. Subrule 20(3) states that participants may “make an oral request to the Commission for a ruling” “[a]t any time during the public hearing”.²⁷
- c. Subrule 21(1) states that “[d]uring a public hearing” the Commission may permit participants to present “orally or in writing”.²⁸
- d. Subrule 13(1) states that a participant may make “an oral request at the hearing” for the Commission to issue a summons.²⁹

28. Multiple rules reference a location for the hearing, indicating it must be held in a physical location:

- a. Subrule 17(1) states that when a public hearing is held, it may be held “in one or more places.”³⁰
- b. Subrule 17(4) requires that notices state “where” the hearing will be held.³¹

²⁵ *Ibid*, r [13\(1\)](#).

²⁶ *Ibid*, r [19\(4\)](#).

²⁷ *Ibid*, rr [20\(1\)](#) & [\(3\)](#).

²⁸ *Ibid*, r [21\(1\)](#).

²⁹ *Ibid*, r [13\(1\)](#).

³⁰ *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211, r [17\(1\)](#).

³¹ *Ibid*, r [17\(4\)](#).

29. Thus, the rules related to a public hearing contemplate an in-person, oral hearing held on at least one day and in at least one place. The *Rules* do not mention the possibility of holding a public hearing in writing. Rather, many rules would make no sense if written submissions alone could constitute a public hearing.

1.2.1.2. Rules Related to the Opportunity to be Heard by the Commission

30. The rules related to “opportunity to be heard” by the Commission are in stark contrast to the rules about public hearings. Unlike for a public hearing, the rules about an “opportunity to be heard” explicitly contemplate a decision being made on the basis of written submissions.

31. Subrules 24(1) and (2) state that the Commission must notify each party of their opportunity to be heard.³² Unlike the similar section for public hearings (r. 17), r. 24 does not require that the notice set out a date, time, and place of the hearing, and it does not limit the hearing’s duration options to one or more days.

32. Additionally, r. 24(3) explicitly permits the Commission to “conduct the opportunity to be heard orally, by written submissions or in any other manner that will enable the Commission to determine the questions before it in a fair, informal and expeditious manner.”³³ There is no similar provision in the rules for public hearings. This omission was not accidental. The drafters deliberately gave the Commission power to make its determination in writing for some decisions but not for decisions that require public hearings.

³² *Ibid*, r [24\(1\)](#) & [\(2\)](#).

³³ *Ibid*, r [24\(3\)](#).

1.2.1.3. Rules Related to the Opportunity to be Heard By Designated Officer

33. The contrast also appears in the rules about the opportunity to be heard by a designated officer.
34. The notice requirement in r. 27(1) & (2) does not require notice to be given of a date, time, and place of hearing, and it does not limit the hearing's duration options to one or more days.³⁴
35. Also unlike the rules related to public hearings, r. 27(3) gives the designated officer permission to conduct the opportunity to be heard in writing.³⁵
36. Thus, both by what is said in the rules related to public hearings and what is deliberately omitted, the *Rules* clearly indicate that a public hearing must be an oral hearing for at least one day.

1.2.2. Contrast with Telephone Participation

37. Within the *NSCA*, the context indicates that public hearings must be conducted in person, since s. 40(6) states that public hearings are mutually exclusive with matters for which Commission members may participate by telephone or other communication device.
38. Subsection 40(6) states that s. 40(5) – the public hearing requirement – “does not apply in respect of any matter in relation to which subsection 14(2) applies.”³⁶

³⁴ *Ibid*, rr [27\(1\)](#) & [\(2\)](#).

³⁵ *Ibid*, r [27\(3\)](#).

³⁶ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [40\(6\)](#).

39. Subsection 14(2) states that Commission members may participate in Commission meetings by telephone or other communication device, rather than solely in person:

A member may, subject to the by-laws of the Commission, participate in a meeting of the Commission by means of a telephone or other communication device that permits all persons participating in the meeting to hear one another, and a member who participates in a meeting by those means is deemed, for the purposes of this Act, to be present at the meeting.³⁷

40. Since the *NSCA* explicitly states that the s. 40(5) public hearing requirement does not apply to matters for which a telephone conference will suffice, this indicates that the drafters intended “public hearing” to require in-person attendance. If that were not the case – and public hearings could be conducted by telephone or other device – there would be no reason to state that s. 40(5) does not apply to matters to which s. 14(2) applies.

41. Thus, the context of s. 40(6) and s. 14(2) indicates that the legislative drafters intended “public hearing” to mean an in-person hearing.

