



## 25-H9 - CNSC Staff Submission

### Denison Mines Corp. Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project

Classification	UNCLASSIFIED
CMD Type	Original
CMD Number	25-H9 (VOLUME 3)
Reference CMD(s)	N/A
Type of Licensing CMD	A New Licence
Hearing	Commission Public Hearing - Part 1 (CNSC staff and proponent)
Date of Hearing	October 8, 2025
Word and PDF e-Doc #	7369970 – Word 7559612 – PDF
Summary	<p>This CMD presents information about the following matters of regulatory interest with respect to the proposed Wheeler River Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CNSC staff’s review, assessment and recommendations regarding the request by Denison Mines Corp. for the Commission to issue a licence to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project, which would consist of a uranium mine and mill.</li></ul> <p>CNSC staff recommend the Commission consider taking the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• determine the Wheeler River Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects referred to in subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012</i>,</li><li>• conclude, pursuant to paragraphs 24(4)(a) and (b) of the <i>Nuclear Safety and Control Act</i> in that Denison:</li></ul>



	<p>a) Is qualified to carry on the activities authorized by the licence</p> <p>b) Will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve Denison Mines Corp.'s application to prepare site and construct the Wheeler River Project</li><li>• Determine that CNSC, as an agent of the crown, has upheld the honour of the crown and has fulfilled its common law obligations to consult and where appropriate accommodate Indigenous Peoples, pursuant to section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i>, 1982</li><li>• Delegate authority to CNSC staff as set out in section 5.5 of this CMD.</li></ul>
<b>Sommaire</b>	<p>Le présent CMD présente de l'information sur les questions d'ordre réglementaire suivantes concernant le projet proposé de Wheeler River :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examen, évaluation et recommandations du personnel de la CCSN concernant la demande de Denison Mines Corp. visant la délivrance, par la Commission, d'un permis de préparation de l'emplacement et de construction pour le projet de Wheeler River, qui comprendrait une mine et une usine de concentration d'uranium.</li></ul> <p>La Commission pourrait considérer prendre les mesures suivantes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• déterminer que le projet de Wheeler River n'est pas susceptible d'entraîner les effets environnementaux négatifs importants visés aux paragraphes 5(1) et 5(2) de la <i>Loi canadienne sur l'évaluation environnementale (2012)</i>;</li><li>• conclure que Denison, conformément aux alinéas 24(4)a) et b) de la <i>Loi sur la sûreté et la réglementation nucléaires</i> :<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a) est compétente pour exercer les activités visées par le permis;</li><li>• b) prendra les mesures voulues pour préserver la santé et la sécurité des personnes, protéger</li></ul></li></ul>





	<p>l'environnement, maintenir la sécurité nationale et respecter les obligations internationales que le Canada a assumées;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• approuver la demande de Denison Mines Corp. visant à préparer le site du projet de Wheeler River et à entamer les activités de construction;</li><li>• déterminer que la CCSN, en tant que mandataire de la Couronne, a préservé l'honneur de la Couronne et s'est acquittée de son obligation, aux termes de la common law, de consulter les peuples autochtones et, le cas échéant, de prendre des mesures d'accommodement en vertu de l'article 35 de la <i>Loi constitutionnelle de 1982</i>;</li><li>• déléguer au personnel de la CCSN le pouvoir décrit à la section 5.5 du présent CMD.</li></ul>
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## CMD 25-H9

# Licence Application to Prepare Site and Construct the Wheeler River Project

2025-08-12

### Signed by:

X 

Sigouin, Luc  
C=CA, O=GC, OU=CNSC-  
CCSN, CN="Sigouin, Luc"

2025.08.12  
09:51:37  
-04'00'

Luc Sigouin

Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulations

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**Cc:** [Adam Zenobi \(adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca\)](#)  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); Chief Coreen Sayazie; [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); Shea Shirley; [Garrett Schmidt](#); [Cheyenna Campbell \(cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com\)](#); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](#); [Mark Calette](#); [slandriecrossland@mns.work](#); [s.nickolet@mns.work](#); [Walter Smith](#); [Billie Jo Natomagan](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [tcooksearson@lrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@lrib.ca](#); [lburnouf@mns.work](#); [tex.mns@sasktel.net](#); [Eric Sylvestre](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@outlook.com](#); [Elmercampbell35@gmail.com](#); [glenmccallum](#);  
**Bcc:**  
**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS  
**Sent:** 2022-01-10 3:33:00 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged  
Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess

Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

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For all the latest CNSC news, visit CNSC's homepage at <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/>

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To unsubscribe, send an email to [cnsc.info.ccsn@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cnsc.info.ccsn@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**From:** [Sydney Nickolet](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Tomorrow's meeting  
**Sent:** 2022-01-17 3:53:00 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Ryan,

As of right now, both mine and Mark's calendars are pretty open next week on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays after 10am CST with exception of the Beaverlodge meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>. However, I did notice that we have a monthly meeting scheduled on Wednesday Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm CST. Looks like that meeting works for both Mark and myself so if we wanted to just cancel tomorrow's meeting and keep the one on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and just use the full 1.5 hours if needed, that would also work for us! Let me know whatever works better for you.

