



Record of Decision

DEC 26-H102

In the Matter of

Applicant Saskatchewan Research Council

Subject Saskatchewan Research Council's application to renew its nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for the Gunnar historic uranium mine and mill site

Date of Decision May 19, 2026

RECORD OF DECISION — DEC 26-H102

Applicant: Saskatchewan Research Council

Address/Location: Bay 2D, 820 51st St E
Saskatoon SK
S7K 0X8

Purpose: Application to renew its nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for the Gunnar historic uranium mine site

Application received: May 23, 2025

Hearing: *Notice of Hearing in Writing and Participant Funding*
published on August 5, 2025

Revised Notice of Hearing in Writing published on
November 17, 2025

Date of decision: May 19, 2026

Panel of Commission: Dr. V. Remenda, Commission Member

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence: Renewed

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	1
2.0	Decision	3
3.0	Commission Findings AND ANALYSIS.....	4
3.1	Applicability of the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>	4
3.2	Assessment of SRC’s licence renewal application	4
3.3	Views of intervenors	5
3.4	SRC’s Safety and Control Measures with Respect to the Safety and Control Areas	6
3.5	Indigenous engagement and consultation	19
3.6	Other matters of regulatory importance	25
3.7	Proposed licence	27
4.0	Conclusion	28
	Appendix A — Intervenors.....	A

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1. On [May 23, 2025](#), Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission¹ (CNSC), under subsection 24(2) of the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#)² (NSCA), for the renewal of the nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for the Gunnar historic uranium mine and mill site (Gunnar site) for a 5-year period. SRC is not requesting any additional licensed activities in its application.
2. The Gunnar site is in northern Saskatchewan, near Lake Athabasca and about 25 km southwest of Uranium City, approximately 600 km north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The Gunnar site is in Treaty 8 territory and the Homeland of the Métis, and is within the traditional territories of the Denesūliné, Cree, and Métis.
3. The current licence, which expires May 31, 2026, authorizes SRC to conduct ongoing remediation work at the Gunnar site. SRC is in phase 2 of the 3-phase remediation project and has applied for a licence renewal for a period of 5 years to complete phase 2 activities. During this 5-year period, SRC intends to complete remediation work, finalize remediation documentation and long-term post-remediation monitoring plans, and to update site specific management plans. The proposed licence renewal application does not cover authorization to proceed to phase 3; a separate licence application is required for that purpose.

Matters for Decision

4. Pursuant to paragraphs 24(4)(a) and (b) of the NSCA, in considering whether to renew the licence, the Commission must determine:
 - i) Is SRC qualified to carry on the activity that the licence would authorize?
 - ii) Will SRC make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed?
5. In considering SRC's licence renewal application, the Commission is also deciding whether any requirements of the [Impact Assessment Act](#)³ (IAA) apply to the Gunnar site licence renewal such that an impact assessment is triggered. Satisfying any such requirements can be a prerequisite to a licensing decision.
6. As an agent of the Crown, the Commission must also ensure that the honour of the Crown is upheld. The Commission's responsibilities include the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous interests whenever it

¹ The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is referred to as the "CNSC" when referring to the organization and its staff in general, and as the "Commission" when referring to the tribunal component.

² S.C. 1997, c. 9.

³ S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1.

contemplates conduct that could adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal⁴ or treaty rights.⁵

Public Hearing in Writing

7. On August 5, 2025, the Commission published a [Notice of Hearing in Writing and Participant Funding](#)⁶ for this matter, which invited requests to intervene by February 16, 2026. On November 17, 2025, the Commission published a [Revised Notice of Hearing in Writing](#)⁷ to update SRC's contact information.
8. The President established Commission member Dr. V. Remenda to consider the application.⁸ The Commission, in conducting a public hearing based on written materials, considered written submissions from [SRC](#)⁹ and CNSC staff ([CMD 26-H102](#) and [CMD 26-H102-Ref1](#)). The Commission also considered written submissions from 4 intervenors, as set out in [Appendix A](#).¹⁰
9. In determining whether a public hearing will be an oral hearing or a hearing in writing, the Commission is guided by the direction in subsection 20(3) of the NSCA that "all proceedings before the Commission must be dealt with as informally and expeditiously as the circumstances and considerations of fairness permit." On this issue, the Commission considers various factors, including whether the proposed licensing action would authorize new or different activities or take novel or controversial approaches, the complexity of the matter under consideration, the proposed timing and steps in the lifecycle of the facility or operation, and the level and degree of likely or anticipated participation from intervenors. After weighing these factors, the Commission determined that a hearing in writing would be appropriate.

⁴ "Aboriginal" is the term used in this document when referring to the Crown's duty to consult as that is the term used in s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. In all other cases, "Indigenous" is the preferred terminology and used accordingly.

⁵ *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, [2004 SCC 73](#) [*Haida Nation*]; *Taku River Tlingit First Nation v. British Columbia (Project Assessment Director)*, [2004 SCC 74](#).

⁶ *Notice of Hearing in Writing and Participant Funding 2026-H-102*, CNSC, August 5, 2025.

⁷ *Revised Notice of Hearing in Writing 2026-H-102*, CNSC, November 17, 2025.

⁸ NSCA, section 22.

⁹ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, May 23, 2025.

¹⁰ Pursuant to rule 19 of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#), individuals or organizations with relevant expertise, a direct interest in this matter, or information that may be useful to the Commission in its decision-making were invited to submit written comments on SRC's application.

Confidentiality Request

10. On [May 26, 2025](#), SRC submitted a request for confidentiality¹¹ relating to certain information it had added to the record of this proceeding. On [July 19, 2025](#),¹² SRC submitted a revised request for confidentiality. On [September 4, 2025](#),¹³ the Commission issued its decision on SRC's revised request for confidentiality, setting out the measures it would take to protect information under subrule 12(3) of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#).

2.0 DECISION

11. Based on its consideration of this matter, and as described in more detail below, the Commission concludes the following:
- the renewal of the Gunnar site licence does not present novel adverse impacts on any potential or established Aboriginal or treaty right
 - the Commission has upheld the honour of the Crown and its constitutional obligations towards Indigenous Nations and communities
 - this matter does not trigger any requirements under the IAA
 - SRC is qualified to carry on the activity that the renewed licence will authorize
 - SRC, in carrying out that activity, will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed
12. As a result, the Commission exercises its powers under subsection 24(4) of the NSCA and renews the nuclear substances and radiation devices licence issued to SRC for the Gunnar site for a period of 5 years. The renewed licence, NSL-W5-3151.0/2031, is valid until May 31, 2031. The renewed licence does not change any of the authorized activities in the current licence.
13. The Commission delegates its authority, for the purposes described in licence condition 2.1, Reporting Requirements, to the following CNSC staff:
- Director, Uranium Mines and Mills Division

¹¹ *Request for Confidentiality of Material in Relation to the Renewal of the Waste Nuclear Substance Licence WNSL-W5-3151.00/2024 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, May 26, 2025.