1.3. Purpose

42. The purpose of the *NSCA* further supports interpreting “public hearing” as requiring an oral hearing.

43. The purpose of the *NSCA* is the protection of the health and safety of persons and the environment and the reduction of national security risks:

3 The purpose of this Act is to provide for

(a) the limitation, to a reasonable level and in a manner that is consistent with Canada’s international obligations, of the

³⁷ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [14\(2\)](#).

risks to national security, the health and safety of persons and the environment that are associated with the development, production and use of nuclear energy and the production, possession and use of nuclear substances, prescribed equipment and prescribed information; and

(b) the implementation in Canada of measures to which Canada has agreed respecting international control of the development, production and use of nuclear energy, including the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices.³⁸

44. Likewise, the objects of the Commission are also the protection of health and safety and the reduction of risks. An added component for the Commission is the dissemination of information to the public:

9 The objects of the Commission are

(a) to regulate the development, production and use of nuclear energy and the production, possession and use of nuclear substances, prescribed equipment and prescribed information in order to

(i) prevent unreasonable risk, to the environment and to the health and safety of persons, associated with that development, production, possession or use,

(ii) prevent unreasonable risk to national security associated with that development, production, possession or use, and

(iii) achieve conformity with measures of control and international obligations to which Canada has agreed; and

(b) to disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public concerning the activities of the Commission and the effects, on the environment and on the health and safety of persons, of the development,

³⁸ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s [3](#).

production, possession and use referred to in paragraph (a).³⁹

45. The purposes of the *NSCA* and the Commission are not to ensure nuclear projects advance rapidly, save money, or achieve industry goals.
46. The purpose is public safety, and this supports an interpretation that is more protective. In the face of any textual or contextual ambiguity, the Commission should adopt the interpretation providing the highest level of procedural protection since this will best further the *NSCA*'s purposes.
47. Therefore, the text, context, and purpose of the *NSCA* all support the interpretation that a public hearing must be conducted orally, in person, and for at least one day. Since this present matter is a licence amendment application, a public hearing must be held; the licence application determination cannot be made solely based on written representations.

2. Rule 3 Cannot Vary Public Hearing Requirement

48. The requirement that the Commission hold a public hearing cannot be waived by the Commission or a designated officer by using Rule 3 of the *Rules*.
49. Subsection 40(5) of the *NSCA* requires that the Commission hold a public hearing for any licence amendments unless a by-law or regulation says otherwise.⁴⁰ Neither the by-laws nor regulations displace this requirement. Rather, the *Rules*, which are regulations made under s. 44, affirm that a public hearing must be held.⁴¹

³⁹ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s 9.

⁴⁰ *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9, s 40(5).

⁴¹ *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211, s 16(a).

50. The Commission has not indicated in the Notice of Hearing in Writing under what authority it has decided to forego a public hearing. However, if the Commission is purporting to use its authority to vary rules under r. 3 of the *Rules*, this is *ultra vires* as an unlawful sub-delegation.

2.1. Rule 3's Statutory Context

51. Rule 3 states as follows:

(1) The Commission or, where applicable, a designated officer may vary or supplement any of these Rules, in order to ensure that a proceeding be dealt with as informally and expeditiously as the circumstances and the considerations of fairness permit.⁴²

52. The Commission cannot use Rule 3 to override the requirement for a public hearing under s. 40(5) of the *NSCA*.

53. Subsection 40(5) of the *NSCA* says that only a regulation can remove the obligation to hold a public hearing. Although the *Rules* are a regulation, Rule 3 does not meet the requirements of *NSCA* s. 40(5) because it does not remove the public hearing requirement directly; it delegates power to someone else to vary the *Rules*.

54. While this delegation of power may be permissible with respect to many of the *Rules*, it is not permissible with respect to the requirement for a public hearing, since that requirement is set out in statute and contains specific instructions about the only way it can be overridden.

⁴² *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211, r [3](#).

2.2. Rule Against Sub-delegation

55. Using Rule 3 powers to override s. 40(5)'s public hearing requirement would violate the rule against sub-delegation.

56. The rule against sub-delegation is a settled principle of administrative law, repeatedly affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada and Federal Court of Appeal.⁴³ It provides that powers delegated by statute must be exercised by the person to whom they are delegated and may not be further delegated:

The rule against sub-delegation is easily stated: where an enactment delegates rule-making or decision-making authority to a particular person, that person is entitled to exercise the power directly, but is generally not entitled to delegate its exercise to another. The maxim that a delegate is not entitled to re-delegate is a basic principle of administrative law.⁴⁴

57. Courts have consistently found unlawful any situation where a statute delegated powers to be exercised by regulation and the government further delegated the powers within the regulation.

