



**CMD 25-H6.8**

Date: 2025-04-27

**Written Submission from the  
Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn  
First Nation**

**Mémoire de la  
Première Nation des Algonquins  
de Pikwàkanagàn**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

**Nordion (Canada) Inc.**

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Application to Renew Licence for the  
Nordion Facility

**Nordion (Canada) Inc.**

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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



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# *Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation*

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**AOPFN Written Submission on**  
Nordion (Canada) Inc.'s Requested 25-Year Renewal of Class IB Licence

**Date Submitted:** April 27, 2025

## **Application for Renewal of Nordion Operating Licence CDM25-H6**

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## Acronyms

AAC	Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Advisory Committee
AOPFN	Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation
ARSCA	Aboriginal Rights Safety and Control Areas
BWXT	BWXT Canada Ltd.
CEA	Cumulative Effect Assessment
CNSC (or the Commission)	Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
CNL	Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
CMD	Commission Member Document
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSAR	Final Safety Analysts Report
IEMP	Independent Environmental Monitoring Program
Nordion (or the proponent)	Nordion (Canada) Inc.
ROR	Regulatory Oversight Report
UNDRIP	United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

## Introduction

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (AOPFN) are pleased to provide this written submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC or the Commission) in relation to the proposed 25-year licence renewal for Nordion Canada Inc.'s (Nordion or the proponent) Class 1B Nuclear Substance Processing Facility located in Kanata, Ontario, within the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg peoples.

AOPFN's Consultation Team reviewed the Nordion Renewal Application and the CNSC staff's Commission Member Document to develop this submission. We also used our prior submissions on regulatory oversight reviews related to Nordion. In addition, we engaged our Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Advisory Committee (AAC) through a meeting to gather Algonquin perspectives on this licence renewal application.

AOPFN would like to acknowledge the support provided through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program, which enabled the development of this submission.

## About the AOPFN

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation (AOPFN) is a proud and progressive Algonquin community with a firm grasp on the impact of destructive historical relationships and resulting hardships that remain evident among members today. Since time immemorial our members have been practicing our culture and living in accordance with our spiritual laws within our unceded traditional territory.

We are a self-defined people. The AOPFN continues to assert and exercise Algonquin aboriginal title and aboriginal rights to and in all parts of AOPFN unceded traditional territory, including lands under water. The AOPFN has an obligation to our members to plan for the future and to ensure self-determination, self-reliance, and self-governance. The AOPFN is committed to respecting and protecting our unceded traditional territory and the rights and interests of our members.

In addition to Algonquin aboriginal title, the AOPFN's rights in unceded Algonquin territory include but are not limited to Algonquin aboriginal rights:

- To hunt, fish and trap, to harvest plants for food and medicine;
- To protect and honour burial sites and other sacred and culturally significant sites;
- To sustain and strengthen its spiritual and cultural connection to the land;
- To protect and steward the environment that supports our members' survival, to govern ourselves; and
- To participate in all governance and operational decisions about how the land and resources will be managed, used, and protected.

Algonquin Culture and worldview include intimate relationships to the land and its natural resources. In Algonquin creation stories, the relationship with the Earth is described and understood as to be synonymous to a maternal relationship. The Earth is our first mother. In addition, AOPFN's laws require AOPFN to preserve and enhance a mutually respectful relationship with the Environment, to co-exist with Mother Earth, and to protect this relationship.

As outlined in Appendix A to this submission, AOPFN expects all proponents and agents of the Crown to respect and adhere to the Nation's *Nuclear Sector Principles and Requirements*, which are grounded in the assertion of Algonquin Aboriginal Rights, title, and self-determination over AOPFN's unceded traditional territory. These principles and requirements reflect AOPFN's right and responsibility to protect the environment, cultural continuity, and well-being of future generations. They outline expectations for respectful, direct engagement; recognition of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); shared decision-making; environmental stewardship guided by Algonquin knowledge, and financial commitments that support meaningful participation, cultural revitalization, and economic inclusion. Given the long history of nuclear development in AOPFN territory without consent, adherence to these principles and requirements is essential for

reconciliation, lawful conduct, and the legitimacy of any proposed nuclear activity within our lands.

