



CMD 26-H3.42

Date: 2026-10-01

**Written Submission from
Retired Health Researchers**

**Mémoire de
Retired Health Researchers**

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

To the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission,

We oppose Cameco's application to renew its operating licence for the Port Hope Conversion Facility (PHCF) for the following reasons:

In general: Health and Environmental Risks:

1. The requested 20 year renewal, with no formal review and oversight, linked to a deteriorating historic infrastructure (e.g., leaking floors, sumps, and trenches that the monitoring system failed to detect; a recurring pattern of leaks, small fires and flooding events throughout the 2010s and 2020s) indicate on-going maintenance challenges with an aging infrastructure and should not be granted.

2. The request includes increased production from 125 tons monthly to 1650 tons annually which will not be equally distributed on a daily or weekly basis thus involve increased, unpredictable volumes of radioactive releases into the air and soil — despite company assurances that current emissions remain “well below regulatory thresholds.”

3. As stated in the CNSC's Environmental Protection Review of the plant, the long term plan is for the building to be left “in a condition acceptable for unrestricted future non-licensed industrial use.”

Specific to the extended 20 year licence with **no review or oversight**:

1. Not mentioned in the renewal is Cameco's parallel project of physical redevelopment (demolishment and rebuild) under the project title of “Vision in Motion” which is also scheduled within the same 20 year license renewal. In short the expansion of production in an antiquated plant will be paired with physical site renewal, likely on sites throughout the town. This additional project and its environmental risks must be taken into account when evaluating long-term (non monitored) re-licensing and product expansion of the PHCF facility.

2. The 24% production increase means the facility can now operate at 100% of its equipment capacity in a facility with a documented history of:

- a) Hydrofluoric acid and fluorine gas releases;
- b) Fires and flooding;
- c) at least one elevated uranium emission (2010, UO incident);
- d) documented contamination of soil and leaking infrastructure;
- e) recurring pattern of “no measurable impact” incidents (dozens noted annually).

Higher production means more material will be handled by workers; more process

cycles will take place, and greater opportunity for the kinds of small releases viewed as “routine.” This will result in a shift from predictable monthly production rates to one where “peak production rates” are allowed to occur as long as its within the allowed total yearly tonnage. We don’t know how this aging plant will respond to this major change (pushed to 100% capacity) in production.

For all of the above reasons we do not support the requested licensing changes, rather what is required is full evaluation of the human and environmental safety concerns related to Cameco’s major presence at the centre of a small municipal and surrounding rural population. Importantly, recent studies have identified a pattern of cancer and other diseases associated with distance from operating nuclear facilities whose emissions were reported to be lower than current standards. In conclusion, the “unbuffered” town of Port Hope is an inappropriate site for any nuclear production, much less the expanded footprint being planned for the municipality by Cameco and OPG.

Sincerely,

Retired Researchers:

Dale and Robert DeMatteo