



CMD 25-H6.7

Date: 2025-04-24

**Written Submission from the
Organization of Canadian
Nuclear Industries**

**Mémoire de l'
Organization of Canadian
Nuclear Industries**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

Nordion (Canada) Inc.

Application to Renew Licence for the
Nordion Facility

Nordion (Canada) Inc.

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

April 24, 2025

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

Re: Nordion (Canada) Inc.'s application to renew its Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility for a period of 25 years

Dear Commission,

My name is Brian Fehrenbach from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries and representing over 250 Canadian companies comprising the Canadian nuclear supply chain. This includes Nordion (Canada) Inc who is applying to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to renew its Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility license. I am sending this letter to show our support and to request that I be scheduled to present the text below at the in-person hearing scheduled for June 4th and 5th in the Ottawa area. Below is the text of my intervention.

Hello, my name is Brian Fehrenbach from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries and representing over 250 Canadian companies comprising the Canadian nuclear supply chain. I'm pleased to be here today as both a nuclear professional and a representative of the Canadian nuclear supply chain in support of Nordion (Canada) Inc.'s application to renew its Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility license for a period of 25 years.

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) is the leading voice of the Canadian nuclear supply chain and its over 260 members and associates located in Canada and in four other countries. Founded in 1979, OCNI actively promotes the production of safe, clean and reliable nuclear energy, as well as the establishment of the needed infrastructure to carry out and manage nuclear projects in Canada. This also includes support and advocacy for Canada's world class

medical isotope industry, of which Nordion (Canada) Inc. is a leader. In this regard, Nordion is committed to ensuring that Canada remains a world leader in the production and supply of isotopes.

Nordion has been a global leading provider of Cobalt-60 (Co-60) to the international healthcare community for over seventy years. Low-specific-activity (LSA) Co-60 is used to sterilize single use medical equipment as well as essential Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). About 40% of the world's single-use medical equipment and PPE is sterilized using Co-60.

In addition, LSA Co-60 is used to sterilize food to eliminate harmful bacteria and pathogens, while extending food shelf-life and reducing food waste. LSA Co-60 is also used to prevent the spread of insect-borne illnesses through environmentally friendly insect pest control.

High-specific activity (HSA) Co-60 is used to treat various cancers in addition to other diseases of the head and neck. This medical procedure focuses multiple high-energy radiation beams to the area being treated, which allows for precisely localized tissue ablation. These procedures are extremely precise and can destroy multiple metastases, which allows it to treat malignancies that typically would not respond well to conventional therapeutic methods. Over the last 60 years, more than 35 million cancer patients globally have been treated with HSA Co-60.

This statistic alone demonstrates that the continued operation of Nordion's Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility is critical to the everyday lives and health of Canadians and the global community.

The Co-60 processed at Nordion's Class 1B facility is irradiated mostly at the Bruce Power and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Darlington and Pickering nuclear facilities. With Nordion located nearby in Kanata, the irradiated Co-60 can be safely processed domestically and shipped around the world. The OPG and Bruce Power reactors produce around 60% of the global supply of Co-60, all of which is processed at Nordion.

Worldwide, only five countries in the world currently produce Co-60, with Canada in a leadership position, demonstrating the critical importance of the continued operation of Nordion's Processing facility. In addition to processing domestically produced Co-60, Nordion also imports foreign irradiated targets from abroad, meaning that Nordion is responsible for over 80% of the Co-60 on the marketplace today. Without Nordion, global healthcare will face a massive shortfall in gamma sterilized devices and protective equipment.

For over 75 years, Canada has been a global leader in the research, development, and production of medical isotopes and radiopharmaceuticals. The world continues to rely on Canada for its supply of critical isotopes. The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries, in its mandate to advocate for the continued strength and breadth of the Canadian Nuclear industry in Canada and abroad, including our position as a leader in the medical isotope industry, is proud to stand in front of the commission today in support of Nordion's renewal application.

Canada is a tier-1 nuclear nation in many regards, but it can only maintain this position in the medical isotope community with facilities like Nordion that can support the growing demands of the nuclear field. This Licence Renewal will allow

Nordion to continue its important work as a leader in Canada's isotope industry. Furthermore, a 25-year licence term will add certainty for its global customers.

For these reasons, OCNI strongly supports Nordion's application for its 25-year Licence Renewal and I urge the commission grant this renewal.