



**Written submission from  
United Steelworkers, District 3**

**Mémoire de  
United Steelworkers, District 3**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation,  
Cigar Lake Operation**

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**Cameco Corporation,  
établissement de Cigar Lake**

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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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**Stephen Hunt**  
District Director

## **District 3**

**Western Provinces and Territories**

March 22, 2021

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St. P.O. Box 1046  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5S9  
via email [cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cns.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca)

Members of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

### **RE: CMD 21-H2 Cameco Cigar Lake Operations License Renewal**

The United Steelworkers (USW) represents workers in the nuclear industry across North America. In Saskatchewan, USW Local 8914 represents Cameco workers at the McArthur River and Key Lake sites. In addition, Local 8914 represents workers at Athabasca Catering Ltd, which provides food services at Cameco's Cigar Lake operations.

We have reviewed the report of the Commission staff as well as the submission from Cameco Corp, and would like to convey our support for the renewal of the operating license for the Cameco's Cigar Lake operations.

While our members at the uranium operations have been experiencing market and COVID-19 related lay-offs, we believe that Canada remains well poised to be a supplier to growing global nuclear energy demand. We believe Cameco's financial history, and regular financial reports shows it has the ability to continue to meet any financial test.

The jobs provided at the uranium operations make Cameco the largest employer in the region. Sparsely populated there are few other economic opportunities. These operations are also one of the few on-the-job training opportunities workers can have locally, without being forced to leave the region. Almost half of the workforce identify as northern and Indigenous.

We are in a better position to comment on safety of the operations, both for workers and the environment, at the two mines where we represent production workers. We will make the observation that decades long work by Cameco, unions, Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities and government regulators had made significant improvements to health and safety. While Cameco's safety program appears similar at all sites, our members at Athabasca Catering are obviously limited in their site access but have provided no notable concerns about risk to their or another workers' safety or to the environment. The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing concern for all of us.

As a union we have been providing health and safety recommendation to members and employers for well over a year now. The challenges presented at any mine, and remote site with shared lodging are of real concern, however we believe the employer, workers and public health officials have acted quickly to prevent the spread of cases. Our union's ongoing response to the pandemic is like our work on health and safety every day, supported by our District staff with dedicated expertise in provincially

**United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union**

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and federally regulated jurisdictions. Without question health and safety is a paramount concern for us. We believe the fundamental rights of workers include their right to know of hazards, right to participate to learn more about their workplace risk and how to mitigate them, and finally most importantly, the right to refuse unsafe work. Even in a unionized environment it requires education and awareness and yes, belonging to a union before a worker uses that right. In a non-union environment it is even more difficult. United Steelworkers will continue to encourage health and safety regulators to strengthen the right to refuse so all workers are able to exercise it when needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and for the ongoing work of the Commission to ensure we have a safe, sustainable uranium industry in Canada.

Submitted by:  
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