## AOPFN's Understanding of the Licence Renewal

AOPFN understands that Nordion has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a 25-year renewal of its Class 1B operating licence. This licence would allow Nordion to continue the production and processing of nuclear substances, including cobalt-60 and other medical isotopes, from its Ottawa facility. The CNSC staff have recommended that this licence be granted based on their evaluation of Nordion's safety performance, regulatory compliance, and strategic investments in facility infrastructure. The proposed licence would span from November 1, 2025, to October 31, 2050.

AOPFN conducted a thorough review of the relevant documents in relation to Nordion's licence renewal application. The review focused primarily on the following two documents:

1. Nordion's Written Submission in Support of Licence Renewal (CMD 25-H6.1)
2. CNSC staff's recommendation on Nordion's Renewal Application (CMD 25-H6)



## AOPFN's Findings and Conclusions

Following the review of the above-noted documents, we recognize Nordion's long operational history; however, the lack of meaningful consultation with and consideration for Indigenous interests throughout this process raises significant concerns. Below are key areas where AOPFN seeks clarification, action, or additional safeguards prior to -or as part of- any final licensing decision.

### 1. Inadequate Indigenous Consultation and Procedural Engagement

AOPFN has established its own governance-based criteria, Aboriginal Rights Safety and Control Areas (ARSCAs), to evaluate whether the CNSC and its licensees have meaningfully addressed our concerns. These standards include recognition and protection of Aboriginal rights, integration of Indigenous Knowledge into monitoring and management, risk communication, engagement adequacy, and contribution to reconciliation. Despite years of AOPFN advocacy for Indigenous inclusion in regulatory performance assessment, the CNSC's current approach remains insufficient. In its Commission Member Document (CMD), CNSC staff have not evaluated Nordion's application against our ARSCA standards, nor has it even mentioned them and acknowledged their relevance. This omission perpetuates a regulatory process in which Indigenous frameworks are sidelined and our inputs treated as peripheral, despite our Nation's legal and constitutional status as rights-holders. This is disappointing to AOPFN, especially since the ARSCAs have been made available by AOPFN for the past couple of years in regulatory oversight review (ROR) processes, including in relation to Nordion's operations. We have attached Nordion-relevant portions of our most recent ARSCAs analysis (from AOPFN's submission on the 2023 ROR) as Appendix B to this submission.

**Recommendation #1: The Commission to order CNSC staff to require integration of AOPFN's ARSCAs in any future CNSC staff review of regulatory applications for nuclear facilities (of any type regulated by the CNSC) in AOPFN's unceded Algonquin territory.**

**Despite operating in our territory for over 50 years, there is still no structured relationship in place between Nordion and AOPFN. Our Nation has been actively seeking to establish such a relationship for the past several years, yet no formal agreement or engagement framework has been finalized. This longstanding lack of progress is a key reason for our concern, and it underscores the need for the CNSC to conduct regular, robust oversight of Nordion's actions. Without a structured relationship or meaningful commitments, there is little assurance that Nordion's activities will reflect the interests, rights, or priorities of AOPFN over the proposed 25-year licence term.**

AOPFN acknowledges that Nordion has made some recent improvements in engagement, such as site visits, invitations to sampling activities, and the development of a draft Indigenous Engagement Plan. These efforts remain insufficient and lack the depth and structure required for meaningful consultation and engagement. As outlined in the AOPFN ARSCAs analysis, participation in the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) marks a positive

step, yet the program continues to prioritize Western scientific methods and does not demonstrate how Indigenous Knowledge or AOPFN's input have influenced sampling plans or site governance.

Notably, no formal engagement protocol has been co-developed by Nordion with AOPFN, and there is still no indication that our perspectives, rights, or Indigenous Knowledge systems have meaningfully shaped Nordion's operational planning or CNSC's regulatory review. As such, Nordion's engagement continues to fall below AOPFN's expectations, and sustained, structured collaboration will be necessary to meet even baseline standards of procedural fairness and respect for Indigenous rights.

AOPFN also notes that a meeting of Nordion with the AAC of April 23, 2025, was the first time that Nordion has met with the AAC. This was less than a week prior to the deadline for submissions for the Licence Renewal process. This is symptomatic of a level and frequency of engagement that is inadequate.

