



CMD 26-H105-Q

Date: 2026-09-24

**Question from Commission
Panel Members**

**Question des membres de la
formation de la Commission**

In the matter of

À l'égard d'

Orano Canada Inc.

Orano Canada Inc.

Application to renew the McClean Lake
Operating Licence for 2-year term

Demande pour le renouvellement du
permis d'exploitation de McClean Lake
pour une période de deux ans

**Hearing in writing based on written
submissions**

**Audience par écrit fondée sur des
mémoires**

September 2026

Septembre 2026



QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSION PANEL
MEMBERS

QUESTIONS DES MEMBRES DE LA FORMATION
DE LA COMMISSION

INTRODUCTION

The Commission, in conducting a public Hearing in Writing¹ to consider an application from Orano Canada Inc. (Orano) to renew the Uranium Mines and Mills Operating Licence (UML-MINEMILL-McCLEAN.02/2027) of McClean Lake Operation, has reviewed the written submissions provided by Orano in its [application](#) and Commission Member Document (CMD) [CMD 26-H105.1](#), and by CNSC staff in [CMD 26-H105](#). The Commission has also reviewed written submissions from 7 intervenors. The Commission requires additional information with respect to the questions set out below.

QUESTIONS

Table 1: CMD 26-H105-Q - Questions for Orano

#	Questions for Orano
1.	Impacts of climate change may affect a multitude of conditions (e.g., stability of tailings impoundments, wildfire, changes in precipitation, etc.) at the McClean Lake Operation. What steps is Orano taking to consider and prepare for these impacts?
2.	On page 74 of 210 of CMD 26-H105, Orano had committed to implementing REGDOC-2.9.2: Environmental Protection: Controlling Releases to the Environment by Q3 2026. What is the status of Orano's implementation of REGDOC-2.9.2?
3.	In CMD 26-H105.5 , pages 10-11 of 11, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) expresses the view that the proposed 2-year licence renewal would effectively cap consultation efforts by Orano. What are Orano's views on this supposition?
4.	What efforts are being undertaken to engage with MN-S? How has Orano handled the concerns that have been raised?
5.	In CMD 26-H105.5 , page 8 of 11, MN-S expresses concerns about transportation incidents, including those that involve slurry totes. Provide Orano's perspective on the transportation incidents and whether they have resulted in an impact on the environment, especially concerning sensitive ecosystems and associated biota, and people.

¹ [Notice of Hearing in Writing](#), 2026-H-105, October 20, 2025.



#	Questions for Orano
6.	In CMD 26-H105.5 , page 9 of 11, MN-S requested information about spills at the McClean Lake Operation that were discussed in previous Regulatory Oversight Reports (RORs). For the record, provide information on each spill, preferably in a table, including the date, location, volume, substance released and environmental impact.
7.	Provide Orano's response to the study presented in CMD 26-H105.4 from Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources Office (YNLR), which draws on multiple data sets. The response must include environmental monitoring and impact assessment, as well as Indigenous engagement perspectives. Provide Orano's views on YNLR's 8 recommendations, as they relate to this application.
8.	On page 6 of CMD 26-H105.2 by English River First Nation, it is stated that: “ERFN has expressed concerns regarding selenium concentrations in sediment, benthic invertebrates and fish tissue and the potential for the established aqueous environmental protection guidelines to not be as protective of the broader aquatic community as assumed. This concern is supported by Western Science, for example, selenium speciation can occur resulting in organic selenium species (e.g., selenomethionine [SeMet], methylseleninic acid [MSA] and dimethylselenoxide [DMSeO]) that are more prone to bioaccumulation than inorganic species (e.g., selenite [Se(IV)], selenate [Se(VI)])” Comment on the statement concerning speciation of selenium, especially organo-selenium, and its greater potential/propensity to bioaccumulate. Is there evidence from McClean Lake Operation's monitoring that these species are present? Explain how such speciation might affect sensitive ecosystems and human health.

Table 2: CMD 26-H105-Q - Questions for CNSC staff

#	Questions for CNSC staff
1.	Impacts of climate change may affect a multitude of conditions (e.g., stability of tailings impoundments, wildfire, changes in precipitation, etc.) at the McClean Lake Operation. What steps is CNSC staff taking to consider and prepare for these impacts in its regulatory oversight?



#	Questions for CNSC staff
2.	On page 74 of 210 of CMD 26-H105, Orano had committed to implementing REGDOC-2.9.2: Environmental Protection: Controlling Releases to the Environment by Q3 2026. What is the status of Orano's implementation of REGDOC-2.9.2?
3.	On page 61 of 210 of CMD 26-H105, it is noted that CNSC staff "will" determine whether conclusions made regarding risks to ecological and human receptors have remained unchanged since Orano's previous 2016 ERA submission. Advise on whether the ecological risks have changed since the 2016 ERA.
4.	In CMD 26-H105.5 , pages 10-11 of 11, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) expresses the view that the proposed 2-year licence renewal would effectively cap consultation efforts by Orano. What are CNSC staff's views on this supposition?
5.	What efforts are being undertaken to engage with MN-S? How are the concerns that they have raised been handled?
6.	In CMD 26-H105.5 , page 8 of 11, MN-S expresses concerns about transportation incidents, including those that involve slurry totes. For the record, have such incidents resulted in an impact on the environment, especially concerning sensitive ecosystems and associated biota, and people?
7.	Provide CNSC's response to the study presented in CMD 26-H105.4 from Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources Office (YNLR), which draws on multiple data sets. The response must include environmental monitoring and impact assessment, as well as Indigenous engagement perspectives. Provide CNSC staff's views on YNLR's 8 recommendations, for the purpose of this application.
8.	On page 6 of CMD 26-H105.2 by English River First Nation, it is stated that: "ERFN has expressed concerns regarding selenium concentrations in sediment, benthic invertebrates and fish tissue and the potential for the established aqueous environmental protection guidelines to not be as protective of the broader aquatic community as assumed. This concern is supported by Western Science, for example, selenium speciation can occur resulting in organic selenium species (e.g., selenomethionine [SeMet], methylseleninic acid [MSA] and dimethylselenoxide [DMSeO]) that are more prone to bioaccumulation than inorganic species (e.g., selenite [Se(IV)], selenate [Se(VI)])"



#	Questions for CNSC staff
	Comment on the statement concerning speciation of selenium, especially organo-selenium, and its greater potential/propensity to bioaccumulate. Is there evidence from McClean Lake Operation's monitoring that these species are present? Explain how such speciation might affect sensitive ecosystems and human health.

REQUEST

Orano's and CNSC staff's responses are to be made by way of a supplemental CMD **on or before Thursday, October 15, 2026**. Orano and CNSC staff should inform the Registry of any concerns about this deadline within two working days of receiving this CMD-Q.

Signed on behalf of the Commission:

Name:	Candace Salmon Commission Registrar	Date:	September 24, 2026
Signature:	Salmon, Candace	 Digitally signed by Salmon, Candace DN: C=CA, O=GC, OU=CNSC-CCSN, CN="Salmon, Candace" Reason: I am the author of this document Location: Date: 2026.09.24 13:19:40-04'00' Foxit PDF Editor Version: 13.1.5	