



**CMD 26-H3.31**

Date: 2026-09-24

**Written Submission from  
Dan Rudka**

**Mémoire de  
Dan Rudka**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation**

---

Application to renew the Class IB nuclear fuel facility operating licence for the Port Hope Conversion Facility for a period of 20 years

**Cameco Corporation**

---

Demande visant à renouveler, pour une période de 20 ans, le permis d'exploitation d'une installation de combustible nucléaire de catégorie IB pour l'installation de conversion de Port Hope

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

November 2026

Novembre 2026

CNSC

September 24 2026

Interventions

Interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca

280 Slater St.

Ottawa, Ontario

K1P 1C2

Dan Rudka

Re: Cameco Hearing, November 2026

Port Hope, Ont.

Interventions, & Commission,

Regarding the Cameco hearing in Port Hope this November I would like to submit an intervention statement here, written, and an oral statement at the hearing.

I am a former employee of Cameco. I am also a nuclear exposure victim for over thirty years. It has taken most of that time to reveal what happened to me, how it occurred and the consequences of that exposure - after only one short year of employment. Some of the Commission Members will have some knowledge of this incident through previous interventions, but no one has heard the complete truth. I am presenting that truth here, written, so as the Commission will understand the ongoing concerns and why I still hold them. In my oral statement, I will conclude the justification of those concerns.

My Written statement follows;

In 1995 I was employed by Zircatec, now operated by Cameco, for a very short period of time. In that space of time my life would be drastically and horribly

changed forever compromised. I had many concerns about working with nuclear in the first place and then I was further surprised at what I witnessed about the work practices of employees working in the “active” area of the plant where there is direct contact with uranium. I have made several intervention statements as a result of what I saw and what happened in the plant. As a result of those efforts of intervention and contact with the CNSC, I have come to lose trust and faith with the CNSC....and with time, a deeper understanding, I have lost any trust in the industry as a whole. This resulted in a very concerned and concentrated effort to learn as much as I could about the nuclear industry and its relationship to human health, and to me personally. I have read dozens of books on pretty much all aspects of nuclear, the material, reactors, accidents, negligence and the political and corporate intentions, how the public are misled about the needs for nuclear, how safe it is and most concernedly what nuclear is doing to the health of the people.

Why the interest? As stated, I am a nuclear exposure victim, having bouts of near death experiences on several occasions since that exposure. I struggle with this daily and am very aware that the contamination is slowly taking my life. You, the CNSC, needs to hear this as I am tired of carrying this truth on my own. So that stops here and at my oral comment, I will not carry this burden of knowledge alone! Apparently the knowledge and interest that I have in the matters before me is not shared with the responsible authority on nuclear. What follows will lead to the several reasons that the CNSC should not allow a twenty year license and reconsider the Commissions responsibilities. After many intervention statements regarding my nuclear exposure, the follow account has never been told to the CNSC as it should have been. And it should be noted that a fear, and the power, of the company and other authorities, legal warnings as example, has in the past, held me back. That in itself is another nuclear issue, the intimidation of authority on the subject of nuclear.

When I was hired I was never introduced to the Union staff or leadership. I never received any training on the dangers of uranium or plant safety and rules. There was absolutely no training whatsoever for the new group of employees. We

were taught how to operate any machinery that was required to do our job, but that was it. In time it was revealed that there was no intention to keep the new hires for any length of time as we were hired to increase production for a short time only. The training was not worth their effort it seemed, as only a short period of employment was expected.

Not receiving any orientation or safety training I was seeking information that was not so forthcoming, so I made effort on my own. I went to the WHMIS (hazardous material information) to look up information on uranium for my safety sake, it was not even listed.

While being trained in the process of uranium powder blending, a job that requires a respirator, I was told it was up to me if I wanted use a respirator. I did notice some workers not using a one. One fellow in particular that did that job, never wore a respirator, he had been previously diagnosed with throat cancer....and was still performing that job, without a respirator! I used one without fail, and still something unforgivable happened.