CNSC's staff conclusion that Nordion's performance was "satisfactory" is flawed, as it excludes any consideration of Indigenous perspectives, engagement history, or rights protection measures.

AOPFN recognizes that both Nordion and BWXT operate at the same facility but are subject to separate regulatory licences under CNSC oversight. Importantly, they are also subject to separate social licences to operate. This means that Nordion must develop its own special and unique relationship with AOPFN to garner AOPFN's social licence to operate. For any project on unceded Algonquin territory, a social licence must be rooted in a structured, respectful relationship with AOPFN. Without such a relationship agreement, there can be no meaningful or implied permission to operate, even if regulatory requirements have been technically fulfilled. This distinction underscores the fact that regulatory authorization and social legitimacy are not interchangeable.

Moreover, the absence of any reference to Nordion's operations being in AOPFN's unceded Algonquin territory on Nordion's public platforms, or any mention of Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action or cultural awareness training, is symptomatic of inadequate engagement and relationship. This reinforces our concern that the social licence- and a relationship agreement - to operate in Algonquin territory has not been meaningfully pursued or earned.

AOPFN emphasizes that engagement requires clear, consistent and advanced communication. Consultation is far more effective when parties are informed well in advance of submissions, allowing for proper preparation and reflection.

**Recommendation #2: CNSC to include a licence provision that requires Nordion to engage in ongoing, meaningful consultation with AOPFN and report on the following in both future Regulatory Oversight Report (RORs) and as part of formal performance reviews conducted every five years, rather than only at years 8 and 16 as currently proposed.**

**These 5-year reviews should include examination of:**

- a) **Co-development of engagement protocols and information-sharing mechanisms by Nordion with AOPFN.**

- b) AOPFN's role in health, safety, and environmental governance for the facility, including integration of AOPFN's Neyagada Wabandangaki Guardian Program into site monitoring.**
- c) The level of adherence of Nordion to AOPFN's ARSCAs.**

## **2. Transportation and Storage of Radioactive Materials Through Algonquin Territory**

Nordion routinely transports sealed nuclear substances-including Cobalt-60-through unceded Algonquin territory. These substances carry risks, including the potential for accidental release, system failure, or security incidents. Yet, AOPFN has never been consulted on routing, safety measures, or emergency response coordination.

**Recommendation #3: CNSC to require Nordion to conduct a full transportation risk assessment in collaboration with AOPFN.**

**Recommendation #4: CNSC to require Nordion to co-develop transportation routing and safety protocols with AOPFN.**

**Recommendation #5: CNSC to include a licence condition requiring AOPFN participation in full-scale emergency drills and communications planning.**

## **3. 25-Year Licence Term and Inadequate Oversight Intervals**

AOPFN acknowledges the importance of medical isotope production, but we emphasize that the longevity of the licence raises serious concerns about accountability, public transparency, and the exclusion of Indigenous rights-holders in governance and monitoring. We also understand that while CNSC may require Nordion to submit annual compliance reports, but this does not substitute for formal periodic public and Indigenous engagement spaced out at reasonable intervals. We expect a licence of this duration to be paired with robust and timely Indigenous engagement, environmental transparency, and enforceable oversight.

CNSC's staff in its CMD recommends only two performance updates at year 8 and 16, with a 25-year licence term. AOPFN is concerned that this level of oversight is insufficient, particularly for a facility that has yet to establish a meaningful relationship with Indigenous communities or incorporate Indigenous rights, knowledge, and values into its regulatory framework. A 25-year licence is an exceptionally long term to grant without robust accountability mechanisms that are tested in public processes on a regular basis. Allowing for licence review only at years 8 and 16, as proposed by CNSC staff, will not meet this standard. AOPFN recommends that either a shorter licence period be adopted, or that, if a 25-year licence is adopted, formal reviews occur every five years. Such reviews are not punitive to the proponent or the Crown, and serve the transparency, accountability, and engagement expectations of Indigenous peoples and the Canadian public.