¹² *Request for Confidentiality of Material in Relation to the Renewal of the Waste Nuclear Substance Licence WNSL-W5-3151.00/2024 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, July 19, 2025.

¹³ *Record of Decision – Commission Ruling on Request to Protect Confidential Information*, CNSC, September 4, 2025.

- Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation
- Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer, Regulatory Operations Branch

3.0 COMMISSION FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

14. In making its licensing decision, the Commission considered all the relevant submissions relating to SRC's licence renewal application. The Commission's analysis is set out within the following subsections of this *Record of Decision*:

Section 3.1: Applicability of the *Impact Assessment Act*

Section 3.2: Assessment of SRC's licence renewal application

Section 3.3: Views of intervenors

Section 3.4: SRC's Safety and Control Measures with respect to the Safety and Control Areas

Section 3.5: Indigenous engagement and consultation

Section 3.6: Other matters of regulatory importance

Section 3.7: Proposed licence

3.1 Applicability of the *Impact Assessment Act*

15. This application does not trigger any of the requirements under the IAA for an impact assessment.
16. Pursuant to the IAA and the [*Physical Activities Regulations*](#)¹⁴ made under it, impact assessments are to be conducted in respect of projects identified as having the greatest potential for adverse environmental effects in areas of federal jurisdiction.
17. However, the proposed licence renewal does not include any new activities listed in the *Physical Activities Regulations* that require an impact assessment or any new activities that meet the definition of a project on federal lands. As a result, an impact assessment under the IAA is not required.

3.2 Assessment of SRC's licence renewal application

18. SRC's licence renewal application is complete and includes sufficient information for the Commission to consider the application.

¹⁴ SOR/2019-285.

19. In order to be complete, a licence renewal application must meet the requirements of the NSCA, the [General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations](#)¹⁵ (GNSCR), and other applicable regulations made under the NSCA. The Commission examined the sufficiency of the licensee's application.
20. Section 5 of the GNSCR provides that an application for renewal of a licence shall contain:
 - a) the information required to be contained in an application for that licence by the applicable regulations made under the Act; and
 - b) a statement identifying the changes in the information that was previously submitted.
21. Section 7 of the GNSCR allows an application for a licence to incorporate by reference any information that is included in a valid, expired or revoked licence.
22. In its application,¹⁶ SRC identified the applicable sections of the GNSCR and outlined how it satisfied those requirements. SRC is not requesting any additional authorizations as part of its licence renewal application.¹⁷
23. Appendix A2 of [CMD 26-H102](#) outlines CNSC staff's assessment of SRC's application. CNSC staff reported that SRC's application met all requirements for completeness, sufficiency and adequacy for a licence renewal application.
24. The Commission agrees. SRC's application contains sufficient information for the Commission to make a decision on the proposed licence renewal.

3.3 Views of intervenors

25. Intervenors expressed views concerning:
 - Indigenous Nations' rights under section 35 of the [Constitution Act, 1982](#)¹⁸ and meaningful consultation
 - environmental protection and cumulative effects
 - contamination controls and worker internal dose management
26. Issues raised by intervenors, and their bearing on the Commission's analysis, are discussed in the appropriate subject-specific sections below. Issues raised by

¹⁵ SOR/2000-202.

¹⁶ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, sections 1-13.

¹⁷ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, page 2.

¹⁸ Schedule B to the *Canada Act, 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11.

Indigenous Nations and communities are detailed in the [Indigenous Engagement and Consultation section](#) of this *Record of Decision*.

3.4 SRC's Safety and Control Measures with Respect to the Safety and Control Areas

27. The Commission assessed SRC's proposed safety and control measures in relation to the CNSC's [safety and control areas](#) (SCAs), as well as SRC's performance at the Gunnar site. In section 3 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff evaluated the following SCAs applicable to the Gunnar site:
- Management Systems
 - Operating Performance
 - Physical Design
 - Fitness for Service
 - Radiation Protection
 - Conventional Health and Safety
 - Environmental Protection
 - Emergency Management and Fire Protection
 - Waste Management
28. Regarding the remaining 5 SCAs, CNSC staff noted the following:
- Human performance management requirements are covered in the management system, radiation protection and conventional health and safety SCAs; SRC has no full-time year-round staff; and all work is seasonal¹⁹
 - Safety analysis requirements are covered in the radiation protection, conventional health and safety, and environmental protection SCA²⁰
 - Security requirements are not applicable as the Gunnar site is remote and SRC posts signage at access points warning of potential hazards; SRC also completes security inspections (weekly during field season, monthly during off season)²¹
 - Packaging and transport requirements are not applicable because no packaging or transport of nuclear substances occurs at the Gunnar site²²

¹⁹ CMD 26-H102, section 3.2.

²⁰ CMD 26-H102, section 3.4

²¹ CMD 26-H102, section 3.12.

²² CMD 26-H102, section 3.14.

- Regarding the Safeguards and Non-proliferation SCA, CNSC staff reported that the proposed licence would not result in a failure to achieve conformity with international obligations to which Canada has agreed in relation to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards; under the [Additional Protocol](#) to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, the IAEA may request physical access to the Gunnar site²³
29. The Commission is satisfied with the information submitted by SRC and CNSC staff regarding the applicable SCAs. The Commission finds that SRC will continue to meet the requirements detailed in the applicable SCAs for the Gunnar site, and that SRC will ensure that the health and safety of workers, the public and the environment will be protected. The Commission's assessment of the relevant SCAs is set out below.

3.4.1 *Management System*

30. SRC has an appropriate management system for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
31. The management system SCA covers the framework that establishes the processes and programs required to ensure SRC achieves its safety objectives, continuously monitors its performance against these objectives, and fosters a healthy safety culture.
32. Under paragraph 3(1)(k) of the GNSCR, SRC's application must contain a description of its management structure. The following CNSC regulatory documents (REGDOCs) and CSA standard provide guidance on the requirements for a management system at nuclear facilities:
- [REGDOC-2.1.1, Management System](#)²⁴
 - [REGDOC-2.1.2, Safety Culture](#)²⁵
 - [N286:12, Management System Requirements for Nuclear Facilities](#)²⁶
33. In section 5 of its application, SRC described how it implements and maintains its Environmental Remediation Management System (ERMS), which was developed to provide guidance for all work activities at the Gunnar site. The following programs, which are routinely reviewed and updated, form the basis of its ERMS, and includes documents to coordinate work at the Gunnar site:

²³ CMD 26-H102, section 3.13.

²⁴ REGDOC-2.1.1, *Management System*, CNSC, May 2019.

²⁵ REGDOC-2.1.2, *Safety Culture*, CNSC, April 2018.

