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Oral presentation

Submission from the Anishinabek Nation

In the Matter of the

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

Application for the renewal of the Nuclear
Research and Test Establishment Operating
Licence for the Chalk River Laboratories

Commission Public Hearing

January 23-25, 2018

Exposé oral

Mémoire de la Nation Anishinabek

À l'égard des

Les Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens

Demande de renouvellement du permis
d'exploitation d'établissement de recherche
et d'essais nucléaires pour les Laboratoires
de Chalk River

Audience publique de la Commission

23-25 janvier 2018



December 11, 2017

Jean LeClair, Director,
Nuclear Laboratories and Research Reactors Division
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Environmental Assessment Division
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B,
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Dear Mr. LeClair,

RE: Submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on the
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' Chalk River Site Licence Renewal

This letter comes to you today with respect to the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) Site Licence Renewal. There are a number of issues that the Anishinabek Nation is concerned with regarding the CNL Site Licence Renewal.

Firstly, there are a number of projects happening within Anishinabek Nation Territory in which meaningful consultation has not occurred. What consultation has CNL completed with First Nations regarding the Site Licence Renewal? The onus is on the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to ensure that this process is completed in a proper and meaningful way to protect all Anishinabek citizens. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) states:

Article 29(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.

As such, we demand that free, prior and informed consent is required to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in First Nations lands and territories, of which this licence renewal would grant.

Of concern is the fact that this licence is going to a consortium of multinational corporations that operate CNL. In recent years, CNL has eliminated thousands of employees to a current number of approximately forty employees. This fact alone is very concerning with the operations of this type of facility and should alone restrict the licencing renewal.

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The current CNL licence to this consortium has been instated for a period of three years, and should not be granted a 10 year licence without further demonstrating their ability to operate in a manner that ensures the utmost safety for employees, citizens and the environment.

Also, changes to the proposed licence demonstrates less regulatory oversight, fewer reporting and approval requirements and less enforcement. This does not agree with the mandate of the CNSC to protect the health and safety of Canadians and the environment.

Why would the CNSC consider granting approval for a 10 year licence given the above concerns? The protection of the public and environment may be seriously compromised if this licence renewal is approved.

In April of 2017, the Anishinabek Nation and Iroquois Caucus issued a Radioactive Waste Joint Declaration which states:

“we remain collective and unified in our decisions that radioactive waste is kept away from all water bodies, as the risks are uncertain and too great.”

“we remain unified in our decisions that radioactive waste will not be transported, exported or imported throughout our territories by road, rail, water or other means of transportation.”

In terms of licencing operations at CNL, radioactive waste would need to be transported throughout Anishinabek Territory, which we oppose. Further, we reject the storage of radioactive waste near water bodies. Given the CNL site proximity to the Ottawa River, this licence must not be granted.

We do not support granting of a 10 year licence as we have not been meaningfully consulted and cannot accept the risks associated with the storage and transportation of radioactive waste. The Anishinabek Nation and the CNSC both have an obligation to protect our citizens and the environment. We call upon CNSC to reject the 10 year licence application.

I understand that the CNSC's public hearing is scheduled from January 24 to 25, 2018. I have provided this written submission and I would like to make a request to intervene orally on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation. Please contact my Executive Liaison, Lynn Bowerman at lynn.bowerman@anishinabek.ca to schedule a date and time.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee
Grand Council Chief
Anishinabek Nation

Cc. Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare
Lake Huron Regional Chief Paul Eshkakogan
Southeast Regional Chief James Marsden
Northern Superior Regional Chief Pierre Pelletier
Southwest Regional Chief Joe Miskokomon
Anishinabek Nation Chiefs
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