Thanks,

**Sydney Nickolet** (she/her/hers)  
Jr. Lands and Consultation Liaison Officer

306-381-5286

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



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**From:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 17, 2022 3:47 PM  
**To:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nicolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nicolet@mns.work)>  
**Subject:** RE: Tomorrow's meeting

Hi Sydney,

Thanks for the email. Friday looks pretty full on my end and CNSC staff. I will look at next week Mon- Wed or Friday and get back to you. Do you have any preferences (it may have to be the week following)?

Thanks,  
Ryan

---

**From:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work)>  
**Sent:** January 17, 2022 2:48 PM  
**To:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Tomorrow's meeting

Hello Ryan,

Mark's first day back to work was today so I was able to touch base with him this morning. Unfortunately, Mark is only coming back for a few days a week and those being Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. We were talking and we think it would be best if we move tomorrow's meeting to either a Monday, Wednesday or Friday so that Mark can attend because if not, it would just be me attending tomorrow and we believe we would get more out of the meeting with Mark present. Mark and I are available this Friday (Jan 21<sup>st</sup>) anytime after 10am CST. Does it work for your team to move the meeting to Friday?

Apologies for rescheduling the meeting, we are just getting back into the swing of things with Mark being back. Let me know what works for the CNSC.

Best,

**Sydney Nickolet** (she/her/hers)  
Jr. Lands and Consultation Liaison Officer

306-381-5286

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MNS Notes  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 10:02:58 AM

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** February 2, 2022 3:29 PM  
**To:** DeCoste, Laura <[laura.decoste@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:laura.decoste@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** MNS Notes

MN-S & CNSC Meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Attendees:

Sydney Nickolet - Jr. Lands and consultation officer for lands and resources  
Mark Calette - Sr. Director for lands and resources  
Ryan, Doug, Jes and Laura

Notes:

- Team is growing within MN-S Lands and resources
- Provided update on involvement with Denison file:
  - Thinking maybe separate terms of reference with KML, as opposed to incorporating KML into MNS TOR.
  - Been Having conversations with KML, will keep us posted about how they will be involved and work breakdown
- Next Gen:
  - Ryan Asked about sharing of TK study, creation of what we heard report.
    - Mark concerns asked about confidentiality aspect, need to ensure that the region is comfortable with it
    - Need to make sure information won't be used or shared - very sensitive about this information. Want to be project partners, but once it becomes public domain can't take it back and have a lot of issues with that.
    - CNSC need to understand Metis rights and see traditional land use in the area, can set up a special meeting to discuss in more detail
    - MNS can share forms in advance, see what region thinks
  - Raised potential trip in the summer, Next gen Draft EIS is coming end of march, would be a good opportunity meet
    - MNS would like to participate
    - Projects putting MNS in difficult spot. Things are moving forward and can't take care of our business - if COVID cases remain an issue, it really begs the question - what does that mean for engagement, and making sure people are being able to share thoughts and feelings and concerns? Hard to plan right now, putting communities in a difficult position. Nobody wants to have a



horrible outcome by taking chance with a project that have not adequately engaged on.

- Re travel being covid dependent, wondered what CNSC thinks about not being able to do engagement?

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

Agent en évaluation environnementale | Division de l'évaluation environnementale  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire | Gouvernement du Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel : 343-540-6213

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Mark Calette](#); [s.nickolet](#);  
**Cc:** [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC/MN-S Meeting minutes  
**Sent:** 2022-03-11 3:43:41 PM

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Hi Mark and Sydney,

I hope things are well and sorry for the late meeting mins from our meeting last week on March 2, 2022. Please let us know if you had anything to add or changes and as always feel free to reach out if you have any questions on FRIT or other?

Have a great weekend Mark and Sydney and we will see you again on March 30 at 1 pm if not before then.

Thanks,  
Ryan

CNSC-MN-S Monthly Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2022, 2-4 PM  
Attending: MN-S - Sydney Nickolet, Mark Calette, CNSC - Ryan Froess, Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Doug Wylie, Laura Decoste, Shannon O'Neill, Wish Yen

#### **NexGen**

- There are two reviews to be completed for the draft EIS submission
  - Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) technical review – presentation provided to MN-S
  - Public comment period where new or existing comments and concerns can be submitted
  - The review for the FIRT and Public Comment Period can be completed by the same representative

FIRT review is a technical review focused on knowledge MN-S can provide to the project, for example, impacts to land and water from the project

- MN-S would need to appoint an MN-S representative to the team
  - Review is specific to Section 5(1)(c) of CEAA 2012
  - Verification that the summary is accurate, information is correct, and ensure there are no discrepancies from traditional knowledge held by MN-S
- FIRT, RIA funding is separate from EIS review funding
- Other Nations and communities have been invited to participate in the FIRT, but there has not been confirmation whether they will participate