²⁶ CSA N286:12, *Management system requirements for nuclear facilities*, CSA Group, 2012.

- Occupational Health and Safety Program
 - Environmental Protection Program
 - Communication Program
 - Quality and Training Program
34. In section 3.1 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff reported that SRC has adequate management system processes in place to monitor and manage the remediation project at the Gunnar site. CNSC staff noted that SRC's management system related programs will continue to be monitored by the CNSC through regulatory oversight activities during the proposed 5-year licence renewal.
35. In the circumstances, the Commission finds that SRC has appropriate management programs and processes in place to ensure it meets its safety objectives and continues to foster a healthy safety culture.

3.4.2 *Operating Performance*

36. SRC has an appropriate operating performance program for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
37. The operating performance SCA requires that the licensee implement and maintain an operating performance program for the conduct of licensed activities. For SRC's Gunnar site this includes managing various radioactive and hazardous materials left on-site from past mining activities.
38. Under paragraph 3(1)(a) of the [*Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Regulations*](#) (NSRDR),²⁷ SRC's application must contain the methods, procedures and equipment that will be used to carry on the licensed activity. [*REGDOC-3.1.3, Reporting Requirements for Waste Nuclear Substance Licensees, Class II Nuclear Facilities and Users of Prescribed Equipment, Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices*](#),²⁸ sets out guidance for licensees of nuclear substances and radiation devices to submit reports and notifications to the CNSC.
39. In section 6 of its application, SRC detailed how it conducts its licensed activities, maintains records and procedures, protects the environment, and conducts internal compliance, including that:
- only qualified personnel and vendors complete work; engineers prepare and review as-built reports

²⁷ SOR/2000-207.

²⁸ REGDOC-3.1.3, *Reporting Requirements for Waste Nuclear Substance Licensees, Class II Nuclear Facilities and Users of Prescribed Equipment, Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices*, CNSC, March 2020.

- all radioactive material remains on site; equipment leaving is scanned and cleaned
 - environmental protection procedures are maintained and updated once remediation work is completed
40. In section 3.3 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff confirmed that, during the current licensing period, SRC operated and maintained the Gunnar site in compliance with regulatory requirements and implemented its operational performance programs. CNSC staff also highlighted how SRC would continue to implement and maintain operational performance programs during the proposed 5-year licence term. CNSC staff noted that SRC has demonstrated the safe conduct of licensed activities including tailings remediation, landfill construction and waste rock management. SRC reported 9 reportable events to the CNSC during the current licensing term. The events were each of low safety significance and all non-compliances were corrected.
41. CNSC staff provided information concerning a reported work stoppage at the Gunnar site in 2025 resulting from a contractor's financial difficulties. SRC communicated to the CNSC throughout the situation.²⁹ CNSC staff assessed that there was no risk to the environment or the public from the work stoppage.³⁰
42. The Commission finds that SRC has implemented and maintained adequate programs to safely conduct the licensed activities. The Commission concludes that SRC will carry out the activities authorized under the renewed licence in accordance with CNSC regulatory requirements. The Commission bases its conclusion on the following:
- CNSC staff confirmed that SRC maintained the Gunnar site in regulatory compliance during the current licensing period
 - SRC demonstrated safe conduct of licensed activities and addressed all regulatory non-compliances during the current licensing period

3.4.3 *Physical Design*

43. SRC has an adequate physical design program at the Gunnar site that the renewed licence would authorize.
44. The physical design SCA relates to activities that affect the ability of structures, systems, and components to meet and maintain their design basis, given new

²⁹ [CMD 26-H102-REF-1](#), Reference Package for CMD 26-H102 CNSC Staff Submission Saskatchewan Research Council's Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substance Licence for the Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site, CNSC, December 15, 2025, pages 26–44.

³⁰ CMD 26-H102, page 18.

information arising over time and taking changes in the external environment into account. The design basis is the range of conditions and events, according to established criteria, that the facility must withstand without exceeding authorized limits for the planned operation of safety systems.

45. Under paragraph 3(1)(d) of the GNSCR, SRC's application must contain a description of the nuclear facility, and of prescribed equipment or prescribed information that is encompassed by the licence. The NSRDR sets out design-related requirements for radiation devices and facilities, including requirements for certified devices, shielding, safety features, labelling, posting of signs, and safe storage arrangements. The CNSC's [REGDOC-2.5 Physical design series](#) provides guidance for licensees in meeting the physical design SCA requirements.
46. In section 6.1 of its application, SRC confirmed that:
 - as-built reports for remediation activities at the Gunnar site and post-remediation inspections will be carried out by qualified persons
 - following remediation, signs would be installed to inform the public regarding conditions of the area
47. In section 3.5 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff noted that SRC has maintained a physical design program to manage the remediation work at the Langley Bay Tailings Management Area. CNSC staff performed geotechnical assessments in 2019 and 2024 and confirmed that construction work for the 2 tailings management areas and 2 landfills met regulatory requirements.
48. In its [2015](#)³¹ and [2016](#)³² decisions regarding the removal of hold points for the Gunnar Remediation Project, the Commission delegated review and approval of the detailed description report and project schedule for the remediation of the tailings deposits and the other site aspects at the Gunnar site to the Director General of the Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation or the Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer. CNSC staff reported that, over the current licensing period, authorized CNSC staff approved remediation work at the Gunnar site including tailings remediation, other site aspects and Landfill B.³³ Approvals included the review of SRC's as-built reports.

³¹ Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision, *Request for the Partial Removal of a Hold Point for the Gunnar Remediation Project*, CNSC, September 30, 2015.

³² Record of Decision, *Request to Remove the Hold Point for Phase 2 of the Gunnar Remediation Project*, CNSC, September 22, 2016.

³³ [CMD 26-H102-REF-1](#), *Reference Package for CMD 26-H102 CNSC Staff Submission Saskatchewan Research Council's Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substance Licence for the Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, CNSC, December 15, 2025, pages 7–21.

