



**Oral presentation**

**Exposé oral**

**Written submission from  
Gabrielle Psotka**

**Mémoire de  
Gabrielle Psotka**

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**

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

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Gabrielle Psotka and my background is in Environmental Engineering. I have held the position of Waste Characterization Specialist at Canadian Nuclear Laboratories for 5 years. I am a proud resident of the town Deep River. I am the Vice-President of the NAYGN (North American Young Generation in Nuclear) Chalk River chapter where we advocate for nuclear technology.

The NSDF project is important to me since I know that the permanent disposal of radioactive material is the safest long-term option for the community. Storing waste in sea containers is not a long-term solution – they will degrade. In my position of characterizing waste, I have seen firsthand the extent of some of the widespread soil contamination in Chalk River. Remediating these impacted areas needs to be completed urgently. These remediation projects cannot continue without having a place to dispose of the waste.

I have characterized large volumes of waste that are to be destined to the proposed NSDF, including waste from various building at Chalk River Laboratories, Gently-1 and Douglas Point. I am confident that all waste being generated is being characterized accurately to the NSDF Waste Acceptance Criteria. This includes accounting for all of the NSDF significant radionuclides and characterizing for the non-radiological constituents. I worked extensively with a contractor from the USA who taught the waste characterization specialists various strategies for developing statistically sound radiological fingerprints.

A few months ago, I participated in a webinar explaining how and why waste is characterized for the proposed NSDF. At the hearing, I would be happy to participate in person to defend the waste characterization techniques that are used.

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

Gabrielle Psotka