#### **Engagement with NexGen**

- Meetings with Metis Locals in Region 2 are on postponed until elections are completed
- Budget discussions will take place with NexGen to move project forward
- Consultants are digitizing IK Study with discussion around sharing the study to CNSC – this will be determined by the Metis Region 2

Timelines

- FIRT EIS technical review is for CNSC to compile comments and IRs
  - MN-S raises concern around timelines for submission of comments for the EIS – CNSC staff have acknowledged this concern and are having discussions on the review period.
    - MN-S consultants need to review the document, put it in a digestible format for leadership/community before gathering and providing feedback
  - NexGen has indicated they will be providing a plain language summary (booklet) of main highlights of EIS
- MN-S concerns remain as NexGen has difficulty explaining technical aspects of the project to the community. NexGen is not providing clear and understandable plain language summaries of technical information

#### **Tour to Region**

- CNSC aims to set up in person community engagement sessions in the spring of 2022 with the preference being June
  - Topics of interest could include human health perspectives, consultation on EIS, introduction on projects impact the Metis communities in the Northwest Saskatchewan
- Tour is slated for June while kids are still in school and before people go on vacations while also considering timing for EIS submissions

#### **Denison**

- MN-S has confirmed that Northern Region 1 will be represented by MN-S and Pine House will be self-representing
- PFP deadline is March 14<sup>th</sup>, next steps on funding to follow
- Pollutant control facility review (part of field test application) – Province and Denison have received, but no official responses

#### **PFP**

- PFP was awarded a year ago to MN-S for review of the Nexgen Draft EIS. MN-S will be updating the funding provided for different consultants and sub-consultants as there consultant have changed from Wanda Lewis to Two Worlds Consulting.
- Adam Zenobi confirmed this was acceptable and Sydney has confirmed the updated list has been sent to CNSC

#### **Additional Items**

- Next meeting – push to week after → more of an update → path forward Next Gen only
- Meeting with Elder Fleury – Talk with those in SK office about meeting him at Cora's
- The MN-S would appreciate any feedback on the CNSC presentation by Elder Fleury

#### **Next Steps**

- Future meetings will be project specific and will have separate meeting on NexGen with MN-S (March 30 next meeting on NexGen)
- CNSC to verify the PFP application deadline for Denison and confirm (COMPLETED) – March 14<sup>th</sup> is deadline for Denison PFP
- CNSC to follow up internally regarding-feedback for the presentation by Elder Fleury (CNSC Action)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work); [s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Wish Yen \(wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca\)](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca); [DeCoste, Laura](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S-CNSC Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-04-21 4:19:00 PM

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Hi Mark, Sydney,

Thank you for your time last week. Below are the meeting minutes from our conversation.

We don't actually have another meeting in our calendar. Is there a particular day/time that would work for you both to meet on a monthly basis? Say, 2pm CST on Monday afternoons once a month? Let me know of some options that could work for you, and I can get something reoccurring into our calendars.

Have a good evening!  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

-----  
MN-S-CNSC - Denison Wheeler River Project - Meeting Minutes – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (1 – 2pm CST).

Attendees: MN-S - Sydney Nickolet, Mark Calette; CNSC- Ryan Froess, Jessica Way, Wish Yen, Laura DeCoste

#### **MN-S and Denison Engagement**

- MN-S raised concerns that very little engagement with Denison has taken place since reviewing the Application to Operate a Pollution Control Facility document
- MN-S has sent a letter to Denison regarding capacity funding agreement and is waiting for Denison to respond to the capacity funding request
- MN-S received an email from Carolanne regarding possible engagement with locals and the communities in Northern Region 3 by Denison. This email has raised concerns for the MN-S and increased lack of trust in Denison despite positive email from Denison CEO David the week prior. Additionally:
  - The email was addressed solely to Sydney, without Mark on the contact list.
  - The email from Denison implies to the MN-S that meetings with locals and the community will take place with or without collaboration from the MN-S.

- The public in this region are community locals from Beauval, Ile-a- la Crosse, Patuanak and Pinehouse.
- Municipalities was listed in the email and MN-S do not speak for the Métis. Additionally, Section 35 rights are not represented by municipalities.
- Concern regarding short timelines for response as Denison requested a response within less than a week with the due date for the response being a holiday, the Easter Monday
- The engagement session is to take place the week of May 30<sup>th</sup>
  - CNSC can help facilitate engagement between MN-S and Denison if ~~needed?~~ requested
  - CNSC acknowledges the short turnaround time on the Denison request.
  - CNSC also requires proponents/licensees to develop and maintain a Public Information Disclosure Program (PIDC) as per RegDoc 3.2.1.