49. The Commission finds that SRC has an adequate physical design program to ensure remediation activities at the Gunnar site meet and maintain the authorized design basis that the renewed licence would authorize. The Commission's conclusion is based primarily on the following:
- CNSC staff confirmed through inspections that construction work met regulatory requirements during the current licensing period
 - SRC developed as-built reports for remediation work at the Gunnar site that met regulatory requirements during the current licensing period

3.4.4 Fitness for Service

50. SRC has appropriate programs in place that ensure fitness for service for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
51. The fitness for service SCA relates to activities that affect the physical condition of structures, systems and components to ensure that they remain effective over time. This includes programs that ensure all equipment is available to perform its intended design function when called upon to do so.
52. Under paragraph 3(1)(d) of the GNSCR, SRC's application shall contain a description of the facility, prescribed equipment or prescribed information covered by the licence; and under 12(1)(c) of the GNSCR, SRC must take all reasonable precautions to protect the environment and the health and safety of persons, and to maintain the security of nuclear facilities and of nuclear substances. The NSRDR sets out fitness for service requirements for nuclear substances and radiation devices licensees, and the CNSC's [REGDOC-2.6 fitness for service series](#) provides guidance for licensees in meeting the fitness for service SCA requirements.
53. In section 7 of its application, SRC noted that its measures to ensure fitness for service including its inspection program, equipment maintenance logs, calibration programs, geotechnical monitoring, and as-built drawings. Also, SRC conducts inspections twice a year and regularly reviews the inspection program.
54. In section 3.6 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff submitted that, in 2024, it inspected SRC's newly built structures against the as-built reports and confirmed that SRC followed the design plans. CNSC staff added that it continues to review as-built reports, assess SRC's maintenance and monitoring program, and inspect newly built structures.
55. The Commission finds that SRC has adequate measures in place to ensure fitness for service at the Gunnar site for the conduct of licensed activities under the proposed licence renewal. The Commission finds that SRC's programs for fitness

for service meet regulatory requirements, as confirmed through CNSC staff inspections during the current licence period.

3.4.5 Radiation Protection

56. SRC has an adequate radiation protection program in place for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
57. The radiation protection SCA covers the implementation of a radiation protection program in accordance with the [Radiation Protection Regulations](#).³⁴ The radiation protection program must ensure that contamination levels and radiation doses received by individuals are monitored, controlled, and maintained ALARA.³⁵
58. Paragraphs 3(1)(e) and 3(1)(f) of the GNSCR require that SRC's application contain proposed measures to ensure compliance with the *Radiation Protection Regulations* and include any proposed action levels for the purpose of section 6 of the *Radiation Protection Regulations*. The CNSC's [REGDOC-2.7 Radiation protection series](#) provides guidance for licensees in meeting regulatory requirements for the radiation protection SCA.
59. In section 8 of its application, SRC outlined how it implements and maintains its radiation protection plan (RPP) at the Gunnar site. SRC noted that the RPP includes ALARA controls, training, calibration, gamma surveys, and public protection measures (signage).
60. In section 3.7 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff reported that:
 - SRC's radiation protection program complies with the *Radiation Protection Regulations* and CNSC staff have confirmed on-going compliance through the licence period
 - SRC implemented contamination control measures including contamination control zones, contamination reduction zones, and weekly contamination surveys
 - radiation doses to workers remained below regulatory limits³⁶ over the licence period with a maximum effective dose of 2.08 mSv in 2019

³⁴ SOR/2000-203

³⁵ As Low As Reasonably Achievable taking into account social and economic factors.

³⁶ Under the *Radiation Protection Regulations*, SRC must ensure the effective dose received by and committed to a nuclear energy worker does not exceed 50 mSv in a one-year dosimetry period and 100 mSv over a five-year dosimetry period.

- non-compliant findings identified during inspections, including with respect to signage and decontamination principles, were of low safety significance
61. The Commission finds that SRC has an adequate radiation protection program in place to protect workers, the public, and the environment from radiation hazards associated with the Gunnar site. The Commission is satisfied that SRC's radiation protection program meets regulatory requirements and that radiation doses to workers at the Gunnar site remain below regulatory limits during the current licence period. The Commission's conclusion is based primarily on the following:
- CNSC staff confirmed through inspections that SRC maintained worker doses below regulatory levels during the current licence period
 - no radiation protection related action levels were exceeded at the Gunnar site during the current licence period

3.4.6 *Conventional Health and Safety*

62. SRC has an appropriate conventional health and safety program in place for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
63. The conventional health and safety SCA covers the implementation of a program to manage workplace safety hazards and to protect workers. SRC must implement and maintain a conventional health and safety program that complies with Part II of the [Canada Labour Code](#)³⁷ and the associated [Canada Occupational Health and Safety Regulations](#).³⁸ [REGDOC-2.8.1, Conventional Health and Safety](#),³⁹ sets out guidance for licensees to implement and maintain a conventional health and safety program.
64. In Attachment D of its application,⁴⁰ SRC submitted its Occupational Health and Safety Program and Plan, which:
- establishes a framework to protect health and safety of workers, contractors, visitors, and the public during remediation activities
 - sets safety goals, rules, and safe work practices, including personal protective equipment, inspections, risk assessments, and safety meetings

³⁷ R.S.C., 1985, c. L-2.

³⁸ SOR/86-304.

³⁹ REGDOC-2.8.1, *Conventional Health and Safety*, CNSC, July 2019.

⁴⁰ On [September 4, 2025](#), the Commission ruled *Attachment D: SRC Programs and Plans* be confidential under rule 12 of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#).

- establishes procedures for incident reporting, investigation, corrective actions, and continuous improvements
 - promotes worker participation, safety communications, and review of safety performance
65. In section 3.8 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff assessed that SRC's occupational health and safety program and plan met regulatory requirements. CNSC staff noted that SRC's occupational health and safety program and plan includes the following:
- incident reporting and investigating
 - personal protection equipment
 - hazard and risk management
 - regular safety meetings
66. CNSC staff noted that, in February 2025, SRC reported 1 lost time injury that had occurred in 2024.⁴¹ CNSC staff reported that SRC implemented acceptable corrective actions that were identified during the root cause analysis of the injury. SRC also put measures in place to ensure timely reporting.⁴²
67. The Commission is satisfied that SRC has implemented an adequate conventional health and safety program at the Gunnar site to protect the safety of workers and the public from non-radiological hazards over the current licence period. The Commission finds that SRC's conventional health and safety program meets regulatory requirements and SRC has implemented corrective actions to prevent future similar injuries. The Commission's conclusion is based primarily on the following:
- over the current licensing period, CNSC staff concluded through inspections that SRC's occupational health and safety program and plan met regulatory requirements
 - SRC implemented acceptable corrective actions for all non-compliances identified during the current licence period

3.4.7 *Environmental Protection*

68. SRC has an appropriate environmental protection program in place for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.

⁴¹ CMD 26-H102, section 3.8.

⁴² CMD 26-H102, section 3.3.