2.2.1. *Attorney General of Canada v Brent*

58. In *Brent*, the *Immigration Act* authorized the Governor in Council to make regulations regarding certain matters, and the Governor in Council enacted a regulation that gave these powers to a special inquiry officer.

59. The Supreme Court held that this was an invalid sub-delegation since it converted the requirement that the Governor in Council's opinion be

⁴³ See eg [Brant Dairy Co v Milk Commission of Ontario](#), [1973] SCR 131; [AG of Canada v Brent](#), [1956] SCR 318; [Biogenie Canada Inc v Canada \(Food Inspection Agency\)](#), 2025 FCA 150; [Actton Transport Ltd v Canada \(Minister of Labour\)](#), 2004 FCA 182.

⁴⁴ [Trinity Western University v The Law Society of British Columbia](#), 2016 BCCA 423 at para 62.

enshrined in a regulation “into an unregulated exercise from time to time of the opinion of a special inquiry officer.”⁴⁵

2.2.2. *Brant Dairy Co v Milk Commission of Ontario*

60. Similarly, in *Brant Dairy Co*, the Milk Commission of Ontario was authorized to set quotas by regulation. The regulation it enacted merely repeated the statutory language that authorized it to set the quotas and replaced the word “Commission” with “Board”, thereby delegating the power instead of exercising it.⁴⁶ The Supreme Court found the regulation *ultra vires*:

A statutory body which is empowered to do something by regulation does not act within its authority by simply repeating the power in a regulation in the words in which it was conferred. That evades exercise of the power and, indeed, turns a legislative power into an administrative one. It amounts to a redelegation by the Board to itself in a form different from that originally authorized; and that this is illegal is evident from the judgment of this Court in *Attorney General of Canada v. Brent*.⁴⁷

61. The Court found that the issue was the same as in *Brent* and rejected the conversion of regulatory power into “random power”:

The principle is the same here. The Board was required to legislate by regulation. Instead, it has purported to give itself random power to administer as it sees fit without any reference point in standards fixed by regulation.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ *Brant Dairy Co v Milk Commission of Ontario*, [1973] SCR 131 at [147](#), citing [AG of Canada v Brent](#), [1956] SCR 318.

⁴⁶ *Brant Dairy Co v Milk Commission of Ontario*, [1973] SCR 131 at [146](#).

⁴⁷ *Ibid* at [146](#).

⁴⁸ *Ibid* [147](#).

2.2.3. *Air Canada v Dorval*

62. In *Air Canada v Dorval*, the city of Dorval's governing legislation stated that tax rates could only be set by by-law. The city passed a by-law saying that it would set tax rates annually by resolution.
63. The Court found that this was an unlawful re-delegation, even though it was a delegation to the same body. It was unlawful because it allowed the city to exercise the power using a different procedure than the legislator intended.⁴⁹
64. To pass a by-law, the city had to follow formal procedures including providing a public notice, whereas no such formal procedures were required to pass a resolution.⁵⁰

2.2.4. *Application to Present Case*

65. These precedents apply to the present case. Parliament intended that the right to a public hearing only be abridged by certain formal mechanisms: by-laws or regulations. These mechanisms ensure a certain level of notice and consultation as well as consistency and predictability. By re-delegating the power to forgo public hearings to the Commission or an officer, the Commission would be attempting to bypass these requirements that Parliament intended.
66. Therefore, Rule 3 must not be interpreted as granting the Commission power to vary the rules requiring a public hearing. If the Commission interprets the rule in this way, Rule 3 will be *ultra vires* as an impermissible sub-delegation of a power that the statute mandated only be exercised directly by regulation or by-law.

⁴⁹ *Air Canada v City of Dorval*, [1985] 1 SCR 861 at paras [5-7](#) & [37](#).

⁵⁰ *Ibid* at paras [24-26](#) & [29](#).

PART IV – RELIEF SOUGHT

67. Based on the foregoing, CCRCA requests that the Commission
- a. Revoke the May 12, 2025, Notice of Hearing in Writing; and
 - b. Conduct a public hearing that is oral, in person, and occurs for at least one day.

ALL OF WHICH IS RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED THIS 9 APRIL 2026



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BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY®

Definitions of the Terms and Phrases of
American and English Jurisprudence,
Ancient and Modern

By

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18 U.S.C.A. § 3006A. Most states also have public defender programs. *See also* Counsel, right to; Legal aid; Legal Services Corporation.