### **MN-S and KML Relationship**

- Currently KML has more capacity to move forward with Denison on the Wheeler River Project and MN-S is happy that KML has capacity to engage and move forward on the project alongside with Denison
- CNSC staff encouraged MN-S to work together with KML in order to ensure that Metis citizens in Region 3 are consulted on the project. CNSC will continue to meet with both KML and MN-S on the project unless notified otherwise
- Should there be discrepancies between MN-S and KML in the EA process, MN-S will work with KML and CNSC to clarify discrepancies
  - MN-S doesn't anticipate differences in concerns, VCs or knowledge, but cannot guarantee there will not be political differences

### **MN-S and CNSC Engagement**

- As part of our Duty to Consult, CNSC wants to ensure all potentially impacted rights holders are involved and part of the EA process
  - CNSC will be looking to work with MN-S to engage/consult with other Metis locals in Northern Region 3
- CNSC will be completing a presentation/webinar series for KML in May and later in EA process likely in the summer/fall to KML citizens.

### **Wheeler River Project Updates**

- Denison is anticipating submission of draft EIS in late August/or September
- PFP application and FRC decision is anticipated for end of April/May
  - CNSC will be available to meet and explain the PFP decision/process if requested by MN-S as we did for NexGen
- CNSC tour for the NexGen Project is anticipated for June. CNSC is planning a similar tour for the Wheeler River Project in Fall to coincide with the draft EIS submission

### **Action Items**

- CNSC to set -up next monthly meeting with MN-S on the Denison Wheeler River Project
- CNSC to update MN-S on status of PFP application when it becomes available



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Sydney Nickolet](#); [Mark Calette](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S-CNSC Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-04-22 3:15:34 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Sydney,

Meetings set up according to what we discussed on the phone. Thanks for confirming!

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Sydney Nickolet <s.nicolet@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 22, 2022 12:46 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Mark Calette <mcalette@mns.work>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; DeCoste, Laura <laura.decoste@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S-CNSC Meeting Minutes - April 13, 2022

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Jessica,

Thank you for reaching out with the minutes from our last meeting and scheduling for our next meeting. The Monday afternoons at 2pm CST should work for us. Do you want to schedule our first one for May 9<sup>th</sup> and then the second one for June 6<sup>th</sup> and so on?

Best,

**Sydney Nickolet** (she/her/hers)  
Jr. Lands and Consultation Liaison Officer

306-381-5286

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 21, 2022 2:20 PM  
**To:** Mark Calette <[mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)>; Sydney Nickolet <[s.nicolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nicolet@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; DeCoste, Laura <[laura.decoste@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:laura.decoste@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
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**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
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MN-S-CNSC - Denison Wheeler River Project - Meeting Minutes – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (1 – 2pm CST).

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  - The email from Denison implies to the MN-S that meetings with locals and the community will take place with or without collaboration from the MN-S.
  - The public in this region are community locals from Beauval, Ile-a- la Crosse, Patuanak and Pinehouse.
  - Municipalities was listed in the email and MN-S do not speak for the Métis. Additionally, Section 35 rights are not represented by municipalities.
  - Concern regarding short timelines for response as Denison requested a response within less than a week with the due date for the response being a holiday, the Easter Monday
  - The engagement session is to take place the week of May 30<sup>th</sup>
    - CNSC can help facilitate engagement between MN-S and Denison if ~~needed?~~ requested
    - CNSC acknowledges the short turnaround time on the Denison request.
    - CNSC also requires proponents/licensees to develop and maintain a Public Information Disclosure Program (PIDC) as per RegDoc 3.2.1.

#### **MN-S and KML Relationship**

- Currently KML has more capacity to move forward with Denison on the Wheeler River Project and MN-S is happy that KML has capacity to engage and move forward on the project alongside with Denison
- CNSC staff encouraged MN-S to work together with KML in order to ensure that Metis citizens in Region 3 are consulted on the project. CNSC will continue to meet with booth KML and MN-S on the project unless notified otherwise
- Should there be discrepancies between MN-S and KML in the EA process, MN-S will work with KML and CNSC to clarify discrepancies
  - MN-S doesn't anticipate differences in concerns, VCs or knowledge, but cannot guarantee there will not be political differences

#### **MN-S and CNSC Engagement**

- As part of our Duty to Consult, CNSC wants to ensure all potentially impacted rights holders are involved and part of the EA process
  - CNSC will be looking to work with MN-S to engage/consult with other Metis locals in Northern Region 3
- CNSC will be completing a presentation/webinar series for KML in May and later in EA process likely in the summer/fall to KML citizens.