69. The environmental protection SCA covers programs that identify, control and monitor all releases of radioactive and hazardous substances and effects on the environment from facilities or as the result of licensed activities.
70. Under paragraphs 12(1)(c) and (f) of the GNSCR, SRC must take all reasonable precautions to protect the environment and the health and safety of persons, and control the release of radioactive nuclear substances or hazardous substances at the Gunnar site and into the environment. The CNSC's [REGDOC- 2.9 Environmental protection series](#) provides guidance for licensees in meeting requirements for the environmental protection SCA.
71. In section 10 of its application, SRC detailed its environmental sampling and compliance program. The program includes sampling (surface water, groundwater, radon, dust, meteorology, sediment, biota), spill response and discharge control plans, erosion prevention, and sediment control measures. SRC confirmed that sampling is conducted by trained SRC staff, and the data is reviewed by accredited labs and reported to the CNSC annually.
72. During active remediation, SRC implements the operational monitoring program developed as part of the Gunnar Site Environmental Impact Statement⁴³ and reports the results annually to the CNSC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.⁴⁴
73. In its application,⁴⁵ SRC proposed that it would start the follow-up monitoring program once remediation is completed. In 2024, SRC submitted a draft follow-up monitoring program to the CNSC, as well as others including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR). SRC noted that the draft program was being revised to address comments from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment and the YNLR.
74. In section 3.9 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff reported the following regarding SRC's environmental protection program:
 - the program includes water, groundwater, hydrology, climate, radon, dust fall and gamma surveys
 - some monitoring stations show an exceedance of uranium in surface water when compared to the provincial water quality standard; however, the Environmental Risk Assessment shows uranium concentrations are stable and expected to decrease over time

⁴³ The Gunnar Environmental Impact Statement was prepared by SRC and used as part of the licensing basis for the Commission's 2015 environmental assessment and licensing decision for the Gunnar site project.

⁴⁴ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, page 29.

⁴⁵ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, page 2.

- monitoring data collected to date indicate that ongoing remediation activities have not adversely affected water or groundwater quality at the Gunnar site
75. In section 4.1 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff reported that it was working with YNLR and CanNorth⁴⁶ as part of the CNSC's [Independent Environmental Monitoring Program](#) (IEMP) to collect samples around Gunnar, Lorado and Beaverlodge sites. CNSC staff determined that the IEMP results from 2023 were consistent with the monitoring results submitted by SRC and confirm that people and the environment surrounding the Gunnar site are protected.
76. In CMD 26-H102.3, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) expressed concerns regarding environmental protection at the Gunnar site. In CMD 26-H102.5, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) requested increased monitoring near the Gunnar site including groundwater and surface water, species testing and cumulative effects assessment.
77. The Commission recognizes the concerns raised by MN-S and ACFN regarding the Gunnar site. The Commission is satisfied that SRC's operational monitoring program, which is based on the Gunnar Site Environmental Impact Statement, remains adequate to protect the health and safety of persons and the environment at the Gunnar site. The Commission highlights that the results are reported annually to the CNSC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.
78. The Commission finds that SRC has implemented an adequate environmental protection program that protects the health and safety of persons and the environment. The Commission is satisfied that SRC's environmental protection program meets regulatory requirements. The Commission's conclusion is based primarily on the following:
- monitoring data indicate that remediation activities have not adversely affected water or groundwater quality at the Gunnar site
 - environmental monitoring during active remediation is based on the Environmental Impact Statement and results are reported annually to the CNSC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment
 - 2023 IEMP results were consistent with SRC's monitoring results and confirm that people and the environment surrounding the Gunnar site are protected

⁴⁶ CanNorth is a First Nation-owned environmental consulting firm, fully owned by Kitsaki Management LP (Lac La Ronge Indian Band). It provides environmental assessments, monitoring, and regulatory support across Canada, integrating Indigenous knowledge and holding ISO certifications for quality, environment, and safety.

3.4.8 Emergency Management and Fire Prevention

79. SRC has an adequate emergency response plan in place for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
80. The emergency management and fire protection SCA covers emergency plans and emergency preparedness programs that exist for emergencies and for non-routine conditions.
81. Under paragraph 3(1)(g) of the NSRDR, SRC's licence renewal application must contain the proposed instructions for dealing with accidents, including fires and spills, in which the nuclear substance may be involved. [REGDOC-2.10.1, Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response, Version 2](#),⁴⁷ provides licensees guidance on meeting the requirements for the emergency management and fire prevention SCA.
82. In Attachment D, section 8, of its application,⁴⁸ SRC provided details on its emergency response plans, including the following:
 - site-specific procedures for coordinated and effective emergency response
 - prioritizing protection of people, injury prevention, sheltering, evacuation, and emergency assistance
 - integrating emergency preparedness measures including training, communication, and incident reporting
 - a range of emergencies: medical, fire, extreme weather
83. In section 3.10 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff provided the following information on SRC's emergency management and fire protection measures at the Gunnar site:
 - SRC's Occupational Health and Safety Program focuses on wildfire prevention and preparedness, emergency medical plans, and emergency response plans
 - there are at least 2 emergency drills per field season
 - CNSC inspections since 2017 have identified low safety significance non-compliances, such as improperly stored fire extinguishers, which have been addressed by SRC

⁴⁷ REGDOC-2.10.1, *Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response, Version 2*, CNSC, February 2016.

⁴⁸ On [September 4, 2025](#), the Commission ruled *Attachment D: SRC Programs and Plans* be confidential under rule 12 of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#).

84. The Commission finds that SRC has implemented an emergency response plan that meets regulatory requirements and is adequate to protect the health and safety of persons and the environment. The Commission is satisfied that adequate measures are in place for the proposed licence renewal at the Gunnar site. The Commission's conclusion is primarily based on the following:
- CNSC staff concluded, including through inspections, that SRC's emergency preparedness and fire protection program met regulatory requirements during the current licence period
 - identified non-compliances during the current licence period were addressed by SRC

3.4.9 Waste Management

85. SRC has an adequate waste management program in place for the conduct of the activities under the proposed licence.
86. The waste management SCA covers waste-related programs that form part of a facility's operations up to the point where the waste is removed from the facility to a separate waste management facility. This SCA also covers the planning for decommissioning.⁴⁹
87. Under paragraph 3(1)(j) of the GNSCR, SRC's licence renewal application must contain the name, quantity, form, origin, and volume of any radioactive waste or hazardous waste that may result from the activity to be licensed, including waste that may be stored, managed, processed or disposed of at the site of the activity to be licensed, and the proposed method for managing and disposing of that waste. The CNSC's [REGDOC- 2.11 Waste management series](#) provides licensees with guidance on meeting the waste management SCA.
88. In section 9 of its application, SRC provided an outline of its waste management program at the Gunnar site, guided by the hazardous materials management plan, waste management plan, discovery response plan, and discharge response plan. SRC submitted that newly generated waste will be stored onsite until shipped offsite for disposal.
89. In section 3.11 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff confirmed that SRC's waste management program meets regulatory requirements. CNSC staff noted that SRC carries out its waste management program under the following waste plans:
- Asbestos management plan
 - Discharge response plan

⁴⁹ The Gunnar site is a decommissioned site that is being remediated by SRC.

- Discovery response plan
 - Hazardous materials management plan
 - Legacy waste management plan
 - Waste management plan (Gunnar)
90. The Commission finds that SRC's waste management program meets regulatory requirements, as confirmed through CNSC staff inspections. The Commission is satisfied that SRC will continue to safely manage waste at the Gunnar site during the proposed licence period.