Public domain. Land and water in possession of and owned by the United States and the states individually, as distinguished from lands privately owned by individuals or corporations. *See also* Public lands.

Copyright law. Public ownership status of writings, documents, or publications that are not protected by copyrights.

Public entity. Public entity includes a nation, state, county, city and county, city, district, public authority, public agency, or any other political subdivision or public corporation, whether foreign or domestic. Calif.Evid. Code.

Public exchange offer. *See* Offering.

Public figure. Term "public figure," for purposes of determining standard to be applied in defamation action, includes artists, athletes, business people, dilettantes, and anyone who is famous or infamous because of who he is or what he has done. *Rosanova v. Playboy Enterprises, Inc.*, D.C.Ga., 411 F.Supp. 440, 444. Public figures, for libel purposes, are those who have assumed roles of special prominence in society; commonly, those classed as public figures have thrust themselves to forefront of particular public controversies in order to influence resolution of issues involved. *Mills v. Kingsport Times-News*, D.C.W.Va., 475 F.Supp. 1005, 1009. Persons so classified are required to prove actual notice to recover in libel actions. *Hustler Magazine v. Falwell*, 485 U.S. 46, 108 S.Ct. 876, 99 L.Ed.2d 41.

In determining whether plaintiff in libel action is "public figure" required to show "actual malice" of publisher or broadcaster, it is preferable to look to nature and extent of his participation in particular controversy giving rise to the defamation, and he should not be deemed public personality for all aspects of his life in absence of clear evidence of general fame or notoriety in community and pervasive involvement in affairs of society. *Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc.*, 418 U.S. 323, 94 S.Ct. 2997, 41 L.Ed.2d 789. *See* Libel.

For right of privacy action purposes, includes anyone who has arrived at position where public attention is focused upon him as a person. *Dietemann v. Time, Inc.*, D.C.Cal., 284 F.Supp. 925, 930. *See* Invasion of privacy.

Public funds. Moneys belonging to government, or any department of it, in hands of public official. *Droste v. Kerner*, 34 Ill.2d 495, 217 N.E.2d 73, 78.

Public hearing. Public hearing before any tribunal or body means right to appear and give evidence and also right to hear and examine witnesses whose testimony is presented by opposing parties. *North State, Astor, Lake Shore Drive Ass'n v. City of Chicago*, 131 Ill.App.2d 251, 266 N.E.2d 742, 746.

Publici juris /p'ɒbləsəy j'ʊrəs/. Lat. Of public right. The word "public" in this sense means pertaining to the people, or affecting the community at large; that which concerns a multitude of people; and the word "right," as

so used, means a well-founded claim; an interest; concern; advantage; benefit. This term, as applied to a thing or right, means that it is open to or exercisable by all persons. It designates things which are owned by "the public;" that is, the entire state or community, and not by any private person. When a thing is common property, so that any one can make use of it who likes, it is said to be *publici juris*; as in the case of light, air, and public water.

Public interest. Something in which the public, the community at large, has some pecuniary interest, or some interest by which their legal rights or liabilities are affected. It does not mean anything so narrow as mere curiosity, or as the interests of the particular localities, which may be affected by the matters in question. Interest shared by citizens generally in affairs of local, state or national government. *Russell v. Wheeler*, 165 Colo. 296, 439 P.2d 43, 46.

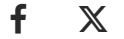
If by public permission one is making use of public property and he chances to be the only one with whom the public can deal with respect to the use of that property, his business is affected with a public interest which requires him to deal with the public on reasonable terms. The circumstances which clothe a particular kind of business with a "public interest," as to be subject to regulation, must be such as to create a peculiarly close relation between the public and those engaged in it and raise implications of an affirmative obligation on their part to be reasonable in dealing with the public. One does not devote his property or business to a public use, or clothe it with a public interest, merely because he makes commodities for and sells to the public in common callings such as those of the butcher, baker, tailor, etc. *Chas. Wolff Packing Co. v. Court of Industrial Relations of State of Kansas*, 262 U.S. 522, 43 S.Ct. 630, 633, 67 L.Ed. 1103. A business is not affected with a public interest merely because it is large, or because the public has concern in respect of its maintenance, or derives benefit, accommodation, ease, or enjoyment from it. *Tyson & Bro.-United Theatre Ticket Offices v. Banton*, 273 U.S. 418, 47 S.Ct. 426, 71 L.Ed. 718.

Public invitee. A public invitee to whom owner of property owes duty to exercise ordinary care for his safety is person who is invited to enter or remain on land as member of public for purpose for which land is held open to public. *Lemon v. Busey*, 204 Kan. 119, 461 P.2d 145, 149. *See also* Business (*Business invitee*); Invitee.