#### **Wheeler River Project Updates**

- Denison is anticipating submission of draft EIS in late August/or September
- PFP application and FRC decision is anticipated for end of April/May

- CNSC will be available to meet and explain the PFP decision/process if requested by MN-S as we did for NexGen
- CNSC tour for the NexGen Project is anticipated for June. CNSC is planning a similar tour for the Wheeler River Project in Fall to coincide with the draft EIS submission

**Action Items**

- CNSC to set -up next monthly meeting with MN-S on the Denison Wheeler River Project
- CNSC to update MN-S on status of PFP application when it becomes available

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**From:** [Mark Calette](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan \(CNSC/CCSN\); Way, Jessica;](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [\*\*]FW: Offer to Collaborate  
**Sent:** 2022-05-17 3:31:26 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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FYI – This is the note I sent Denison regarding the meetings.

Thanks

*Mark Calette*

Senior Director Lands and Consultation

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

310 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street East

Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0A7

Tel: 306-361-1860

Email: [mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)

---

**From:** Mark Calette

**Sent:** April 21, 2022 11:37 AM

**To:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>

**Cc:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work)>; Heidi Klein <[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com)>

**Subject:** RE: [\*\*]FW: Offer to Collaborate

Hi Carolanne,

Thank you for your email response. I understand your letter to suggest that following the current targeted meetings of May/June, Denison can be flexible with how it works with MN-S to engage with communities. We look forward to these future opportunities. Right now our highest priority is to secure finalize our capacity funding agreement to allow us to start working with our communities – I hope you will appreciate that we need to have these structures in place at the local level before we can invite Denison in as a participant and collaborator. Based on your email and my recent exchange with David Cates, it sounds like we may be able to quickly resolve the capacity funding issue, roll out our MN-S/Local engagement, and then start incorporating Denison into that engagement. I suggest that we schedule a meeting 2 weeks after the capacity funding issue and associated workplan has been resolved, where we can develop a communication rollout and engagement approach together.

I look forward to working with you and advancing these important next steps.

Best regards,

*Mark Calette*

Senior Director Lands and Consultation

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

310 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street East

Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0A7

Tel: 306-361-1860

Email: [mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)

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**From:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>

Thanks for your note back. I hope you and your team had a nice easter break.

We are very much at the planning stage for these activities. The only items we have more fulsomely considered at this point are:

- the target timeframe for the events, to respect the coming summer and community preference to avoid these kinds of activities during the summer months – currently targeted toward May 30 to June 2
- the theme of the engagement activities shared, which will be on the predicted outcomes of the environmental assessment for the Wheeler River Project (potential impacts, proposed mitigation, and conclusions), as required by the regulators and important share with members of the general public with interest in our Project.

Beyond this, we are quite open and flexible on the means and methods for the activities to occur and quite open to MN-S input to ensure that such engagement sessions appropriately allow for Métis citizens to provide input from a Metis perspective on components of our draft EIS, as identified above. However, it will be important to know if the MN-S would like to provide this input fairly soon. Recognizing the easter holiday, it would appreciated if you could let me know by April 25<sup>th</sup> or so.

Sincerely, Carolanne

**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**  
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

**WE HAVE MOVED:** Please note our new address below.

t: 306-652-8200 x 131 | f: 306-652-8202  
345 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7K 1N3



TSX: DML | NYSE MKT: DNN  
[www.denisonmines.com](http://www.denisonmines.com)

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**From:** Mark Calette <[mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)>  
**Sent:** April 14, 2022 1:03 PM  
**To:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>  
**Cc:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work)>; Heidi Klein <[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](mailto:hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com)>  
**Subject:** [\*\*]FW: Offer to Collaborate  
**Importance:** High

I am following up on your email to Sydney sent Tuesday afternoon – I note that you've requested a response by Easter Monday.

MN-S has offered in the past to be a full participant in these types of meetings and efforts. Denison will note that funding to organize and facilitate these meetings was included in the budgets we have proposed. I understand from the recent and positive correspondence I have had with David Cates that Denison will be responding to our budget request shortly.

With regard to your email – it appears that Denison has already planned and organized these sessions. In order to consider your offer it is important to understand the role Denison expects MN-S to play in developing and undertaking these sessions and to what extent Denison is willing to review and revise its plans to reflect MN-S input. Please provide these details, as well as a full description of the planned agenda, materials, and activities at your earliest convenience.

Our offices will be closed over the Easter weekend, but we will be available to review the requested materials once we are back on Tuesday. In the future, due to our overstretched capacity, please try to provide us with more time to review these types of request, consider internally, and respond (also considering holidays and dates and events of significance to the Métis).

Kind regards,

*Mark Calette*

Senior Director Lands and Consultation  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
310 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0A7  
Tel: 306-361-1860  
Email: [mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)

---

**From:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work)>

**Sent:** April 14, 2022 11:09 AM

**To:** Mark Calette <[mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)>

**Subject:** FW: Offer to Collaborate

**Importance:**

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**From:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 3:10 PM

**To:** Sydney Nickolet <[s.nickolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nickolet@mns.work)>

**Subject:** Offer to Collaborate

**Importance:** High

Hello Sydney:

We believe it would be helpful to summarize our findings for people in the region of the project, and to seek their questions, input and feedback.