3.4.10 Conclusion on SRC's safety and control measures

91. The Commission is satisfied that SRC has adequate safety and control measures in place with respect to the relevant safety and control areas to ensure that the health and safety of people and the environment will be protected over the proposed 5-year licence term. CNSC staff rated SRC as satisfactory in all applicable SCAs over the current licensing period and SRC has implemented corrective actions in response to reported events and regulatory findings over the current licence period. Therefore, the Commission finds that SRC:
- is qualified to carry on the activity that the renewed licence will authorize
 - in carrying out that activity, will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed

3.5 Indigenous engagement and consultation

92. The Commission must uphold the honour of the Crown and, where appropriate, ensure that the duty to consult and accommodate is discharged. If the duty is engaged, the Commission must be satisfied that it has been discharged before making the relevant licensing decision.
93. The duty to consult is triggered when the Commission considers actions that may adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.⁵⁰ In those cases, the Commission has a legal duty to consult with the relevant Indigenous Nations and communities and, where appropriate, accommodate their rights. The duty stems from section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*⁵¹ and is grounded in the principle of the honour of the Crown and the goal of

⁵⁰ *Haida Nation* at para 35.

⁵¹ Schedule B to the *Canada Act, 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11.

reconciliation, which requires that the Crown act with integrity and in good faith in its dealings with Indigenous Peoples.

94. The scope and content of the duty to consult and accommodate varies with the circumstances and must be applied flexibly: it lies on a spectrum, depending on the strength of the claim and the seriousness of the potential adverse impact.⁵² Adjustments may be required as new information comes to light. In some cases, consultations will reveal that a duty to accommodate also arises, especially when there is a strong claim to an Aboriginal or treaty right and the impacts of the Commission's decision could cause significant negative impacts.⁵³
95. The duty to consult is not triggered by historical impacts and is not meant to address past grievances. Instead, it is designed to address potential impacts flowing from a current licence application.⁵⁴
96. The determination of what the duty to consult requires in a particular case can also be informed by the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)⁵⁵ (UNDRIP), which has been adopted into Canadian law via the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)⁵⁶ (UNDA).⁵⁷ UNDRIP does not create new law or statutory obligations. Rather, it is an interpretive lens to be applied when assessing the scope and content of the duty to consult and accommodate.⁵⁸
97. In its application, SRC confirmed that the proposed licence renewal is only for the continuation of phase 2 activities. The application does not request any additional authorizations.⁵⁹ In section 1.2 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff submitted that SRC would be required to apply for a licence amendment to seek Commission authorization to undertake any activities associated with phase 3.

3.5.1 Indigenous Engagement by CNSC Staff

98. In section 4 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff identified Indigenous Nations and communities that may have interest in SRC's licence renewal. On

⁵² *Haida Nation* at para 39.

⁵³ *Haida Nation* at para 47.

⁵⁴ *Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council*, 2010 SCC 43 [*Rio Tinto*] at para 49; *Chippewas of the Thames First Nation v. Enbridge Pipelines Inc.*, 2017 SCC 41 [*Chippewas of the Thames First Nation*] at para. 41.

⁵⁵ United Nations, "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", (September 2007), PDF: <un.org> [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouseoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2019/01/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf].

⁵⁶ *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*, SC 2021, c 14.

⁵⁷ *Kebaowek First Nation v. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*, 2025 FC 319. [*Kebaowek First Nation*]

⁵⁸ *Kebaowek First Nation* at para 183.

⁵⁹ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, May 23, 2025, page 2.

August 7, 2025, CNSC staff notified the following Indigenous Nations and communities about SRC's application:

- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources⁶⁰
- Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
- Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

99. CNSC staff reported ongoing engagement with all identified Indigenous Nations and communities regarding the Gunnar site, including through the environmental assessment process⁶¹ and previous licence renewals. CNSC staff have established terms of reference with YNLR and ACFN⁶² and maintain regular engagement with MN-S. CNSC staff also noted participation in SRC's annual community tours to Wollaston Lake/Hatchet Lake, Stony Rapids/Black Lake, Fond du Lac, and Uranium City. In September 2024, CNSC staff met with ACFN Déné Lands and Resource Management staff in Fort Chipewyan, Alberta, and hosted a community and Elders meeting to provide updates on CNSC-regulated projects and facilities within ACFN's traditional and treaty territories, including the Gunnar site, and to respond to questions and concerns.
100. CNSC staff also noted its ongoing efforts to work with YNLR and CanNorth as part of the CNSC's IEMP to collect samples around the Gunnar, Lorado and Beaverlodge sites.
101. Finally, YNLR was awarded up to \$36,080 and ACFN was awarded up to \$15,314.40 to participate in this proceeding.⁶³

3.5.2 Indigenous Engagement by SRC

102. In section 12 of its application, SRC outlined how it maintains an outreach program which includes:
- regular engagement with Athabasca Basin Indigenous communities
 - public meetings, workshops, site visits and newsletters
 - collaboration with YNLR to utilize traditional knowledge in the Gunnar site remediation

⁶⁰ YNLR - representing Black Lake, Hatchet Lake, and Fond du Lac Denesūliné First Nations as well as the municipalities of Stony Rapids, Uranium City, Wollaston Lake, and Camsell Portage.

⁶¹ Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision, *Request for an Environmental Assessment and Licensing Decision for the Gunnar Remediation Project*, CNSC, November 6, 2014, section 3.2.12.

⁶² The CNSC has formal Terms of Reference with Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (2022) and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (2024) to support long-term engagement, co-developed annual work plans and integration of Indigenous knowledge into regulatory processes. These agreements emphasize mutual respect, transparency, and capacity-building, ensuring meaningful participation in CNSC decision-making.

⁶³ *Participant Funding Program decision – Saskatchewan Research Council's application to renew its licence for the Gunnar historic uranium mine and mill site*, CNSC, December 23, 2025.

103. With its application, SRC submitted its Community Engagement Table⁶⁴ outlining its engagement activities. On [September 4, 2025](#), the Commission ruled that SRC's Community Engagement Table was confidential.⁶⁵ The Commission was satisfied that the information available to the public in the redacted version of the document was sufficient to satisfy the public interest.

