



Notice of Hearing in Writing and Participant Funding

October 26, 2026

Ref. 2027-H-100

CNSC to conduct a hearing in writing on McMaster University's application for a Class IB operating licence for its Centre for Advanced Nuclear Systems

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will conduct a public hearing based on written submissions in spring 2027. The hearing in writing is to consider an application from McMaster University (McMaster) for a Class IB Licence for operating its Centre for Advanced Nuclear Systems (CANS). McMaster is requesting a 10-year licence period. McMaster is located in Hamilton, Ontario, and on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee Nations and within the lands protected by the Dish with One Spoon wampum agreement and covered under the Southern Ontario Treaties.

Since 2019, the CANS facility has operated under a CNSC nuclear substance and radiation devices (NSRD) licence for consolidated uses of nuclear substances.

In [May 2025](#), McMaster applied for a time-limited exemption from the activity limits of its NSRD licence. On [September 29, 2025](#), the Commission granted a temporary exemption, allowing operations above the licence limit until September 30, 2027. McMaster is now seeking a 10-year Class IB operating licence to continue these activities beyond the exemption period. McMaster is proposing to increase production beyond 10^{15} becquerels/year, which requires a Class IB operating licence.

Purpose and scope of hearing

The Commission will be considering whether to issue McMaster's licence pursuant to section 24 of the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#).

As an agent of the Crown, the Commission's responsibilities include the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous Nations and communities where the Crown contemplates conduct that may adversely impact their potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights. To assist the Commission in meeting its duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate, the Commission may rely on the following:

- consultation undertaken by CNSC staff, as well as the opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to make submissions directly to the Commission and to participate in the hearing process, as a key component of the consultation process
- engagement work done by McMaster, including with respect to avoidance, mitigation or other measures adopted or proposed by McMaster for potential accommodation purposes (see [REGDOC-3.2.2, Indigenous Engagement](#))

This does not mean that the consultation undertaken by CNSC staff stops or is replaced by McMaster's engagement. Rather, consultation by CNSC staff and engagement by McMaster continue concurrently.

Hearing submissions

The Commission will consider written submissions from McMaster, CNSC staff and intervenors. The Commission will then deliberate and render a decision on this matter, after which a record of decision will be published on the CNSC website and made available on request to the Commission Registry. A decision from the Commission is anticipated by **September 2027**.

McMaster's [application](#) and CNSC staff's recommendations will be available on the CNSC website at cnsccsn.gc.ca or on request to the Commission Registry. CNSC staff's recommendations will be available after **March 5, 2027**.

Participant funding

In advance of the hearing in writing, the CNSC is making available up to \$30,000 in funding through its [Participant Funding Program](#). The purpose of the funding is to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and interested parties in reviewing McMaster's application and associated documents, and in participating in the Commission hearing process by providing topic-specific written interventions to the Commission. Participant funding applications must clearly demonstrate how the proposed submission will provide the Commission with information directly related to McMaster's application. Please note that the funding will be disbursed among all successful applicants. The deadline for submitting a completed participant funding application form to the CNSC is **January 15, 2027**.

Interventions

Pursuant to rule 19 of the [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure](#) (the Rules), persons who have an interest or expertise in this matter or information that may be

useful to the Commission in coming to a decision are invited to comment on McMaster's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Registry by **May 5, 2027**, by using the [online request form](#), emailing the Registry at interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca, or using the contact information below. **The request to intervene must include the following information:**

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission, including an appendix with all documents mentioned as references in the written submission
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

All submissions will be available for download on the CNSC website at cnscccsn.gc.ca or upon request to the Commission Registry. Personal information, such as address and telephone number, is essential for linking the submission to its author. If you wish to ensure the confidentiality of your personal information, please submit it on a separate page.

Obligation for providing documentary material for the record

Under rule 15 of the Rules, any documentary evidence, written submission or other material filed with the Commission shall be open to the participants and the public (subject to any confidentiality measures taken by the Commission, as described below).

Submissions must follow the guidance in the [Directive on Submitting Documentary Evidence for the Record](#).

Confidentiality

Under rule 12, the Commission may take steps to protect confidential information. Persons intending to submit information that could be confidential must follow the guidance in the [Directive on Requesting Confidentiality](#).

For further information on the Participant Funding Program, contact:

Participant Funding Program Administrator, CNSC

Tel.: 613-415-2814 or 1-800-668-5284

Email: pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca

Web: [Participant Funding Program](#)

For further information on the public Commission hearing process, or on the licensee or the facilities being considered in this matter, or to request documents, contact:

Senior Tribunal Officer, Commission Registry
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater St
PO Box 1046 Stn B
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9

Tel.: 613-462-7489
Fax: 613-995-5086
Email: interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca
Web: [Participate in a public Commission hearing](#)

For inquiries to the licensee, contact:

Chief Nuclear Officer
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West
Hamilton ON L8S 4L8

Tel.: 647-261-2500
Email: zicjj@mcmaster.ca
Web: <https://nuclear.mcmaster.ca/>