To this end, I would like to offer to collaborate with the MN-S in arranging meetings for Métis citizens from the A La Baie Métis Local, the Sipishik Métis Local and the Patuank Métis Local. This would enable Métis citizens to provide input from a Métis perspective on components of our draft EIS, which we believe would be valuable. We would also like the meetings to be open to all members of the public in the region. I can work out the details with you, to the extent you are available and interested. Denison is looking to arrange these meetings during the week of May 30 – June 3. We will invite attendance from Saskatchewan's Ministry of Environment and the CNSC. Denison will cover the costs of the meetings.

If this is of interest to MN-S, please let me know by Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> so we have time to arrange the meetings (and let me know if you or someone else will be the primary MN-S contact for the meetings).

I am aware of the correspondence recently sent from Mark Calette to Dave Cates regarding MN-S' resumption of interest on the Wheeler River Project through the development of a workplan / budget and associated capacity funding agreement. My offer is not intended to conflict with that process. As Denison is obligated to meet with members of the public in the region of our Project, I would like to ensure that the MN-S has the opportunity to collaborate on this required process that respects the feedback provided to us last year, in February 2021, following Denison's series of meetings with the municipalities.

While it would be our preference to arrange the meetings with MN-S support, in the absence of interest from MN-S we will offer the municipalities of Ile a la Crosse, Beauval and Patuanak to meet with them and their public members if they wish.

I am available to speak with you about this or any other aspect of Denison's work at your convenience. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carolanne

**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**  
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager

**WE HAVE MOVED:** Please note our new address below.

t: 306-652-8200 x 131 | f: 306-652-8202  
345 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7K 1N3



TSX: DML | NYSE MKT: DNN  
[www.denisonmines.com](http://www.denisonmines.com)

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June 17, 2022

e-Doc: 6813256

President Glen McCallum  
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan  
glenmccallum@mns.work

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application**

Dear President Glen McCallum:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage and use of natural uranium in laboratory studies, for a 60 day feasibility field test that Denison are planning to conduct in August 2022. Following completion of the test, the recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project, led by CNSC staff. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC as necessary.

It is important to note that the proposed feasibility field test is not within the scope of the CEAA 2012 EA, as this is a distinct project. The field test could therefore proceed prior to an EA decision.

**Feasibility Field Test**

Through the feasibility field test, Denison intends to validate previous testing and determine the feasibility of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This test requires no new clearing of land or new drilling, only the construction of limited temporary surface facilities.

During the planned test, mineralized material will be removed from the ground through a process that includes injecting a solution into test wells, separating liquids from solids, and collecting the resulting materials for further analysis. These materials are expected to contain elevated levels



natural uranium, and samples will be analysed for general chemistry at the on-site chemical laboratory and later transported to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for further analysis. Once all analysis is complete, materials will be placed in above ground storage tanks, and will remain the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

In March 2022 an application was also submitted to the SMOE, as Denison requires a permit to construct and operate a pollutant control facility prior to conducting the proposed feasibility field test. This permit is required under Saskatchewan's *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations, 1996*, and the application remains under provincial review.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licences have a service standard of 80 business days for a DO decision, from the date a complete application has been received. DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

**As an Indigenous Nation and/or community with a potential interest in Denison's licence application, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views or receiving any additional information you may have with respect to Denison's application to the CNSC for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence, for this proposed project.**

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a licence be granted to Denison for the proposed field test.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence application or the ongoing EA for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

If you wish to receive e-mail notifications related to the EA process and other updates on this licensing process, please let us know and we can add you to the project distribution list.

You may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nana Kwamena

Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: M. Calette, S. Nickolet  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, S. Akhter, J. Way, W. Yen, A. Levine, R.  
Froess, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Mark Calette](#); [Sydney Nickolet](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S-CNSC Meeting Minutes from June 14, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-06-21 3:54:01 PM

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Hi Mark and Sydney,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from last week's meeting. In follow up to one of our below action items, I have invited Denison to our next meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> 2022.

Related to our discussion on the ROR, attached is the notice of meeting and PFP offering.

I also called and spoke with Sydney this afternoon, but we are having discussions internally on EIS review timelines and this is something that has been raised in more than one of the CNSC-MN-S conversations that I have participated in. As you are aware, we have extended the EIS technical review timelines for the Rook I project, and we'd like to take a similar approach on the Wheeler River Project. We briefly reflect MN-S's concerns in minutes from a prior meeting, but would it be possible for you to send an email reflecting this concern, in MN-S's own words? We want to ensure that we have properly documented this on file.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let me know.