Publicist /p'ɒbləsəst/. One versed in, or writing upon, public law, the science and principles of government, or international law.

Public lands. The general public domain; unappropriated lands; lands belonging to the United States and which are subject to sale or other disposal under general laws, and not reserved or held back for any special governmental or public purpose. *Newhall v. Sanger*, 92 U.S. 761, 763, 23 L.Ed. 769.

Meaning of **hearing** in English



hearing

noun

UK  /'hi:ə.rɪŋ/ US  /'hɪr.ɪŋ/

hearing *noun* (MEETING)

Add to word list 

[C]

an official meeting that is held to collect the facts about an event or problem:

- **public hearing**
- **disciplinary hearing** *A disciplinary hearing will examine charges of serious professional misconduct against three surgeons.*
- **public hearing**

+ 

[C]

an occasion when you listen to what someone has to say or give them a chance to express their opinions:

- **give someone/something a hearing** *I think we should give him a hearing (= we should listen to what he wants to say).*
- **sympathetic hearing** *Did he give your complaints a sympathetic hearing?*
- **fair hearing** *Pupils facing exclusion from school have the right to a fair hearing.*

— Fewer examples

- *He didn't feel he got a fair hearing in court.*
- *There is to be a public hearing next week in the Town Hall.*
- *The evidence was submitted at a pre-trial hearing.*

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases

hearing *noun* (ABILITY)



[U]

the ability to hear:

- *He's getting old and his hearing isn't very good.*
- *Sounds over 80 decibels can damage your hearing.*
- *She became a renowned percussionist despite her loss of hearing.*

See also

[hearing loss](#)

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases



hearing

adjective

UK 🗣️ /'hiə.rɪŋ/ US 🗣️ /'hɪr.ɪŋ/



able to hear:

- *We wanted to create something that both deaf and hearing audiences could enjoy.*

Opposite

[deaf](#)

+ SMART Vocabulary: related words and phrases



hearing

noun

US  /'hiərɪŋ/

hearing noun (ABILITY TO HEAR)

Add to word list 

[U]

the ability to hear sounds:

- *Since he's gotten older, his hearing isn't what it used to be.*

hearing noun (MEETING)

+ 

[C]

an official meeting that is held to gather the facts about an event or problem:

- *A Senate subcommittee is holding hearings about the mortgage crisis.*

(Definition of **hearing** from the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary © Cambridge University Press)

hearing | BUSINESS ENGLISH

hearing

noun [C] • LAW, MEETINGS

UK  /'hiərɪŋ/ US 

Add to word list 

a meeting of a group of people, for example judges or politicians, to hear the facts relating to a legal problem or subject of public interest before they make a decision about it:

- **hold/schedule a hearing** *A hearing before Judge L.A. Harris Jr. is scheduled for Wednesday.*
- **a Congressional/Senate/committee hearing** *Senate hearings on the Commission's recommendations will begin next month.*

• ***a court hearing***

See also

[confirmation hearing](#)

[disciplinary hearing](#)

[public hearing](#)

(Definition of **hearing** from the [Cambridge Business English Dictionary](#) © Cambridge University Press)

What is the pronunciation of *hearing*? >

Translations of **hearing**

in Chinese (Traditional)

[會議, 聽證會, 公聽會...](#)

[See more](#)

in Chinese (Simplified)

[会议, 听证会, 意见听取会...](#)

[See more](#)

in Spanish

[vista, oído, oído \[masculine\]...](#)

[See more](#)

in Portuguese

[audiência, chance de falar, audição...](#)

[See more](#)

in more languages ▼

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Translator tool

near, near! *idiom*

hear/see the last of something *idiom*

Heard Island and McDonald Islands

hearer

hearing

hearing aid

hearing dog

hearing impairment

hearing loss



More meanings of *hearing*

– All

[hear](#)

[hard of hearing](#)

[hearing aid](#)

[hearing dog](#)

[hearing loss](#)

[parole hearing](#)

[public hearing](#)

[See all meanings](#)

+ Phrasal Verbs

f X

WORD OF THE DAY

Grecian

uk 🗣️ /'griː.ʃn/ us 🗣️ /'griː.ʃn/

(especially of building styles or a person's appearance) beautiful and simple, in the style of Ancient Greece

About this



BLOG

Stumbling and tumbling (The language of falling)

March 25, 2026



NEW WORDS

potato bed

March 23, 2026

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ABOUT



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