I was given used coverall with no sleeves. I worked with exposed arms, not aware of the risk. Now healed, my arms are terribly scared. Exploring nuclear I discovered why the worker's in the "active area" (working with raw uranium material) wear white coveralls. It has nothing to do with appearance, it is because white does not absorb radiation- and yet my white coveralls had no sleeves. I doubt that the workers are aware of this. I had no idea of that truth. I was also surprised that female employees were hired to work in the active area when it is well known that females are at twice the risk or more when it comes to exposure from radiation, than their male counterparts. With what I have learned from reliable up to date resources, some of these practices that were aloud, were careless in the name of the health of their employees. Or is it possible they really had no idea of their error in judgment at the time?

After several weeks of my employment, one day there was an alarm, very loud, employees all ran from their work stations, towards the back of the plant. I had no idea what was happening. Other than this was not good! My foreman ran to

my work area and told me to follow him quickly. As a result of my hesitation I was the last person out of the plant. We all went to a portable building that I would then learn was the evacuation building. When I got there and was told that this was an “emergency DRILL”. One worker noticed my slow response and told me flatly as I recall, that had this been a real incident of plant contamination due to a radiation accident causing that alarm, ‘You would have died, would have never made it out.’ After the fact, my foreman then informed me of what had occurred and how I should respond in the “future”. My personal feelings about this situation were not good in any way. In fact I felt vulnerable, at risk, and in unnecessary danger. Why, did no one next to me tell me to follow them? I was soon to understand the social problem that I made for the local people employed at the plant, and why no one cared to tell me what was going on during the alarm.

Some background information will help. I was a new resident to Port Hope. I had built a new home just outside of town, needed work and found employment with this company, Cameco. I was hired with a small group, and people wondered why I got hired. You see pretty much everyone at the company was a Port Hope resident most if not all their lives. Many employees had relatives or family also working at the same plant. Working here was considered one of the best local jobs and many applied for the work. I was a new local ‘nobody’ and many within the plant resented my getting employment so easily while others were passed over.

One fellow in particular that was hired, his brother was already an employee. He took a very serious, eventually dangerous, resentment of my hiring. He was hired after me, and was bothered by being of a lower seniority. This resulted in being targeted and harassed by this man on regular basis, and he would encourage others that he knew to join in and do the same. I spoke to my foreman about this as it was a problem. He said that he would handle it, however, this brought on threats from this man and now others. My foreman was bothered by this developing situation, I understood this. One morning he approached me first thing and out of nowhere he stated, “If you don’t like it here, we can fix it so that you can never get another job in Northumberland County.” Imagine how I felt, over the suddenness and shock of this statement.

Next, this problematic employee warned me that if other employees did not like me they would let me know, stating specifically, 'You could one day find sharp metal shavings and uranium powder in your work boot.' The very next morning that was what I found in my work boot! He would not look at me or talk to me for days after that event – I was all too obvious. I did not report this due to expected repercussions. From here on many things occurred that could have been avoided with proper management within the plant.

For no good reason, other than mismanagement of staff, our foremen had this person and I working together in an isolated area, crossing over our shifts on the same job. The man in question came in early on a Friday and demanded that I clear the area, so he could get started on his shift. He blocked my path in a gated area, when I asked him to let me close the gate. He got behind the gate and slammed his full body weight behind it on my arm at the elbow. Resulting in a broken radial head at the elbow and my forearm split down the middle from the elbow down, disabling me and requiring surgery, still problematic. This also resulted in very serious "post traumatic stress syndrome" permanently disabling me. I would fight for six years to win recognition and compensation with the WSIB.

You will probably find that Cameco has never recorded this in their records. There is no incident report with the company. Instead the company attempted to suspend me for two weeks for fighting, and the company also contacted my Doctor and informed him of this decision. I attempted to have this person charge with assault and the local police started an investigation, then discontinued without explanation. Later I would discover that the Union had been in touch with the police and after that the investigation ceased. (This Union, the Steelworkers also allowed the company to have me laid-off of my job while I was on disability, this was a violation of my rights.) I went to the Police Chief about not pursuing the assault charges. After being allowed a short explanation in his office his resulting comments stopped me cold. I was warned to basically 'watch myself, my behavior, don't start any trouble'. Because of this, I later I asked for the Police records,

through freedom of information act, there was nothing to read, almost every word was blacked out.

