



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

Submission from the Local Government District of Pinawa

Mémoire du Local Government District of Pinawa

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

Whiteshell Laboratories

Laboratoires de Whiteshell

Application to renew the Nuclear Research
and Test Establishment Decommissioning
Licence for the Whiteshell Laboratories site
for a period of ten years

Demande pour le renouvellement, pour une
période de dix ans, du permis de déclassement
d'un établissement de recherche et d'essais
nucléaires pour les Laboratoires de Whiteshell

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

October 2-3, 2019

Les 2 et 3 octobre 2019

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laissée en blanc*



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August 30, 2019

Sent via Internet Form

To: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)
P.O. Box 1046 Station B
280 Slater Street
OTTAWA, Ontario, Canada
K1P 5S9

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Application to Renew its Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning License Whiteshell Laboratories

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the Local Government District of Pinawa with regards to the application by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) to renew the Nuclear Research and Test Establishment Decommissioning License (NRTEDL) for the Whiteshell Laboratories. The renewal application is for an additional 10 years to December 31, 2029.

We acknowledge that the currently licensed activities include the dismantlement of the WR-1 reactor, decommissioning of the waste management area, storage facilities, and other nuclear and non-nuclear buildings. We further acknowledge that the proposed license renewal and public hearing excludes any reference to the CNL proposal for the in situ decommissioning (ISD) of the WR-1 reactor. Our position that follows also excludes the proposed ISD of the WR-1 reactor.

The Council of the Local Government District of Pinawa supports CNL's renewal application for the NRTEDL. It has been the Local Government District of Pinawa's ongoing position that the Whiteshell Laboratories site should be decommissioned as quickly as possible without compromising the safety of people or the environment. We are satisfied that CNL's progress since the original license was granted in November, 2002 is consistent with our position. We are also satisfied with the level of communication on the project through both the Whiteshell Laboratories Public Liaison Committee and by more direct communication via meetings with CNL personnel, at Open Houses, etc.

We also are pleased with the effort of CNL to support the future commercial development, both nuclear and non-nuclear, at the Whiteshell Laboratories site to help sustain the economy of the region. These include support for the development of one

or more Demonstration Small Modular Reactor projects, annual support for North Forge East an organization established in Pinawa to assist regional entrepreneurs to start new businesses, and support for the development of the Whiteshell Business Park Development Plan which is a vision and strategy for non-nuclear development at the Whiteshell Laboratories site. Through the Asset Donation Program, CNL have donated assets to the community of Pinawa including scientific equipment to the School District of Whiteshell and electric boilers to replace propane heating in a Pinawa office building.

To achieve the full economic potential of the Whiteshell Laboratories site, the Council of the Local Government District would appreciate the continued support on all of these initiatives. In addition, we would appreciate consideration in the license renewal to add a condition regarding protecting infrastructure and assets that will help to ensure the success of future economic development activities. Of utmost importance is the retention of all electrical equipment such as distribution lines, transformers, switching equipment, and the transmission towers and lines that connect to the Manitoba Hydro Grid which need to be preserved for future nuclear and non-nuclear development. We would also ask that other infrastructure such as the roads, parking lot, water treatment plant, sewage lagoon, site security, firefighting equipment and infrastructure, etc. be preserved. It would also be appreciated if CNL would work with the region to retain the shielded facility which includes 5 fully functional hot cells. The hot cells are valuable Canadian assets that should not simply be demolished. A business case could be developed to fully utilize the hot cells and they would also be key to supporting the development of Demonstration Small Modular Reactors as well as the development of nuclear research programs with Manitoba educational institutions. The Whiteshell Laboratories site has a robust environmental monitoring system that should be maintained and shared with any future nuclear development at the site.

In summary, the Council of the Local Government District of Pinawa supports the 10-year NRTNDL renewal for the Whiteshell Laboratories site submitted by CNL and would appreciate strong support from CNL for the future development of both nuclear and non-nuclear opportunities for the Whiteshell Laboratories site.

We are making the submission in writing and would also appreciate an opportunity to appear in person at the CNSC hearing to discuss our support for the license renewal. For further discussion of the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact me at (204)753-2199.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Blair C. Skinner", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Blair C. Skinner
Mayor of the Local Government District of Pinawa