While we are reluctant to support a 25-year licence under the current conditions, we may consider doing so if the following conditions are met:

**Recommendation #6: The Commission should require, as a licence condition, a formal licence performance review every 5 years.**

**Recommendation #7: Each licences performance review should include metrics on Indigenous engagement and participation, a clear summary of progress towards the implementation of ARSCAs, and results from independent environmental monitoring activities.**

#### **4. Emergency Preparedness and Historical Deficiencies**

CNSC inspections in 2016, 2019, and 2022 identified deficiencies in Nordion’s emergency response planning. While CNSC asserts that issues were resolved, it provides no transparency on the nature of these deficiencies or long-term corrective actions.

A significant fire occurred at the site in 2015 during roofing work, raising concerns about on-site detection system an emergency containment. While this incident occurred within the BWXT area, it demonstrates this shared risk profile of the facility and reinforces the need for AOPFN to have a defined role in emergency response planning.

**Recommendation #8: CNSC to require Nordion to disclose, prior to the hearing, the nature of past emergency planning deficiencies and corrective actions taken.**

**Recommendation #9: CNSC to require Nordion to include AOPFN in all future emergency response coordination and scenario planning.**

#### **5. Environmental Monitoring, Cumulative Effects, and Transparency**

Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) and environmental monitoring are referenced but not disclosed in full. Monitoring data is also not shared publicly in accessible formats, and the ERA was reviewed without Indigenous input.

We are concerned by the absence of:

- A Cumulative Effect Assessment (CEA), particularly considering BWXT Medical operates on the same site.
- Indigenous input or co-development of the ERA schedule to be updated in 2027.

**Recommendation #11: CNSC to require the public release of environmental monitoring data in accessible formats.**

AOPFN sees an opportunity for Nordion to deepen its environmental commitments by formally partnering with the Neyagada Wabandangaki Guardians to co-design and implement future environmental monitoring and ERA activities. This would align with stated commitments to transparency and ensure Indigenous Knowledge informs environmental governance in a meaningful way.

**Recommendation #12: CNSC to require the co-development of all future ERAs with affected Indigenous Nations.**

## 6. Access to Safety Documentation

Nordion's Final Safety Analysis Report (FSAR) is referenced in submissions but not included in the public record. Without access, we cannot assess the facility's risk profiles or emergency assumptions.

**Recommendation #13: CNSC to require full Indigenous access to Nordion's FSAR or provide a public summary of key risk assumptions.**

**Recommendation #14: CNSC to require Nordion to summarize high-risk accidents scenarios and their consequences for informed Indigenous review.**

## 7. Indigenous Economic Participation and Inclusion

Despite the proposed 25-year licence term, Nordion has not made any commitments to Indigenous employment, training, or procurement. Long-term operations within unceded Algonquin territory must include equitable access to economic opportunities for Indigenous communities, without placing financial or administrative burdens on AOPFN.

**Recommendation #15: CNSC require Nordion to develop an Indigenous inclusion strategy with defined targets, timelines, and accountability mechanisms.**

**Recommendation #16: CNSC require Nordion to report annually on progress toward Indigenous economic participation, including employment, contracting, and procurement outcomes.**

**Recommendation #17: CNSC to require Nordion to initiate and fund discussions with AOPFN regarding potential skills development initiatives, in a manner that does not assume or impose financial contributions from AOPFN.**

**Recommendation #18: CNSC require Nordion to explore and implement pathways for Indigenous students sponsorship and training, with a view of offering defined employment opportunities.**

NOTE: Should CNSC suggest that any of Recommendations 15 through 18 are beyond the scope of the Licence to cover, and notwithstanding AOPFN's disagreement that this is the case, AOPFN expects to see specific and concrete commitments to each of the above, prior to or during the forthcoming Licence Renewal hearing. AOPFN should not be requested to support a licence where benefits to the Nations in exchange for continued use of AOPFN's unceded territory are not clearly identified beforehand.

## 8. Decommissioning Plan Transparency

CNSC's review notes that the decommissioning plan was last revised in 2022, with no indication that AOPFN has been consulted or informed.

**Recommendation #19: CNSC to require public disclosure of the current decommissioning plan.**

**Recommendation #20: CNSC to require co-development of a consultation process with AOPFN for any future revisions to the decommissioning plan.**

## Outstanding Questions for Nordion

In addition to our recommendations, AOPFN has some questions for Nordion that it would appreciate written feedback on prior to the Licence Renewal hearing.