After the mentioned physical assault I became very ill. I lost weight, could not sleep, started vomiting every morning, I mean 'every' morning! For over thirty years now. I also was losing my vision to multiple cataracts, low hemoglobin, exhaustion, signs of radiation exposure. In time, with some study and searching, what was initially thought to be extreme PTS symptoms and that diagnoses was correct, but it was now also understood that uranium contamination and the symptoms of heavy exposure to radiation was the source of all my physical ailments and health decline.

The first verification that I received was when a trusted citizen of Port Hope told me of how I got exposed and who was behind it. Apparently, the incident was knowledgeable to several people in this small town. The man in question was to have reportedly contaminated my respirator in my absence some weeks before the physical assault. And I was informed that the assault occurred through his frustration that I had not gone off work sick from the uranium that he put in my respirator earlier. (Note that the respirators are inspected after every use. If they show any contamination it must be reported. The individual responsible to report this would have been aware, as he was found to be years later, but has said nothing since...part of a secret?) I have been somewhat haunted recalling (although it's too late for that concern) leaving the plant at an odd hour as I was working a different shift, I set off the Security Alarm for contamination. Security and I were the only ones present. The guard had me go through the radiation detector three times after that and I set off the alarm every time! I was told by security not to worry, 'sometimes this happens'. And that was it. Nothing reported, nothing done, no explanation. This happened on a Friday and I expected that I would hear something about it on Monday – not a word. Was this the day that my respirator was tampered with...?

Further confirmation of my contamination came from UMRC in 2007(Uranium Medical Research Centre) by way of extensive urinalysis

studies to detect various radiation isotopes in the body, eleven years after the exposure in my case. I might expect that some of you at the CNSC might be familiar with these studies. The CNSC cannot dispute the methodology or results. I had been exposed by way of inhalation of enriched U235, U238 and U236 spent reactor fuel. **“Spent Reactor Fuel”!**

I was told by my foreman that I was blending a special formula for the Bruce Plant reactors. The U236 contaminating me was not residual from past work as the company claimed to the CNSC, there no truth to that excuse, I was working with U236 that was there for a purpose. My foreman referred to it as “boost”. “Boost” was actually U236. Spent reactor fuel that Cameco had not been licensed to have in the plant. And I had been blending the uranium powders, including U236 for about three weeks, maybe a little more. When UMRC released this information about U236 people were aware that U236 was what was discovered, they knew that this was my test results, as pictures and information were presented and published. That knowledge had people upset, I was now a “whistleblower” and in a small town that will not do. I thought that “whistleblowers” were supposed to be protected? I was very wrong. After this came a great deal of harassment and trouble, I was run off the road coming out of Port Hope, this vehicle was familiar - a Cameco employee, and death threats – the last one before I got off the internet “You’re a dead man.”

The same blend of isotopes mentioned was what my assaulter unknowingly put in my respirator – as if it would have mattered to him. It also did not seem to matter to the CNSC – as no action was taken for this violation of the CNSC regulations within the Port Hope plant. The next confirmation was after “sinus arch” replacement surgery. Inhalation of the uranium caused multiple sinus issues requiring multiple surgical procedures. During this surgery the surgeon removed embedded material that would turn out to be described as, and could only be uranium particulate, in my damaged bone. I was now a few years into this and now had a rare lung disease, “Pulmonary Alveolar Proteinosis”. So rare that it required four pathologists and finally a fifth from the U.S. to identify what they were seeing. And were they correct? Less than 200 known cases at the time, one in three die, and I was on my way. For some time now I knew that I was badly

contaminated, I thought that I was going to die, and I was – I would receive the “Anointing of The Sick” commonly known as the “Sacrament of last Rights”.

Along this journey I would receive over a dozen facial surgeries that include two plates to reconfigure all the damage that resulted from inhalation of the contaminant through the sinuses. The bone matter had rotted away leaving holes in my skull around the sinuses. During the last procedure on my face I stopped breathing, had to be revived and ended up in intensive care, intubated, and attached to a ventilator. I was a little more than surprised, and upset.

