



CMD 25-H6.6

Date: 2025-04-24

**Written Submission from the
International Irradiation
Association**

**Mémoire de l'
Association internationale de
l'irradiation**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

Nordion (Canada) Inc.

Nordion (Canada) Inc.

Application to Renew Licence for the
Nordion Facility

Demande pour le renouvellement de son
permis pour l'installation de Nordion

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

June 4, 2025

Le 4 juin 2025



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

April 24, 2025

interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca

Ref: Nordion (Canada) Inc.'s application to renew its Class 1B nuclear substance processing facility licence for a period of 25 years.

Dear Sir/Madame,

On behalf of the International Irradiation Association (iia), I am pleased to support Nordion (Canada) Inc.'s application to renew its Class 1B nuclear substance processing facility licence for a period of 25 years.

The International Irradiation Association (iia) represents the global irradiation industry and scientific community and supports the safe and beneficial applications of irradiation. The iia membership of 85 organizations is made up of users and suppliers of irradiation technologies. These members include those from the healthcare industry, those that provide services to the medical device industry, and those that undertake research into the use of irradiation to benefit patient treatment, food hygiene, the environment and many other important applications. Many of these organizations rely on the supply of Cobalt-60 sealed sources currently produced using the processing facility operated by Nordion.

The largest application of gamma irradiation using Cobalt-60 is the sterilization of single-use medical devices by the healthcare industry in order to reduce the risk of patient infection. A patient in surgery or receiving wound care or simply having a blood sample taken, is highly likely to be treated using product that has been sterilized using Cobalt-60. Approximately one third of single-use medical devices globally are sterilized using Cobalt-60.

Other important uses of Cobalt-60 include the non-invasive treatment of cancers and brain tumors. Radiosurgery using Cobalt-60 delivers a highly accurate radiation dose to a tumor to destroy cancer cells, while the surrounding healthy tissue receives minimal radiation. Over 35 million cancer patients worldwide have been treated with Cobalt-60.



Canada is one of only five countries that produces Cobalt-60. Nordion, using both Canadian produced and imported Cobalt-60, meets approximately 80% of global demand. This demand for Cobalt-60 continues to grow due to an increased need for patient treatment and sterile medical devices associated with a growing and aging population, greater access to healthcare globally, and advances in medical technologies.

Nordion's operation is critical to ensure that there is no shortage of necessary medical supplies and that patients can continue to be treated. For this reason, the iia supports Nordion's application for renewal of its processing facility licence for a period of 25-years.

Thank you for the opportunity to intervene in this process and provide these comments.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Comben
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International Irradiation Association

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