



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Orano Canada Inc.**

Mémoire d'Orano Canada Inc.

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation,
Cigar Lake Operation**

**Cameco Corporation,
établissement de Cigar Lake**

Application for the renewal of Cameco's
uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake
Operation

Demande de renouvellement du permis de mine
d'uranium de Cameco pour l'établissement de
Cigar Lake

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

April 28-29, 2021

28 et 29 avril 2021

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Orano Canada Inc.

Written Intervention for Cameco Corporation Request to Renew the Cigar Lake Uranium Mine Licence

CNSC Public Hearing April 28-29, 2021

March 2021

Introduction

Please accept this correspondence as Orano Canada Inc's (Orano) written intervention for Cameco Corporation's (Cameco) request to renew the Cigar Lake Uranium Mine Licence for a 10-year term.

Orano is joint-venture partner with Cameco, Idemitsu Canada Resources Ltd. and TEPCO Resources Inc. in the Cigar Lake mine, which is operated by Cameco. Cameco and Orano have been working together for approximately 40 years to develop the mine, prepare Orano's mill at McClean Lake to process the ore, manage safety and environmental aspects of the two operations, and engage local stakeholders.

Orano's McClean Lake mill has processed the uranium ore produced by the Cigar Lake mine since production began in 2014. The tandem of the Cigar Lake mine and McClean Lake mill is one of the world's leading uranium producers. Together, at full production levels, the operations can produce 18 million pounds of uranium annually, which provides sufficient fuel to power about 30 million homes yearly with clean, reliable nuclear energy.

As has been demonstrated throughout the licence term, in 2014 Cameco transitioned from commissioning to production while maintaining exemplary worker health and safety results, protecting the environment and ensuring operational performance targets were met.

The operation was pro-actively placed in temporary suspension at the end of 2020 due to anticipated shortages of qualified operators. As demonstrated by a period of operation during the COVID-19 pandemic, Orano is confident that Cameco has the necessary COVID-19 measures and protocols in place to protect the workers, their families and their communities, when the decision is made to resume production.

Engagement

The tandem operations of the McClean Lake mill with the Cigar Lake mine have a significant socio-economic impact on northern Saskatchewan, not only through direct employment but the generation of economic activity through commitments to northern vendors. A collaboration agreement signed in 2016 between the two companies and the seven Athabasca Basin communities further reinforced the two companies' commitment to continue maximizing workforce and business development, community engagement, environmental stewardship and community investment.

Community-Based Environmental Monitoring

In addition to the environmental stewardship pillar created with the Collaboration Agreements, Cameco, in partnership with Orano, the Government of Saskatchewan and the CNSC established the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP) in 2011. The program assesses the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds in order to address potential environmental concerns, to review potential environmental effects from uranium mining and milling and to identify sustainable management practices in the region.

The goal of the EARMP study design is to monitor for potential effects on the water, fish, berries, and wildlife in the Athabasca region downstream of uranium mining operations. The EARMP community program was developed to address potential concerns about the safety of traditional country foods. EARMP's community sampling program collects traditional country foods, which are currently tested by CanNorth Environmental Services, a 100% Indigenous-owned company, which then publishes an annual report. To date, the EARMP's community reports have consistently concluded that traditional country foods are safe for consumption.

Clean Energy

Nuclear power plants produce no greenhouse gas emissions during operation, and over the course of its life-cycle, nuclear produces about the same amount of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions per unit of electricity as wind, and one-third of the emissions per unit of electricity when compared with solar (source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹). Utilities around the world rely on front end nuclear fuel products to generate power in safe, reliable, low-carbon energy source.

Conclusion

Through our close collaboration with Cameco over decades of shared operations and experiences, Orano is well-informed and confident in Cameco's competence as a reliable operator and the company's established measures, along with demonstrating performance for engaging northern communities, protecting the health and safety of workers and the public as well as the environment. Orano fully supports Cameco's application to renew the Cigar Lake uranium mine licence for a 10-year term.

¹ A study conducted on the mining and milling of uranium, concluded that these activities on the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle produce fewer greenhouse gases than other energy sources (Life Cycle Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Uranium Mining and Milling in Canada, University of Saskatchewan, 2016), contributing only 1.1 g CO₂e/kWh to total life cycle GHG emissions from the nuclear fuel cycle, compared to the approximately 800 CO₂e/kWh produced by coal and 500 CO₂e/kWh by gas generated electricity (2014 UN Panel on Climate Change).