



Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from the
Canadian Nuclear Association**

**Mémoire de l'Association
nucléaire canadienne**

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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March 22, 2021

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
c/o Louise Levert, Secretariat
280 Slater St. PO Box 1046
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Re: Canadian Nuclear Association Intervention Regarding Cameco Corporation's request for renewal of its Uranium Mine Licence for the Cigar Lake Operation.

The Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) has approximately 100 members, representing over 70,000 Canadians employed directly or indirectly in exploring and mining uranium, generating electricity, advancing nuclear medicine and promoting Canada's worldwide leadership in science and technology innovation. Our members are committed to safety throughout the entire life cycle of the nuclear industry and as such are supportive of Cameco Corporation's request for a 10-year renewal of its Uranium Mine Licence for the Cigar Lake uranium mine.

Nuclear energy is a safe, reliable, and non-emitting source of energy that not only helps Canada and indeed the world meet its electricity needs but is also a critical element in the world's fight against climate change. It is widely acknowledged that nuclear energy must play a greater role if the world is to meet its climate change goals. Canada is the world's second largest producer of uranium and Cigar Lake is an essential part of the world's supply of uranium.

Cameco is one of the world's largest producers of uranium and has over 30-years' experience in uranium mining and milling in northern Saskatchewan. Over this time, Cameco has clearly proven itself as a capable, experienced, and qualified operator.

The Cigar Lake Operation is the second largest high-grade uranium mine in the world and has been in commercial operation since 2015. During the current licence period (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2021) Cameco successfully completed commissioning and brought the mine into commercial operation. Over the term of the current licence, Cameco has developed and implemented programs to mitigate potential risks, maintain integrity of facilities and manage operations. Cameco is committed to continually strengthen and improve these programs.

Cameco's number one value is the health and safety of its workers, members of the public and the environment. Cameco has a long history of safe operations and employs a comprehensive safety analysis and risk management system to ensure the systematic identification and management of risk. Multiple forms of risk assessment have been conducted at Cigar Lake and the risk assessment process is continually refined and improved.



Cameco maintains an active Occupational Health Committee at Cigar Lake, which consists of worker and company representatives who review past health and safety incidents, conduct safety inspections, evaluate safety programs, and recommend improvements. Worker input is actively sought and encouraged.

CNA would highlight that during the current licence period, injury statistics have all tracked downward despite the increase in workers and activity associated with bringing the mine into commercial operation. This achievement was recognized by Cameco winning a regional John T Ryan safety trophy for metal mines in 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Like all CNA members, Cameco considers environmental protection a top priority and as such has a stringent and effective environmental management system in place. Cameco maintains an ISO 14001 certification for environmental management systems thus ensuring the Cigar Lake Operation systematically monitors and measures operational impacts, reduces, and effectively manages waste, identifies, and mitigates environmental risks thus minimizing impacts to the environment. Special emphasis is focused on preventing uncontrolled releases to the environment and the treatment of water released to the environment. Cigar Lake sets continuous improvement goals and benchmarks against them. Community-based environmental monitoring programs, supported by Cameco and managed by 100% Indigenous-owned environmental services contractor, continually demonstrate that the country foods and water in the vicinity of this operation that is used by Athabasca Basin First Nations and communities are safe to eat and drink.

Cameco is committed to open communication and public disclosure. Cameco believes the best way to build and sustain public trust and support is by operating in accordance with the highest environmental, health and safety standards and communicating them with the public in an open and transparent way. Cameco maintains a detailed engagement process through its Cigar Lake Public Information Program. The primary audience for this program is the First Nations and Metis communities as well as municipalities that are located in the vicinity of the site. The Public Information Program ensures that local audiences are informed of operations, activities and potential impacts on the environment and the health and safety of people in a timely manner.

Cameco has a long and successful history of effectively engaging with First Nations and communities in Northern Saskatchewan and has developed several programs that facilitate employment as well as community and business development. In June 2016, Cameco signed a collaboration agreement with the rights-bearing First Nations and the municipalities of the Athabasca Basin building on the previous Impact Management Agreement. The agreement is structured on the pillars of workforce development, business development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship. Significant strides have been made in fulfilling these pillars and Cameco is committed to continuing to work with these essential stakeholders.

The CNA believes that past performance is the best indicator of future performance. CNA believes that Cameco's proven track record of safe, environmentally responsible operations combined with its commitment to continuous improvement demonstrates that Cameco is a trustworthy and reliable operator, and the CNA is pleased to strongly recommend that the CNSC renew Cameco's Uranium Mine Licence for its Cigar Lake Operation for a 10-year period.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



John Gorman
President and CEO
Canadian Nuclear Association