



**Oral Presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Submission from the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee**

**Mémoire du Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard d'

**Orano Canada Inc. – Cluff Lake Project**

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**Orano Canada Inc. – Projet de Cluff Lake**

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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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**Intervention by the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality  
Committee  
in  
The Request for a Licensing Decision: Renew and Amend  
Decommissioning Licence  
UMDL-MINEMILL-CLUFF.01/2019**

As you are aware, the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee (NSEQC) is an advisory committee to the Government of Saskatchewan. The committee represents 30 communities in northern Saskatchewan, which are a mix of municipalities and First Nations communities. Each community selects a representative to sit on the NSEQC to voice their concerns, ask their questions, and relay their request for information to the uranium industry and to government regulators, both provincial and federal. These representatives have given northerners an effective voice and a way to participate in the uranium industry for the last 24 years. The NSEQC includes peoples of First Nations (Dene and Cree), Métis and non-aboriginal heritage.

Over the years, the NSEQC have followed the development of Cluff Lake closely; have visited the site numerous times and are quite familiar with the facility in both the operating and the decommissioning phases. In fact, we like to think of ourselves as the civilian community experts, not only on Cluff Lake but on uranium mining in general in northern Saskatchewan. Our activities are known to many stakeholders through correspondence, direct reports to communities, our published annual report, and reliable media coverage in Northern Saskatchewan's leading business magazine – "Opportunity North".

The NSEQC has met with Orano many times over the last few years to discuss Cluff Lake. Orano has always been open and amicable to meeting with the NSEQC regarding any issues, concerns or questions the communities have regarding the activities at Cluff Lake.

The most recent activities regarding Cluff lake were a workshop in the summer of 2018 followed by a tour of the property later that fall. The workshop was held on July 25, 2018 in Saskatoon. This was set up to specifically discuss in detail the decommissioning progress of Cluff Lake. Orano and CNSC staff were on hand to give the history as well as the decommissioning timeline and to answer any questions or concerns the communities had regarding Cluff Lake. This

workshop was well received by the NSEQC representatives. On September 19, 2018, a site tour of the property was held with select members of the NSEQC. The NSEQC members were shown the progress that was made in decommissioning of the facility. Some of the members, former employees of Cluff Lake, were able to compare the current state of the region to the former operating mine where they had once worked.

Overall, the NSEQC are satisfied at this point that this site is being decommissioned properly under the supervision of provincial and federal regulators. We fully appreciate this work as Cluff Lake is the first modern uranium mine being decommissioned under present day standards.

Moving forward the NSEQC expects Orano to continue to participate in NSEQC meetings and to provide updates regarding the decommissioning process and to report any changes as they occur at the Cluff Lake site. The NSEQC will also expect to continue to receive annual and inspection reports from Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment and the CNSC. The NSEQC will continue to disseminate information regarding activities at Cluff Lake to northern Saskatchewan residents and community leadership.

With this, the NSEQC fully supports Orano's application for a 10 year decommissioning licence renewal and related activities.

Bruce Fiddler – South Central NSEQC Co-Chair  
Norman Wolverine – West Side NSEQC Co-Chair  
Victor Fern – Athabasca NSEQC Co-Chair  
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