

CMD 19-H3.3

File / dossier : 6.01.07 Date: 2019-04-10 Edocs: 5878189

Written submission from Cameco Corporation

Mémoire de Cameco Corporation

In the Matter of

À l'égard d'

Orano Canada Inc. - Cluff Lake Project

Orano Canada Inc. - Projet de Cluff Lake

Application for the renewal of the Uranium Mine Decommissioning Licence for the Cluff Lake Project

Demande de renouvellement du permis de déclassement de la mine d'uranium de Cluff Lake

**Commission Public Hearing** 

Audience publique de la Commission

May 15, 2019

Le 15 mai 2019



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Page 1

## 1. Introduction

The Cluff Lake Project, operated by Orano and its predecessors, mined and milled uranium ore from 1980 to 2002. Following a comprehensive environmental assessment and licensing process, physical decommissioning works to achieve agreed upon long-term objectives were completed in 2006. During the current licence term, Orano has completed the remaining minor physical decommissioning works and conducted monitoring and maintenance activities. Orano has demonstrated, through transition-phase monitoring, modelling, and risk assessment, that the decommissioning objectives have been achieved. The decommissioned Cluff Lake site is in a safe, secure and stable condition as Orano has prepared the site for eventual transfer to the Province of Saskatchewan under the Institutional Control Program (ICP).

Orano has requested renewal of the Cluff Lake licence for a 5-year term, to allow for the review and acceptance of long-term monitoring and maintenance plans, to facilitate transfer to the ICP.

## 2. Background

Cameco is one of the world's largest providers of uranium with operations located in Canada and Kazakhstan. We are also a leading provider of nuclear fuel processing services, supplying much of the world's reactor fleet with the fuel to generate one of the cleanest sources of electricity available today.

In addition to our uranium mine and mill facilities, Cameco is also the licensee for the decommissioned Beaverlodge properties. Located near Uranium City in northern Saskatchewan, Beaverlodge was operated by Eldorado Nuclear (a federal crown corporation) and consisted of a number of satellite mines and a milling facility that operated from 1953 to 1982. Decommissioning of Beaverlodge was completed in 1985 by the operator following a regulatory approved decommissioning plan. Cameco has managed the monitoring and maintenance of the decommissioned properties, on behalf of the federal government, since 1988. During the current licence term, Cameco is following the approved Beaverlodge Management Framework to demonstrate that the decommissioned properties are safe, secure and stable, and suitable for transfer into ICP. As such, Cameco also intends to appear in front of the Commission later in 2019 regarding the release of twenty properties from CNSC licensing to facilitate their transfer into ICP. Cameco expects to request release for the remaining decommissioned Beaverlodge properties before the current licence period expires in 2023.

## 3. Conclusion

Orano is a competent operator of the decommissioned Cluff Lake property and is qualified to carry on the activities authorized by the licence. Orano has successfully transitioned Cluff Lake from decommissioning to post-decommissioning, and has the management systems and programs in place to ensure the protection of the environment and the health and safety of persons.

Cameco has reviewed Orano's submission to the CNSC and fully supports Orano's licence amendment requests and the relicensing of Cluff Lake for a 5-year term.