Thanks,  
Jes

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Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Denison Mines Wheeler River Project

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 3:00-4:00PM

Attendees: Sydney Nickolet, Mark, Emily Balaneski, Matthew Caron, Ryan Froess, Jes Way, Laura DeCoste, Wish Yen

**MN-S Update**

- Capacity agreement is still under negotiation with David (Denison)
- MN-S provided field test information for the Province of SK but has not received a response from the Province yet
- MN-S has also provided a letter to Denison regarding the field test
- MN-S asked about the status of CNSC in person travel and suggested that in-person CNSC presence in the Western Athabasca basin would be beneficial
  - Major projects warrant CNSC's presence
  - Commission hearings should be in-person within the communities
  - Eastern communities have engaged with CNSC and have knowledge of the CNSC mandates, roles and responsibility
  - Northwestern and western communities are not as knowledgeable about the CNSC
    - Ensure our approach and education for the community is tailored
    - CNSC has to clarify that CNSC is not a proponent, does not collaborate with Denison on projects and CNSC is a separate entity
- MN-S is concerned that Denison is continuing to engage without reaching out to MN-S

## CNSC Update

- Ryan attended Denison tour, which included the communities of Patuanak, La Plonge and Pine House
  - Open house style presentation with general questions
  - Ryan participated in order to answer questions on behalf of the regulator
  - A radio interview was requested, but informed requestor that would need to go through CNSC communication processes
  - Some anti-uranium sentiment in the region was identified
- Field Test
  - Denison has submitted a revision to their Nuclear Substance licence application to clarify that waste will be stored above ground
    - Licence application is currently under review by licence team
  - Should the EA be approved, waste management will be considered in subsequent licensing process
  - Information letters will be sent in the coming days
  - MN-S indicated continued interest in better understanding the field test process, and all agreed that would invite Denison to speak to the field test at the next CNSC-MN-S monthly meeting (Jes to reach out to Denison)
- Draft EIS submission is anticipated for September
- PFP
  - MN-S confirms PFP funding has been received, and voiced disappointment in the amount
    - CNSC can provide additional information regarding the breakdown if requested
  - MN-S wants to ensure that with the limited capacity and funding, CNSC will provide guidance prioritizing project activities to maximize capacity
  - Discussions could take place with Denison for additional funding

## Annual Regulatory Oversight Report

- July 15<sup>th</sup>: PFP due date for the ROR for Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada: 2021 (Notice attached)
- ROR information session is anticipated for September
- Scope encompasses operating sites, Key Lake Mill, McArthur River Mine, Cigar Lake Mine, Rabbit Lake Mine and Mill and McClean Lake Mill

## Other

- Agreed to reschedule meeting from first week of July to July 11<sup>th</sup>

## Action Items

- CNSC to invite Denison to next meeting – **Action Completed**

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Mark Calette](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Sydney Nickolet](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Bcc:** [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Draft EIS Extension Request  
**Sent:** 2022-06-27 2:40:00 PM

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Hi Mark,

Thank you for this your email. We will discuss and get back to you on this as soon as possible.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,  
Jes

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**From:** Mark Calette <mcalette@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 27, 2022 12:13 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Sydney Nickolet <s.nicolet@mns.work>  
**Subject:** Denison Draft EIS Extension Request

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jessica.

Following your phone call with Sydney last week, MN-S is requesting an additional 30 days to review the Denison draft EIS. We would like this to start after the conformity period is over. Due to very low capacity we need every extra hour to review a document of this size and scope. Please let me know if this extension can be granted.

Sincerely,

*Mark Calette*

Senior Director Lands and Consultation  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
310 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0A7  
Tel: 306-361-1860  
Email: [mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Mark Calette](#); [Sydney Nickolet](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Heidi Klein](#); [Matthew Caron](#);  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-07-21 4:13:25 PM

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Hi Mark and Sydney,

Below are the meeting minutes from our meeting last week.

If any edits, questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thanks,  
Jes

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Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MNS)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Denison Mines Wheeler River Project

July 11, 2022 3-4PM EST

Attendees: Mark Calette (MNS), Sydney Nickolet (MNS), Matthew Caron (MNS), Janna Switzer (Denison), Chad Sorba (Denison), Heidi Klein (Two-Worlds), Ryan Froess (CNSC), Jessica Way (CNSC), Wish Yen (CNSC)

**Denison Presentation on Field Test**

- Application for the field test was sent to MN-S in late 2021
  - Two-Worlds provided comments in early March
  - Denison addressed the comments
- Feasibility field test has 2 regulatory requirements
  - Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment – Permit to Construct and Operate a Pollutant Control Facility
    - Granted July 7, 2022
    - With this permit, Denison is able to move forward with constructing structures to support the field test
  - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission – Nuclear Substance License for mineralized material storage above ground
    - Currently under review, requested for August 1<sup>st</sup>
    - In-situ removal of materials is pending the CNSC licence and if granted, will begin in mid-August
- Once 60 days of testing is completed, all facilities and equipment will be removed
- Should the field test not be successful, Denison would pause the whole project for review
- Three years of test work from natural groundwater has already been completed
  - Should the field test be successful, the wells from the field test may be used for the first year of production if the EA and licence are granted
- MN-S expressed concerns regarding the groundwater and possible leaks from the field test