1. What party is responsible for the chain of custody of the radiological materials used in Nordion's manufacturing process:
  1. from when it leaves the reactor site to Nordion; and
  2. from when it leaves Nordion's facility and is shipped to customers?
2. What distinct benefits to offset use of unceded Algonquin territory are provided by Nordion to AOPFN?

## Closing

The CNSC has a duty to uphold the Honour of the Crown, Indigenous Rights under Section 35, and International Human Rights Standards through the implementation of UNDRIP. A 25-year licence that excludes Indigenous people from environmental, health, and safety governance fails to meet that standard.

We reiterate that AOPFN's ARSCAs provide a clear, Nation-defined framework for evaluating the adequacy of engagement, environmental governance, and reconciliation outcomes, and need to be integrated into future Applications and CNSDC staff CMDs.

Requests for follow-up discussions can be sent to Amanda Two-Axe Kohoko, Manager, AOPFN Consultation Department, [consultation@pikwakanagan.ca](mailto:consultation@pikwakanagan.ca).

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Amanda Two-Axe Kohoko, Manager of Consultation  
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## Appendices:

### Appendix A: AOPFN's Nuclear Sector Principles and Requirements

#### *Requirements for Nuclear Developments in AOPFN Territory*

AOPFN expects that each Proponent seeking to conduct a nuclear sector physical work or activity<sup>1</sup> in AOPFN territory, will adhere to the following requirements. While these requirements may be scaleable to the size, nature and location of a proposed development, this can only be determined through engagement with AOPFN.

1. Adherence to AOPFN Principles Related to Nuclear Sector Projects (See Annex 2).
2. Adherence to AOPFN's Consultation and Engagement Protocol (Annex 3) and recognition that because only AOPFN can speak for our members, engagement must occur directly with AOPFN.
3. Recognition of AOPFN participation and capacity constraints that may arise from time to time (e.g. Covid-19 or other unforeseen circumstances) and a commitment to both negotiate solutions to accommodate these participation and capacity constraints and to respect the time required for AOPFN to make informed decisions.
4. Commitment to cover all reasonable costs of AOPFN engagement in relation to the planning, assessment, and licencing of the proposed physical work and activity, including process and studies costs as required, through a Contribution Agreement negotiated as early as possible in the planning stage for the proposed project.
5. Commitment to co-develop a collaboration framework to guide engagement for any provincial or federal impact assessment or regulatory process required for the Project. Any collaboration framework developed for a full impact assessment process will require at minimum a commitment for monthly meetings.
6. Commitment to conduct the environmental impact assessment according to the highest current standard of law and practice, and to respect and support AOPFN's expectations for the Nation's involvement in that assessment.
7. Commitment to provide opportunity to AOPFN to participate in a meaningful way in any "alternatives to" and or "alternative means" assessment early in project planning.
8. Commitment to provide right of first refusal and financial support for AOPFN to identify and lead or collaborate on studies or research relevant to the assessment of impacts from

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<sup>1</sup> For greater clarity, this includes any new physical work and activity, or relicensing of existing facilities, that involves the importation, storage, disposal, handling, manipulation or creation of radioactive materials, whether for research, energy production, medical or other purposes, and includes decommissioning of existing facilities that meet the above criteria.

the Project. Required studies will be determined by AOPFN on a case-by-case basis but examples include:

- a. Algonquin Knowledge and Land Use Studies
  - b. Culture and Rights Studies
  - c. Participation in early biophysical fieldwork and site assessment or inventories.
9. Commitment to provide meaningful opportunities for AOPFN to identify, develop, and implement mitigations or offsets for project impacts specific to AOPFN members. This includes involving AOPFN in a meaningful way in monitoring and management of the proposed project including via AOPFN's Neya Wabun (Guardian) Program (See also requirement 13a).
10. Commitment to provide meaningful opportunities for AOPFN to identify, characterize, and determine the significance of effects from impacts occurring to AOPFN members and or values in AOPFN territory.
11. Adherence to the requirements of UNDRIP, including but not limited to adhering to free, prior and informed consent decisions made by AOPFN in relation to the project.
12. Negotiation in good faith toward a Reconciliation Agreement with AOPFN, with the value of that agreement to be commensurate with the scope of the proposed physical work and activity.<sup>2</sup>
13. Financial contributions, commensurate with the scope of the proposed physical work and activity, to:
  - a. Support AOPFN's Neya Wabun Guardian Program;
  - b. Support AOPFN's Risk Communication Program;
  - c. Participation in AOPFN Cultural Awareness Training Program is an requirement;
  - d. Support AOPFN's Skill Inventory and Proficiency Collection Program;
  - e. Support AOPFN's Cultural Revitalization Program; and
  - f. Support AOPFN Community Infrastructure needs.
14. Working with AOPFN to develop a Project-specific AOPFN Benefits Maximization Plan for employment, education, training and business procurement opportunities associated with the proposed Project.

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<sup>2</sup> Where the parties have an existing agreement, the proponent is expected to commit to update it to reflect any change in scope of the relationship associated with the newly proposed physical work and activity.



## *AOPFN Principles Related to Nuclear Sector Projects*

<b>AOPFN Principle</b>
1. As a self-governing First Nation, AOPFN's right of free, prior and informed consent for nuclear projects will be respected.
2. AOPFN, as a government retrenching its rightful stewardship and governance responsibilities, will have a co-management role for nuclear projects in AOPFN territory.
3. All projects will contribute positively to educational opportunities critical to AOPFN self-sufficiency, governance and relationships with other parties.
4. To meet the expectation of sustainable development, risks will not be passed on to future generations; radioactive materials cannot ever be abandoned and forgotten in AOPFN territory.
5. AOPFN must be meaningfully involved in any provincial or federal impact assessment for developments occurring in AOPFN territory and any associated studies supporting assessment. Meaningful involvement requires adequate and full funding and reasonable timelines for participation activities.
6. Study Areas and Valued Components for any impact Assessment must be identified in collaboration with AOPFN knowledge Keepers and based on the extent of potential impacts associated with the proposed project.
7. AOPFN will have a meaningful role in monitoring the effects of nuclear projects in AOPFN territory.
8. Algonquin knowledge will be used alongside western science in planning, monitoring and management of nuclear facilities; Indigenous monitors will require access to skills in both Algonquin knowledge and technical monitoring fields.
9. Water must be clean, readily accessible, and trusted by AOPFN members.
10. No nuclear wastes will be moved into or out of AOPFN territory without AOPFN explicit permissions.
11. AOPFN members Algonquin aboriginal rights, title, and connection/relationship to the lands and waters will be protected and promoted, and AOPFN will play a key role in this process.
12. Wildlife and wildlife habitat will be protected and promoted, and AOPFN will play a key role in this process.
13. AOPFN will be meaningfully involved in all aspects of decision-making related to nuclear project planning.
14. AOPFN's cultural and spiritual values and resources will be vigilantly protected and promoted, and AOPFN will play a leading role in this process.
15. AOPFN will be accommodated for Project-specific and cumulative impacts that do occur as a result of nuclear projects, on biophysical and human environmental values and AOPFN Algonquin aboriginal rights, title, interest.
16. AOPFN must be provided adequate and timely access to funding and resources for exercise of its jurisdiction in relation to nuclear projects.
17. AOPFN has the right to preferentially economically benefit from projects that occur on its territory; in order to do so, systemic barriers need to be proactively removed
18. Nothing is more important to AOPFN members than safe and plentiful Algonquin foods and resources as well as the protection of lands. Impacts on these will be monitored and communicated to AOPFN members in ways that have meaning to them.
19. Reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and Canada will underpin the Nation-to-Nation relationship; each proponent to present to AOPFN and work to refine a "Reconciliation Plan", showing how they will contribute to making life better and a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with AOPFN.

## Appendix B: AOPFN’s Submission on Regulatory Oversight Report for uranium and nuclear substance processing facilities in Canada: 2023

AOPFN’s Aboriginal Rights Safety and Control Areas (ARSCAs) are a set of criteria that AOPFN has developed to evaluate the adequacy of how the CNSC and any of its licensed project operators have engaged with AOPFN, addressed our concerns about impacts, and integrated Algonquin knowledge into project monitoring and operations.

