Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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Written submission from Dylan Verburg

Mémoire de Dylan Verburg

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

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

April 6th, 2022
Subject: Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility IAA Reference Number: 80122

Dear Secretariat:

My name is Dylan Verburg. As an Ottawa Valley resident, an avid outdoorsman, an environmental professional and a subject matter expert performing nuclear waste characterization with the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories I wish to submit my comments in full support of the construction of a Near Surface Disposal Facility on the Chalk River Labs site.

First, I would like to comment on my support of the safety, security and engineering rigour which has gone into the proposed facility. The use of engineered mounds for the disposal of low-level nuclear waste has been widely recognized as best practice. This engineered solution utilizes numerous redundant systems to minimize the release of contaminants contained within it to the environment. On top of this, the well-established environmental monitoring program has the capacity to monitor any potential releases during operation and has the capacity to swiftly respond to any risks to the surrounding environment.

Second, from a technological enabling standpoint, a safe long term storage solution for nuclear waste generated at the Chalk River site is critical to ensuring the sustainability of the cutting edge nuclear medicine and zero-emission energy research to take place. In the face of the growing climate crisis, the Canadian people need sustainable energy solutions now more than ever. The NSDF will provide a solution for the safe management of a large majority of Canada's existing and future nuclear waste enabling this ground breaking science to continue to benefit the Canadian people.

Finally, I would like to comment on the sustainable legacy of this project. Although the operations at Chalk River have provided vast benefits to Canadians and the world at large, operations have generated a significant volume of nuclear waste. We have the technical and financial capacity to safely manage this legacy waste now and not pass this burden to future generations. We as the generation who have benefited from the enabling work conducted also have the responsibility to do the right thing. The NSDF is the right solution for our generation to take accountability for this legacy waste.

I'd like to thank you for providing the opportunity to intervene on this matter.

Dylan M. Verburg, EIT MASc