My forearms, not protected, suffered severe burns and scarring. A picture of a post Hiroshima victims scarring after the burns was a match for my arms. In the earlier stages a Japanese woman entering a store as I exited took one look at my arms and froze, staring for a moment. And what a moment for both of us! We both knew what had stopped her.....and I am not from Hiroshima or that era. I am from Port Hope, not even twenty years ago! I now have skin cancer and again the surgeries that go with it. As one CNSC commissioner put it to me, regarding my stand against nuclear in light of what I have gone through, “You’re in this on your own.” I thought, ‘Tell that to the Japanese woman!’ And with those words the Commissioner also identified a much larger problem within the CNSC.

I have a very severe osteoporosis as a result of uranium mimicking calcium. My spine has deteriorated and is collapsing putting pressure on the nerves – causing excruciating pain. I have had multiple broken bones over the years and require calcium injections twice a year and daily supplements. To understand how bad this is, I was tightening a bolt – minimum pressure. Heard a snap...and discovered that my wrist was broken. In 2000 I was released from hospital, with home oxygen supply. I was so terribly sick I could not understand why they released me. In time I understood, it was to be with my family as much as I could, the situation was not in my favor.

In 2015 my lungs failing badly, I had been on oxygen supply prior to 2000 and the only solution would be a double lung transplant. At this point I had several incidents near death and a serious cardiac incident the night after the transplant.

From 2000 on to this day I have blood count problems, kidney issues, fatigue, I have lost a dangerous amount of weight, radiation contamination attacks the intestine, the gut, in a terrible way causing a great deal of nausea daily and other issues, I have had several colonoscopies and lung tissue biopsies, I am a victim of PTS syndrome, my mental health has been a challenge. I require about 16 medications plus supplements per day, have at present about nine scheduled Doctors appointments per year, plus whatever else comes up along the way. And I no longer have an immune system, it had to be blocked. This presents many issues as I am quite vulnerable to most anything.

This mid-September I will have another surgery to my sternum, as there are some problems with the wires in my chest. This is the second surgery for this problem. Last year I required urgent surgery after a stroke, “arterial stenosis” of the neck – we know that exposure affects the cardiac system. I have experienced a few strokes, a continuing danger. I also have ‘dementia’. Study of the most recent medical finding indicates that dementia is a condition that is now found to be related to radiation exposure and has been discovered in the higher percentage of nuclear workers.

(\*\*\*The Dangers Of Ionizing Radiation, Ian Fairlie, 2026\*\*\*)

Not including several of the most recent procedures I have cost the Medical system, the taxpayer, over three million dollars since my exposure, and it continually increases. This is cost of nuclear that we do not consider and no one mentions. Why are we, the taxpayer, responsible for paying the cost of medical needs for nuclear victims? This expense should be directed towards the industry.

It must be stated even after Lynda Keen, then the Chair of the CNSC, stated at a hearing that someone need assist me with what has happened. No takers. The Union was of no help, more so threatening if anything. Cameco made some efforts to appear that they were helping. They did supply some information, but only what they had too, and then the accuracy was questionable. At the plant where I had worked I asked for my radiation dose records, I received three different figures. Also consider that I had calculated on my own dose from the company records that I received on my employment. Then the Cameco head

office supplied another different figure. I contacted the government Radiation Dose Records and I got another totally different figure! I had five different dose measurements given for my exposure!!! And the one that I calculated from company dose records figures was the highest.

I asked for a meeting with Andy Thorne, V.P. of Cameco operations in Port Hope at time. We met in his office. I was obviously very ill and on an oxygen supply, we had a long and personal discussion about my exposure. As we became comfortable we shared an interest we both had with motorcycles, it was very casual. Mr. Thorne then informed me that he was well aware of what had been done to me and by whom. At that point it was no longer casual, as I told him that he "Had an obligation to take that knowledge and report it to the Police!" I made it clear that what was done was attempted murder. The following day I went to the Police and reported what was stated by Mr. Thorne. The officer that I reported this to was the same officer that stopped the original assault investigation. He did not take one note. He listened then told me that he would do nothing, take no action. I came in the front door of the Police station, when I went to leave, he directed to the back door of the building to exit. There was a message in that action.