3.5.3 *Submissions by Indigenous Nations and Communities*

Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources

104. In its submission, [CMD 26-H102.2](#), YNLR provided information on activities in which it collaborated with the CNSC and SRC, including participating in Gunnar site inspections, reviewing monitoring plans and the CNSC's IEMP program. YNLR highlighted that it has concerns related to cumulative effects, impacts to Treaty rights, and the potential future transition of the Gunnar site to Saskatchewan's Institutional Control Program. YNLR also noted concerns on plain language communication with Indigenous communities.
105. YNLR sought assurances that, if the licence was renewed, "the Gunnar project [would] remain subject to the same level of regulatory oversight, compliance verification, inspection frequency, and environmental protection review as under the current licence", and that any changes in regulatory oversight would be communicated.⁶⁶ YNLR also asked that "information be communicated to Basin residents through regularly scheduled community meetings and presentations using non-technical language and visual materials."⁶⁷

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

106. In its submission, [CMD 26-H102.3](#), the MN-S asserted that the Gunnar site is within the historic Métis homeland, and that the Gunnar site may impact Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, as MN-S does not have free access to use the lands. Relying on articles 19, 25, 26, 27, 29, and 32, MN-S also submitted that UNDRIP's standard of free, prior and informed consent applies in this case. The MN-S also expressed concerns regarding environmental protection.
107. MN-S asserted that the Gunnar project has the "potential to cause significant impacts on our Aboriginal rights and interests and our Homeland."⁶⁸ MN-S

⁶⁴ *Saskatchewan Research Council – Revised Request for Confidentiality on the Application for Renewal of the Gunnar Legacy Mine Site Nuclear Substance Licence*, Saskatchewan Research Council, July 19, 2025, pages 46–71.

⁶⁵ Following rule 12 of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#).

⁶⁶ CMD 26-H102.2, page 8.

⁶⁷ CMD 26-H102.2, page 8.

⁶⁸ CMD 26-H102.3, page 6.

highlighted 9 events reported to the CNSC and 5 notices of non-compliance issued by the CNSC. MN-S argued that “all of the Project’s adverse impacts should be identified and minimized, even when they fall below the CNSC’s safety-significance thresholds.”⁶⁹

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

108. In its submission, [CMD 26-H102.5](#), the ACFN asserted that the Gunnar site is within Treaty 8 territory, and impacts Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. ACFN requested meaningful consultation. Among other things, ACFN also requested increased monitoring near the Gunnar site, including groundwater and surface water testing, sediment and benthic species testing, and cumulative effects assessments. ACFN further highlighted cultural impacts of SRC’s proposed licence renewal, including on caribou, a culturally significant species that has not been seen in the area for over 30 years.
109. ACFN shared messages from Elders, knowledge holders, and ACFN members describing concerns about environmental contamination.⁷⁰ Specifically, they allege that historic uranium contamination continues to leak into local waterways and has contaminated fish relied on for food. ACFN also argues that remediation efforts are superficial and may take centuries to be effective. According to ACFN, a regulatory decision that extends remediation timelines without strengthening protections prolongs the infringement of their Treaty rights.

Conclusion on Indigenous Engagement and Consultation

110. The Commission concludes that the duty to consult is not triggered by this licence renewal application. Granting the renewal application will not result in **new** waste or **new** adverse impacts to potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights.⁷¹ Instead, SRC’s licence application proposes to extend the length of its licence and continue the mitigation activities that were previously approved and that it is already undertaking.
111. Importantly, SRC’s licence renewal application does not propose new activities that could cause new environmental impacts or otherwise change the licensed activities that are ongoing at the Gunnar site. The long-term goals of SRC’s work include reducing environmental and public health risks, and restoring the land for traditional and ecological use.⁷² In other words, the positive impacts associated with granting the licence outweigh the negative impacts associated with refusing it.

⁶⁹ CMD 26-H102.3, page 8.

⁷⁰ CMD 26-H102.5, pages 3–4.

⁷¹ *Rio Tinto Alcan v. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council*, [2010 SCC 43](#), at paras 45 and 49; *Fond du Lac Denesuline First Nation v. Canada (Attorney General)*, 2012 FCA 73.

⁷² *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, May 23, 2025, pages 27-28 and 37.

112. The Commission recognizes that the Gunnar mine was constructed without consulting Indigenous Nations and communities. It also acknowledges the negative impacts that YNLR, MN-S, and ACFN all claim that it has had on their rights. However, the duty to consult is not triggered by past wrongs connected to the Gunnar mine in general; there must be new impacts to rights that could result from the licence extension.⁷³
113. Regardless of these findings, the Commission is nevertheless satisfied that the honour of the Crown has been upheld.
114. In this respect, the Commission has considered all the engagement activities undertaken by CNSC staff and SRC, along with this public hearing process. In short, Indigenous Nations and communities have been provided meaningful opportunities for exchanging information about their concerns and both SRC and CNSC staff have shown that they are responsive to those concerns. The Commission also notes that YNLR and ACFN were awarded funding to participate in this proceeding and that they have established terms of reference for long-term engagement with CNSC staff.
115. To the extent that YNLR, ACFN, and MN-S raised environmental concerns, those were addressed in section 3.4.7 of this *Record of Decision*. In its discussion about the Environmental Protection SCA, the Commission concluded that SRC has an appropriate environmental protection program in place that effectively protects the health and safety of persons and the environment. In particular, SRC has a robust environmental sampling and compliance program, the results of which are confirmed by CNSC's IEMP and made available to the public.
116. CNSC staff also confirmed that monitoring data collected to date indicates that ongoing remediation activities have not adversely affected water or groundwater quality at the Gunnar site. If SRC's application is granted, it will continue this work, and the CNSC and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environmental will continue their oversight activities, which addresses a concern raised by YNLR. Longer term, SRC is also demonstrating its commitment to Indigenous Nations and communities by revising its follow-up monitoring program to address comments from YNLR.
117. While ACFN requested increased monitoring near the Gunnar site, the Commission notes that ACFN was invited to participate in the CNSC's IEMP in the past but they were unable to do so.⁷⁴ As part of CNSC staff's ongoing commitments to ACFN, the Commission expects that CNSC staff would invite them to participate in future sampling activities.⁷⁵

⁷³ *Rio Tinto and Chippewas of the Thames First Nation*.

⁷⁴ CMD 26-H102, page 42.

⁷⁵ CMD 26-H102, page 40.

118. The Commission commends CNSC staff and SRC for their ongoing engagement with local Indigenous Nations and communities and expects those efforts to continue, with a focus on information sharing in transparent and accessible ways, including through the use of plain language and alternative formats.
119. The Commission acknowledges the impact that historical context, cumulative effects, and UNDRIP can have on the scope and content of the duty to consult when it has been triggered. The Commission also acknowledges that YNLR, ACFN, and MN-S did not provide their free, prior, and informed consent to this licence renewal application. Nevertheless, if the duty to consult had been triggered here, the Commission is satisfied that it would have been discharged. The Commission reaches this conclusion based on the following factors:
- the lack of new adverse impacts that the Indigenous Nations and communities have identified and that are associated with this licence application
 - the positive impacts associated with the continued remediation of the Gunnar site
 - the overall consultation and engagement activities undertaken by CNSC staff and SRC
120. The Commission acknowledges the intervenors' comments and concerns relating to planned future activities at the Gunnar site under phase 3 of SRC's remediation plan. The Commission notes that SRC will be required to apply for a licence amendment to undertake any phase 3 activities. A licence amendment application would likely give rise to future opportunities for consultation and engagement, along with the opportunity to participate in another public hearing.

