Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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# Oral presentation

# Written submission from Gursimer Sandhu

# Exposé oral

# Mémoire de Gursimer Sandhu

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

**Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

**Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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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

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

Date April 11, 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:

I am writing to you to express my personal desire to intervene in the public hearing regarding Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) application to amend its Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) site licence.

My name is Gursimer Sandhu, I am a resident of the Ottawa Valley (Petawawa, Ontario) and also an employee of CNL. With an undergraduate degree in Health Physics and Radiation Science, I am adequately qualified to understand some of the technical decisions made in the proposed disposal facility. I have multiple reasons to be invested in this project, namely safety and security for my health, impacts on the environment which would affect my future, implications to the future of CNL (as an employee), the responsible use of government funding by CNL (as a taxpaying citizen), and finally the responsible disposal of nuclear waste.

The robust multilayered approach to the design of the facility enables it to be both safe and secure. The layers have also undergone rigorous material testing at Queen's University (Kingston, On.). The contents of the facility are also limited to low level waste (LLW), which are defined by a specific nuclide activity. Both the multilayered design and the limitation to the contents provide confidence in the protection of the environment using the best available technology. The selection of the location was also based on impacts to the environment, being on a bedrock ridge that naturally forces water away from the river and into an advanced waste water treatment system. The facility will also secure employment and provide an economic boost to the area and allow for improvements in local infrastructure which will inherently create a positive feedback loop. These secondary improvements will allow CNL to continue to operate as a high level national lab. With all of these considerations in mind, it is clear that CNL is proposing a responsible path for nuclear waste.

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

Gursimer Sandhu