



Supplementary Information

Presentation from the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council

In the Matter of the

**Cameco Corporation,
Cigar Lake Operation**

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

Commission Public Hearing

April 28-29, 2021

Renseignements supplémentaires

Présentation du Conseil canadien des travailleurs du nucléaire

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation,
établissement de Cigar Lake**

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

Audience publique de la Commission

28 et 29 avril 2021

Submission from the Canadian Nuclear Workers' Council
Reference: CMD 21-H2.23
Bob Walker – National Director

Application to renew the Uranium Mine Licence (UML) for
Cameco Corporation's Cigar Lake Operation
UML-MINE-CIGAR.01/2021



Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
Public Hearing

April 28/29, 2021

Canadian Nuclear Workers Council (CNWC)



CNWC Member Unions represent Workers across Canada's Nuclear Industry:

- Uranium mines and mills,
- Nuclear fuel manufacturing,
- Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) operation and maintenance,
- NPP construction and refurbishment,
- Medical isotope production,
- Nuclear research and development,
- Nuclear waste handling, and
- Decommissioning.

Membership also includes District Labour Councils.

CNWC



CNWC formed in 1993 to:

- ensure the perspectives of Canada's Nuclear Workforce are heard,
- strengthen the collective role of Nuclear Workers via their Unions as partners in Canada's Nuclear Industries,
- enhance public knowledge about the many benefits of Canada's Nuclear Industry, and
- ensure dialogue is based on facts.

We interact with the industry and the regulator, publish a seasonal newsletter, maintain a website, have a social media presence, hold an annual conference at strategic locations.

For all CNWC Member Unions workplace health and safety is paramount.

We believe that workplace health and safety, public safety and the protection of our environment are intricately linked.

When our workplaces are safe it's better for the environment and safe workplaces result in safer communities.

Many nuclear workers live and play in nuclear host communities along with their friends and families.

The women and men working in the industry are professionals.

We take our responsibilities seriously.

Nothing is more important.

Uranium Mines and Mills in Norther Saskatchewan (UMM)



The UMMs in Northern Saskatchewan are operated by either Cameco Corporation or Orano Canada Inc.

In their *Regulatory Oversight Report for Operating Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2019*, CNSC Staff concluded that all Canadian UMM facilities operated safely in 2019 and all 14 Safety and Control Areas (SCAs) received a rating of “satisfactory” at all UMMS for 2019.

Orano Canada Inc. operates a uranium mine and mill at their McClean Lake Operation.

Orano employees at McClean Lake are Members of Unifor Local 48-S, President Jermaine Henry.

Unifor Local 48-S is a Member of the CNWC.

UMMs in Norther Saskatchewan

Cameco Corporation operates a uranium mine at their Cigar Lake Operation, a mine at their McArthur River Operation, a mine and mill at their Rabbit Lake Operation and a mill at their Key Lake Operation.

McArthur River, Rabbit Lake and Key Lake have all been under care and maintenance. Cigar Lake has also had temporary production suspensions related to COVID-19.

Employees of Cameco at McArthur River and Key Lake as well as employees of Athabasca Catering Limited Partnership (ACLP) at those sites as well as Cigar Lake are Members of the United Steel Workers (USW) Local 8914, President Denis O'Hara.

USW Local 8914 is a Member of the CNWC.

Cameco employees at Cigar Lake are not unionized.



Cameco Corporation's Cigar Lake Operation (CLO)



The CLO is a Joint Venture operated by Cameco Corporation.

Located in Northern Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin.

The CLO consists of an underground uranium mine with surface facilities for loading ore slurry into trucks, waste management facilities, a water treatment plant, surface freeze plants, administration offices and warehouses.

From Cigar Lake a high grade ore slurry is sent 70 km NE to the mill at Orano's McClean Lake Operation for processing.

Current Licence, UML-MINE-CIGAR.00/2021 expires June 30, 2021.

Cameco submitted an application to the CNSC requesting the current licence be renewed for a period of 10 years.

CNWC Intervention



To prepare this submission we reviewed:

- Cameco's licence application,
- CNSC staff's review and assessment of Cameco's application Ref CMD 21-H2,
- Cameco's written submission Ref CMD 21-H2.1,
- CNSC's 2019 ROR for UMMs Ref CMD 20-M25 and CMD 20-M25.B,
- Cameco's virtual Community Meeting,
- Public summary of Cameco CLO's Safety and Health Management Program and Radiation Protection Program.

CNWC Intervention



We reached out to:

- USW Local 8914.
- Unifor Local 48-S.
- Cameco for contact with an Employee Rep on the CLO OHC.

Difficult to connect with people but we did get feedback.

- Zoom meeting and email exchange with the President of USW Local 8914 and USW Staff.
- Email exchanges with Susan Daigneault, USW Local 8914 Executive and OHC Co-Chair at Cameco's McArthur River Operations.
- Call with the President of Unifor Local 48-S.
- Call with Brad Harris, OHC Employee co-chair at CLO.

CNWC: What we heard



Adequate provisions for the safety of people and the environment.

