



Oral presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from
Westinghouse Electric Canada Inc.**

**Mémoire de
Westinghouse Electric Canada 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



161 Bay Street, Suite 2700
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
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April 11, 2022

Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9
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Re: Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) Licence Amendment Application (May 31, 2022, Public Hearing).

Dear CNSC President and Commission Members,

As President of Westinghouse Electric Canada Inc. (Westinghouse), I am pleased to present this intervention letter in support of CNL's Licence Amendment Application to authorize constructing the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) at CNL's Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) campus. Our support of this application is based on considerations presented in this submission.

CNL is Canada's premier science and technology laboratory, and a globally recognized research and innovation hub. CNL's talented engineers and scientists continue to make major advancements in nuclear science and its applications, focused on improving human life and protecting the environment. These developments extend over an array of areas, including medical isotopes, energy generation and environmental remediation.

As a dedicated environmental steward, CNL has developed revolutionary solutions to tackle environmental challenges. This experience and commitment have been demonstrated at other projects and sites, such as the Port Hope Area Initiative, the largest environmental cleanup effort in Canadian history.

Using an engineered near-surface facility to permanently dispose radioactive wastes is an internationally accepted and proven method. CNL's NSDF conservative design features modern technology, consisting of a multi-layered protection facility which will isolate wastes from the environment, allowing radioisotopes to decay to naturally occurring levels.

In accordance with regulatory and international design principles for radioactive waste disposal, a NSDF will offer CNL a responsible waste solution to dispose current and future low-level wastes at CRL. This method is consistent with modern waste management principles and provides an innovative solution to the current practice of temporary storage buildings. Further, an operational NSDF will enable the remediation of historically contaminated lands, legacy wastes, and the decommissioning of ageing nuclear infrastructure, paving the way for a revitalized modern campus.

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In addition to the technical aspects of NSDF, CNL continues to lead a strong campaign to raise awareness about the project and address public concerns. This has resulted in a “strong public confidence” vote, as demonstrated in a recent survey carried out by Nanos Research.

I am able to testify to these considerations from first-hand Westinghouse experience.

On radioactive waste management, Westinghouse is a world-leading nuclear energy company with significant capabilities in the design and development of radioactive waste management, handling, storage and disposal systems. This global experience includes the design, construction and operation of near-surface disposal facilities around the world, such as the El Cabril Disposal Facility, a low- and intermediate-level waste near-surface disposal facility in southern Spain. This experience also includes international engagements in Korea, Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Westinghouse has a long history of providing the Canadian nuclear industry with specialized engineering services. We serve a large client base of nuclear utilities, facilities and laboratories around the country, including multiple CNL sites. Given our association with CNL, our familiarity with its operating ethics, and outstanding commitment to safety and environmental stewardship, we have unwavering confidence in CNL’s ability to safely construct and operate a future NSDF.

Westinghouse shares CNL’s belief that leaving stored radioactive waste for future generations to deal with is not sustainable. Hence, we strongly support CNL’s Licence Amendment Application, and we ask the Commission to consider it positively.

Thank you,



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