

KITIGAN ZIBI ANISHINABEG

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April 4, 2022

Denis Samure
Commission Registrar
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
via email: intervention@cnscccsn.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Samure:

RE: Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg request for an adjournment of the NSDF CNSC hearing

I am writing on behalf of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg to formally request that part 2 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) public hearing on the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) be postponed.

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg stands with Kebaowek First Nation and Mitchikanibikok Inik who have both written to you at different times asking that these hearings be suspended. We further support the request for an adjournment sent to you by Members of Parliament and multiple environmental and citizens groups.


The Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg has a sacred responsibility to care for and protect its traditional territory and, as such, I am gravely concerned about the proposed project's potential impacts on our rights, lands, resources and way of life. As I know you are aware, the Crown cannot allow this project to go forward without first being satisfied that impacted communities have been meaningfully consulted and that any impacts on our rights have been adequately mitigated and accommodated. Like the Kebaowek First Nation and Mitchikanibikok Inik, we have not been adequately consulted to date and feel very strongly that it is far too premature to be rushing off to a hearing.

The Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg would like to meaningfully participate in the CNSC hearing. We would like to assist the Commission in determining what impacts the proposed project poses on our rights, how serious those impacts are, and whether they can be mitigated and accommodated. We have not had the time however to engage in the necessary studies to determine the breath and severity of potential impacts, nor will we have time in the few weeks that remain before the hearing to engage in that work. It will therefore be impossible for the Crown to fulfill its constitutional duty of consultation if it does not have this information.

Holding a hearing where parties are prepared to speak about the substantive issues presented by a proposed project is in everyone's best interest. Rushing a process where this information is lacking serves no one and is certainly not in the public interest. We are asking that you adjourn the CNSC hearing scheduled to begin on May 31, 2022 for a period of 12 months to allow the

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, and other interested First Nations, to engage in the necessary studies and do the necessary work to better understand the potential impacts of this proposed project on our rights and to allow for the Crown to engage in meaningful consultation.

Megwetch,



Chief Whiteduck
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

cc.