In light of the issues that I was arguing with nuclear, Mayor Thompson and the new CEO had my attendance restricted in the Municipal buildings and property. I could attend Council meetings but must leave immediately after the meeting, not to linger, even in the parking lot. The CEO would check on me after the meeting, to be sure that I was gone. The restriction included the Farmers Market and public washrooms...on Municipal property.

I attended the Police station to ask if the Mayor could legally do this to a citizen? I was told that the "Police are also Municipal employees" 'And they will comply with whatever the Mayor wants. I was not informed of the legality. And the comment seemed rehearsed. I have two young sons that were active in Port Hope and I was worried for them as the Police have left me feeling very vulnerable in this town, what about my sons, my wife? At that point I knew that I had to leave Port Hope area. That meant selling the house that I built on a chosen lot, after living 20 years there building a beautiful home for my family. So much

effort and hard work....gone. Within about ten or twelve days after I went to the Police, Andy Thorne was gone also, promoted to a new title in the U.S. The new title was an excuse. A few of us knew what had occurred. The company, in the view of many, had him run for cover.

And this leaves me still very ill, in pain, never really comfortable. I did not mention the pain with these years, simply put, 'At times, I have prayed for the end of it by 'any' means possible. And when the end was at my door I prayed and I fought like hell to beat it!" I fought a 28 year effort with the WSIB presenting the above mentioned evidence, over 5000 pages of discussion and I lost that claim, but I still have huge battle with my damaged health. At my final WSIB hearing reactions from the Chair most immediately indicated that bias was at play, none of the actual evidence was even considered. The WSIB will not consider nuclear exposure claims. I was questioned by the company lawyer as if I were criminal, standing closely, looking over and down on me, it was intimidating, as it was meant to be.

I am major expense to society, with a very limited, cut back Canada pension as it was needed very early in life, and old age security, surviving on about fifteen hundred dollars a month – Unbelievable! That I can do this and that I am still alive to speak of it. More unbelievable is the fact that company just walks away and continues many concerning practices to this day and people and the CNSC accept this past and present?

This very long prelude to my oral statement, it is necessary in order to understand this situation and how it came to be. It is the only method to expose what has occurred. If you were me, what would you do? Report it to the CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION? Where else would you take it? I tried the Police, the Mayor, the Union, the company, politicians, even lawyers that would not touch a nuclear exposure claim – all could have tried to help, no one did. No one will help when it is in regards to nuclear exposure and Port Hope. This town, Port Hope, is owned by the industry, Cameco, they have control over above all authority and influence as they have for many years. The above mentioned people of responsibility authority, and so many more, ignore the issue as if it was

a fairy tale – if you read closely, it is a nightmare. What happened here, that I have described never should have happened. There were many points that something should have been done, could have been done, and nothing even attempted. They traded off managing a situation and, just let a life be ruined, I did not matter. Nor did it matter to this company that I had two son and dear wife that suffered through all this with me.

In my 'oral' comment I will explain my concerns over a twenty year license that Cameco has requested. The only way to qualify my concerns is through my experience. Cameco employees and the Port Hope public are my main concern based on this experience, and it should be the CNSC's concern. There are recommendations that I can suggest and have, but this has never mattered. Port Hope, Cameco, the CNSC continue to move ahead with unfounded comments such as, 'we are safe', 'nuclear is a clean fuel', 'within limits', there is no limit to the danger of inhalation of nuclear material that is airborne. Every worker within the manufacturing area, the 'active area', of that plant has been exposed to nuclear material, what isotopes are involved – who knows depending on what they are actually working with? There is concern over what the CNSC actually knows about the operation. When OPG inspectors show up, many workers take a break – they don't want to be watched. And the OPG inspectors, in white, never questioned why I was not covered properly, with sleeves, or where everyone went when they were on the floor to inspect the work. Never saw a CNSC inspector on the floor.

Dan Rudka

Former Nuclear Worker.