*AOPFN 2023 Review of Nordion using (ARSCA) Criteria*

<b>METRIC/ SCA</b>	<b>NORDION</b>
<b>Overall Rank</b>	Below Expectation, moving towards “Neutral” for 2023. Improved from 2022.
<b>Recognition of, protection, and promotion of Aboriginal rights</b>	Below expectations, improving from 2022.  Nordion has made strides in communication and has been moving forward with discussions on developing a relationship based on AOPFN’s expectations and requirements. Nordion can continue improving in this category by formally recognizing our rights in the relationship agreement.
<b>Risk communication with Indigenous peoples and management of public concern</b>	Below Expectation, improved from 2022.  Communication has been improving, and there are clear plans to formalize communications with AOPFN staff and community members in the updated Nordion Indigenous Engagement Plan.
<b>Integration of Indigenous Knowledge into site monitoring and management</b>	Below Expectation, improved from 2022.  Nordion has hosted AOPFN for site visit, but more work needs to be done to develop a systematic approach to integrating AOPFN knowledge and the Neyagada Wabandangaki Guardian Program.
<b>Engagement of Indigenous peoples in site planning, monitoring and management</b>	Neutral, significant improvement from 2022.  Have taken steps to make improvements. In progress, there will be plans to have consistent quarterly meetings with AOPFN staff on Nordion activities in the updated AOPFN and Nordion Engagement Plan.
<b>Contribution to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples</b>	Neutral, improved from 2022.  Nordion has taken steps to commit to reconciliation by having staff take the AOPFN Cultural Awareness Training and has developed a more comprehensive engagement plan and communications strategy. To meet expectations, Nordion should commit to a relationship agreement.
<b>Level of community knowledge and support for site waste management and waste transport</b>	Below Expectation, improved from 2022.  Nordion reached out to inform AOPFN of the upcoming renewal of its 25-year license to begin direct engagement during the technical review, alongside the CNSC public hearing process.

	To continue improving, communication is required regarding nuclear material and waste transport through AOPFN territory.
<b>Engagement adequacy with Indigenous peoples</b>	<p>Neutral, improved from 2022</p> <p>Nordion has improved on engagement by developing the draft AOPFN and Nordion Engagement Plan and providing it to AOPFN for review, as well as expressing interest in developing a relationship agreement with AOPFN. Nordion leadership has also made strides in opening up direct communication and has hosted meetings with AOPFN staff to work on improving engagement.</p> <p>To continue improving, the relationship agreement needs to be finalized, and more consistent engagement needs to take place.</p>
<b>Communication and management of reportable incidents</b>	<p>Neutral, improved from 2022</p> <p>Nordion has improved lines of communication. The updated AOPFN and Nordion Engagement plan intends to add quarterly event reporting to AOPFN.</p> <p>To continue improving this, a relationship agreement is needed to formalize communication expectations and plans.</p>

### **Nordion Rating for 2023: Below Expectation (but improved from 2022)**

Nordion's overall performance rating for 2023 is below expectation, but moving towards neutral. Nordion's commitment to Cultural Awareness Training in 2023 was a measurable contribution to reconciliation with AOPFN. More frequent direct communication and engagement have allowed Nordion and AOPFN to enter initial discussions about addressing AOPFN concerns. Site visits in 2023 included discussions of how to establish an relationship . Nordion committed to improving their Indigenous engagement program, including developing a communications strategy. These are all positive indications of Nordion's willingness to more meaningfully consider AOPFN objectives and concerns in their operations and oversight processes.

However, there is room for improvement. Nordion's engagement plan needs significant work to ensure engagement is meaningful and goes beyond mere notification of site activities, annual reporting, and regulatory processes. Nordion has hosted site visits, but more work is required to integrate Algonquin Knowledge in their site monitoring and management activities.

Although Nordion has been reaching out to AOPFN more frequently, a more systematic approach to involving AOPFN and Algonquin Knowledge in monitoring, management, and risk communication would allow for a more meaningful relationship that ensures AOPFN concerns about risk in relation to the site can be meaningfully addressed.