3.6 Other matters of regulatory importance

3.6.1 Financial guarantee

121. Under subsection 24(5) of the NSCA, the Commission may require that licensees establish and maintain financial guarantees for the future decommissioning of their facilities in a form that is acceptable to the Commission. Financial guarantees ensure that resources are available to fund decommissioning activities.
122. Under section G.3 of SRC's nuclear substances and radiation devices licence, NSL-W5-3151.0/2026, SRC is required to maintain a financial guarantee for decommissioning that is acceptable to the Commission.

123. [REGDOC-3.3.1, Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Termination of Licensed Activities](#),⁷⁶ provides guidance and requirements to licensees for establishing and maintaining acceptable financial guarantees. In its [2015 Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision](#),⁷⁷ the Commission accepted the financial liability by the Province of Saskatchewan for the purposes of satisfying the financial guarantee requirement. Financial liability by the Province of Saskatchewan remains in place.
124. In section 11 of SRC's application, SRC outlined that the Government of Saskatchewan holds financial responsibility for reclamation, decommissioning, monitoring and maintenance of the Gunnar site, and that the Ministry of Energy and Resources manages the project. In attachment E of its application, SRC provided a financial assurance letter from Saskatchewan's Ministry of Energy and Resources dated October 5, 2023. In the letter, the Ministry confirmed its commitment to cover all aspects of decommissioning, reclamation, monitoring, and maintenance of the Gunnar site as required under the CNSC licence.
125. In section 5.2 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff reported that SRC's letter of commitment from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources dated October 5, 2023, meets regulatory requirements under REGDOC-3.3.1, is acceptable to cover the liability associated with the Gunnar site, and remains in effect.
126. The Commission is satisfied that the letter of commitment from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources meets the requirements in REGDOC-3.3.1, *Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Termination of Licensed Activities*, and is acceptable for the activities that the renewed licence would authorize.

3.6.2 Cost recovery

127. Regulation of the Gunnar site is not subject to cost recovery because SRC is an agent of the Provincial Crown and is discharging the responsibilities of the Province of Saskatchewan with respect to remediating a legacy contaminated site. Under paragraph 2(e) of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Cost Recovery Fees Regulations](#)⁷⁸ (CRFR), the CRFR does not apply to a department or agency of the federal government, a provincial government or the government of a city, town or regional municipality if the department or agency that applies for or holds a licence from the Commission in respect of a contaminated site that

⁷⁶ REGDOC-3.3.1, *Financial Guarantees for Decommissioning of Nuclear Facilities and Termination of Licensed Activities*, CNSC, January 2021.

⁷⁷ Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision, *Request for an Environmental Assessment and Licensing Decision for the Gunnar Remediation Project*, CNSC, January 14, 2015.

⁷⁸ SOR/2003-212

is abandoned on the coming into force of these Regulations and the contamination did not result from the activities of the applicant or licensee.

3.6.3 Nuclear liability insurance

128. There are no requirements for nuclear liability insurance associated with the Gunnar site because the Gunnar site has not been designated as a nuclear installation for the purposes of the [Nuclear Liability and Compensation Act](#).⁷⁹

3.7 Proposed licence

129. SRC's application is for the renewal of its nuclear substances and radiation devices licence, NSL-W5-3151.0/2026, for a 5-year period to complete phase 2 activities at the Gunnar site. During this 5-year period, SRC intends to complete remediation work, finalize remediation documentation and long-term post-remediation monitoring plans, and to update site specific management plans. The proposed licence renewal application does not cover authorization to proceed to phase 3; a separate licence application would be required for that purpose. In its application, SRC confirmed that the proposed licence renewal is not requesting any additional authorizations, only continuation of phase 2 activities.⁸⁰
130. In section 6 of CMD 26-H102, CNSC staff concluded that SRC's performance during the current licensing period was satisfactory and met regulatory requirements. CNSC staff recommended that the Commission renew the nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for the Gunnar site for a 5-year period with no new authorizations. CNSC staff also included a proposed licence, NSL-W5-3151.0/2031.
131. The Commission finds that SRC satisfies the conditions of section 24(4) of the NSCA. Therefore, the Commission renews SRC's licence for the Gunnar site. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions proposed by CNSC staff in CMD 26-H102. The Commission is satisfied that a 5-year licence period is appropriate with SRC's plans to complete remediation work at the Gunnar site. The Commission notes SRC's intention to apply for a licence renewal prior to the end of the 5-year licensing period and that Commission authorization would be required before SRC could move to phase 3 of the Gunnar site remediation project.

⁷⁹ S.C. 2015, c. 4, s. 120

⁸⁰ *Application for Renewal of the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence NSL-W5-3151.00/2026 – Saskatchewan Research Council Gunnar Legacy Uranium Mine Site*, Saskatchewan Research Council, May 23, 2025, page 2.

3.7.1 Delegation of authority

132. To provide adequate regulatory oversight of changes that do not require a licence amendment or Commission acceptance, CNSC staff recommended that the Commission delegate authority as detailed in licence conditions that contain the phrase “a person authorized by the Commission.”⁸¹
133. That expression appears in proposed licence condition 2.1. CNSC staff recommended that the Commission delegate its authority for the purposes described in that condition to the following CNSC staff:
- Director, Uranium Mines and Mills Division
 - Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation
 - Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer, Regulatory Operations Branch
134. The Commission delegates its authority for the purposes described in licence condition 2.1, Reporting Requirements, as recommended by CNSC staff. The Commission notes that the delegation of authority of licence condition 2.1 is for the purpose of the administration of that licence condition. The Commission is satisfied that this approach is reasonable.

4.0 CONCLUSION

135. The Commission has considered SRC’s application for the renewal of the nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for the Gunnar site for a 5-year period. The Commission has also considered submissions from CNSC staff, SRC and the written interventions received as part of this public hearing in writing. Based on all the evidence and submissions on the record, as set out above, the Commission renews the nuclear substances and radiation devices licence for SRC’s Gunnar site. The renewed licence, NSL-W5-3151.0/2031, is valid until May 31, 2031.

Remenda
Victoria

Digitally signed by Remenda, Victoria
DN: cn=Remenda, Victoria
Reason: I am the author of this document
Location:
Date: 2026.05.19 09:36:57.04100
Foxit PDF Editor Version: 13.1.5

Dr. V. Remenda
Commission Member
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

May 19, 2026

Date

⁸¹ Section 5.5 of CMD 26-H102.

Appendix A — Intervenors

Intervenors	Document Number
Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources	CMD 26-H102.2
Métis Nation–Saskatchewan	CMD 26-H102.3
Radiation Safety Institute of Canada	CMD 26-H102.4
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	CMD 26-H102.5