Confident that Cameco operates their facilities responsibly and were diligent with respect to protecting the health and safety of people and the environment. No concerns about the operations at Cigar Lake.

Mining is important for the economy in Northern Saskatchewan and provide quality employment. Noted that facilities in care and maintenance resulted in some Workers seeking employment further from homes.

There is movement of people between companies and between sites so Workers outside of Cigar Lake have a sense of the working conditions there.

Representatives with USW are aware of Cameco's policies/practices and very confident that Cameco takes the protection of health, safety and the environment seriously.

CNWC: What we heard



Susan Daigneault is a long term Cameco employee, she is on the USW Local 8914 Executive and she is the Occupational Health Committee (OHC) Co-Chair at Cameco's McArthur River Operation.

Note: The OHC is responsible for reviewing health and safety incidents, conducting safety inspections, evaluating safety programs and recommending health and safety improvements.

Susan has presented to the Commission at previous licence hearings for McArthur River and Key Lake. When asked direct questions at the hearing Susan was able to answer with confidence that any issues related to Safety, Health and the Environment are taken very seriously by both Cameco management and workers. She continues to believe this is true.

CNWC: What we heard



A summary of comments received from Susan are in our submission.

The north values the economic benefit of the UMM facilities and the employment opportunities they provide. The layoff of employees when facilities went into care and maintenance hit communities hard. When people found new work it often required further travel and less time with family. When I talk to people from my home town of Buffalo Narrows they recognize the benefit to the growing town's economy. Representatives from NSEQC - Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee have the opportunity to travel to sites to go on tours of the facilities, get the opportunity to ask questions and bring questions forward from Members of their communities. Information is then shared with the community, keeping people up to date with what is currently happening at the Mines in each respective area.

CNWC: What we heard



Worked for Cameco Corporation for 20+ years. In my experience Health, Safety and the Environment have always been priorities. Concerns are handled either directly with supervision or the OHC and management.

We have many different avenues to report and discuss safety concerns. Management has been open and responsive when concerns are brought forward and open to suggestions.

We recently had a virtual teams meeting with the OHCs from Key Lake and McArthur River. That meeting proved to be very beneficial. It would be great to share information between OHCs this way in future. We all have the same goal, protecting Worker's Health & Safety as well as the Environment.

COVID has demonstrated how far Cameco will go to ensure everyone's safety. I work at McArthur River and have friends and past co-workers who work at the other operating sites, I believe all sites are.

United Steel Workers (USW)



See also the submission by USW District 3: CMD 21-H2.26

The USW takes the safety of their Members and the environment very seriously and they work with their employers to continuously improve safety. Workers are encouraged to report any safety issues.

The USW has safety professionals on staff which can assist local Union Representatives as required.

The USW is not aware of any outstanding safety issues with USW Members at ACLP - Cigar Lake.

Cameco employees at Cigar Lake are not Members of a Union but the USW experience with Cameco has shown them to be very responsible with respect to the health and safety of people and protection of the environment.

CNSC Staff Assessment



In their assessment CNSC Staff confirmed that:

- radiation protection programs adequately controlled radiation exposures and radiation doses were kept as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA),
- environmental protection programs were effective in protecting the public and the environment, and
- conventional health and safety programs continued to protect workers.

CNWC position on the CNSC Staff Assessment



We support the CNSC Staff assessment and their conclusion that Cameco Corporation is qualified to carry out the activities authorized by the uranium mine licence at Cigar Lake and will continue to make adequate provision for the protection of the environment and the health and safety of persons.

We also support the CNSC Staff recommendation that the Commission renew the uranium mine licence for Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation for a period of 10 years and issue the proposed licence, UML-MINE-CIGAR.00/2031.

Concluding Remarks



Canada's Nuclear Industry is important for our economy.

Provides clean, reliable, affordable baseload generation in Ontario and New Brunswick without green house gas emissions.

Produces nuclear isotopes vital for our healthcare.

Supports high-quality local employment for tens of thousands of Canadians.

Potential development/deployment of SMR in Saskatchewan

Great working conditions with workplace health and safety standards that are second to none.

It all starts with the uranium mined in Saskatchewan

Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation is an important part of the industry.

Conclusion



Cameco has met all requirements during the current licence period and we have no reason to believe that will not continue.

CNSC Staff will continue to monitor Cameco's compliance and the annual Regulatory Oversight Reports will provide regular reporting to the Commission and the public.

The CNWC supports Cameco's application to renew the UML for their Cigar Lake Operation for a period of 10 years.

We would also like to encourage Cameco to explore the suggestion of periodically scheduling virtual meetings amongst all OHCs from each UMM site to share experiences and consider inviting ORANO.

Thank-you



The CNWC would like to take this opportunity to thank the Commission, CNSC Staff and all Intervenors in this public hearing.

We can not overstate the importance of the transparency and engagement of this process.

The public CNSC Licence hearings and the continuous oversight of the Commission and CNSC Staff all serve to make our workplaces and communities safer.