



## **Oral presentation**

### **Written submission from Prevent Cancer Now**

In the Matter of the

#### **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

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

#### **Commission Public Hearing Part 2**

**May and June 2022**

## **Exposé oral**

### **Mémoire de Prevent Cancer Now**

À l'égard des

#### **Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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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

#### **Audience publique de la Commission Partie 2**

**Mai et juin 2022**

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**From:** Michelle Meyer  
**Sent:** April 10, 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Subject:** May 31 Public Commission Hearing – Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Near Surface Disposal Facility

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of Prevent Cancer Now, I am requesting to make a presentation at the May 31 hearing regarding the proposed CNL disposal facility near Chalk River.

The PCN presentation will elaborate on the following points summarized below:

The proposed above ground disposal facility site is foundationally unsuitable for a dump of any kind, based on its location close to the shores of the Ottawa River, which is used as a source of drinking water by residents of Ottawa, Gatineau, other smaller communities and Montreal, and is also an earthquake and tornado prone zone, surrounded by wetlands and porous bedrock.

International safety standards preclude above ground landfills to be used for nuclear waste disposal including Cobalt-60.

Millions of Canadians will be affected by leaks of the radioactive materials, heavy metals, and other hazardous chemicals contained in the disposal depository. The vast majority of the radionuclides to be dumped remain radioactive for tens of thousands of years leaving the facility dangerously radioactive for countless generations. This includes Cobalt-60 which the international Atomic Energy Agency specifically requires to be stored underground.

There is no safe level of exposure to the radiation that would leak into the Ottawa River from the Chalk River disposal facility. All radioactive materials that leak from the disposal site would increase the risk of birth defects, genetic damage, cancers and other chronic diseases.

The environment impact statement linked to the proposed disposal facility has documented the eventual disintegration of the dump materials resulting in leaking of radioactive and highly toxic materials into the Ottawa River during the operation and following the closure of the proposed Chalk River facility.

The costs of remediation of leaking radioactive waste linked to federal radioactive waste liabilities linked to the current proposed disposal facility will surpass the costs of initially selecting an appropriate, safe disposal site that meets international safety requirements and respects the health of millions of Canadians and the wellbeing of our ecosystem.

I look forward to meeting with you and delivering our comments on May 31 2022 on behalf of Prevent Cancer Now.

Michelle Meyer

Michelle Meyer ND  
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