Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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Written submission from the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc.

Mémoire du Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc.

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)

Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)

Application from the CNL to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility

Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour autoriser la construction d'une installation de gestion des déchets près de la surface

Commission Public Hearing
Part 2

Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2

May and June 2022

Mai et juin 2022

Canada

Fedoruk Centre
SYLVIA FEDORUK CANADIAN CENTRE FOR NUCLEAR INNOVATION

2022 March 24

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to support an application by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near-surface disposal facility [IAA Reference Number: 80122]. A world-class company for research and development of nuclear technologies, CNL is an essential partner and resource for Canadian organizations like the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation Inc. (Fedoruk Centre).

The Fedoruk Centre operates a Class II nuclear facility that is owned by the University of Saskatchewan – the Saskatchewan Centre for Cyclotron Sciences (SCCS). The relationship between the Fedoruk Centre and CNL has been growing steadily since establishment of our not-for-profit corporation in 2011. Most recently, the Fedoruk Centre is advising CNL about low-level waste that is generated from operation of our TR-24 Cyclotron. The Fedoruk Centre is also supporting CNL research and development of accelerator-based isotope production for future business in the medical sector. Forty years in the future, we expect that the SCCS will be decommissioned and perhaps Chalk River will be able to receive low-level waste from that operation, for safe management in the long term.

On a personal level, I lived in Deep River and worked at Chalk River Laboratories from 1986 to 2019, before taking charge of the Fedoruk Centre in Saskatoon. My wife continues to live in Deep River. I am confident in CNL's organizational commitment to safety. I personally know some of the researchers who developed and proved methods to ensure low-level radioactive waste is kept separate from the environment, contained by passive measures. In my opinion, there is no better body of knowledge and know-how in Canada to establish a Near-Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF). I believe the Facility is definitely needed to confidently place material from demolition of old buildings on the Chalk River site in a resting place that can be monitored continuously and will be inherently resilient against unplanned dispersal.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to intervene in this matter,

Sincerely,

John Root, PhD
Executive Director