- Denison explained their mitigation and remediation plans in case of leaching
    - Tracer tests and continual monitoring will track flow of injected materials
    - Extensive monitoring wells in the surrounding areas to verify there is no leaching
    - Monitoring wells can be treated as recovery wells in the event there is an emergency/leak and possible injection of basic solutions to neutralize leached materials
- MN-S has expressed concern that communication between Denison and MN-S could continue to improve as the project advances
  - Denison has noted the comment and will continue work with MN-S on communicating for the project

#### **MN-S and CNSC Monthly Meeting – Denison departed meeting and CNSC staff stayed on with MN-S**

- MN-S voiced appreciation that they were able to hear the information on the field test firsthand from Denison along side the CNSC.
- MN-S re-iterated that the proponent needs to continue building on engagement and ensuring the community gets presentations in layman's terms and a format that is easy to understand
  - Comments on the field test were requested by Denison in November 2021 and MN-S requested a meeting to discuss the concerns. Denison responded with a letter to their concerns and comments in March 2022
  - MN-S re-iterated that transparency and open engagement/discussions from Denison is appreciated and hopes that this improves
- CNSC has offered to introduce our technical experts to address any inquiries that MN-S may have with respect to our licensing process for the field test
- MN-S has some concerns around the field sampling in the bedrock as this is a new technology in uranium mining in Canada and wants to ensure monitoring by Denison is robust
  - CNSC does not have the full picture without the draft EIS, but would be happy to follow up with MN-S once the draft EIS is submitted
  - The health and safety of the environment and people is our mandate for the CNSC and approval for the test will not be granted until CNSC staff review the application and approve it.
- Anticipated Timelines
  - Denison is anticipating submission of draft EIS in late September, in which case CNSC's conformity 30-day review would likely run through to early November
  - Technical review and public comment period would then take place from November to end of January (including the additional 30 days that has been added)
    - This time period will not be extended further as 30 additional days was already added

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work)  
**Cc:** [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Faille, Sylvain](#); [Babcock, Neil](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Akhter, Salman](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Aimann Sadik](#); [England, Brianne ENV](#); [Sydney Nickolet](#);  
**Bcc:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Notice of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence issued to Denison Mines Corp.  
**Sent:** 2022-08-05 11:30:00 AM

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Dear President McCallum,

In follow up to our email and letter from June 17<sup>th</sup>, this email is to inform you that a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence has now been granted to Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) by a CNSC Designated Officer.

Denison applied for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation licence for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan in order to complete a feasibility field test of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This licence, which is valid from August 3, 2022 to December 31, 2023, authorizes Denison to temporarily store and use natural uranium in laboratory studies above ground.

As always, we remain available to discuss in more detail. To obtain more detailed information or for any questions, please contact Jes Way at [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or Ryan Froess at [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** [glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work)  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Faille, Sylvain <[sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Babcock, Neil <[neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Burton, Patrick <[patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Akhter, Salman <[salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Aimann Sadik <[aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca)>; England, Brianne ENV <[brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca)>; Mark Calette <[mcalette@mns.work](mailto:mcalette@mns.work)>; Sydney Nickolet <[s.nicolet@mns.work](mailto:s.nicolet@mns.work)>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application

Dear President McCallum,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[Brent Laroque; Shannon Landrie-Crossland; Way, Jessica; cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com; jerry.bernard@erfn.net; nvp.mike@sasktel.net; wsmith@kineepik.ca; bnatomagan@kineepik.ca; glenmccallum@mns.work; mcalette@mns.work; s.nickolet@mns.work; garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com; shea.shirley@yathinene.com; kevin.mercredi@outlook.com; b-tsannie@hotmail.com; csayazie@hotmail.com; d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net; d.classen@sasktel.net; chief1@birchnarrows.ca; Froess, Ryan; DeCoste, Laura; Yen, Wish; Way, Jessica; norma.catarat@brdn.ca; receptionist@mltc.net; claire\\_larock@hotmail.com; karenbird@pbcn.ca; tmerasty@pbcn.ca; bmerasty@pbcn.ca; tcooksearson@llrib.ca; jtsanniejr@pagc.net; gchristiansen@llrib.ca; Bruce Hanbidge; Lo, Tiffany; Janna Switzer; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay; Aimann Sadik \(aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca\); Frigault, Nicole;](#)

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** Upcoming Webinar - Rook I and Wheeler River Projects

**Sent:** 2022-08-24 4:42:00 PM

---

Good afternoon,

On September 13<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 11am CST (noon to 1pm EST), CNSC will be hosting a webinar on the CNSC regulatory review process for NexGen Energy Ltd's proposed Rook I project and Denison Mine's proposed Wheeler River project.

The webinar will cover:

- CNSC's regulatory review process for licensing and environmental assessments
- an update on the status of the Rook I and Wheeler River projects

There will be an opportunity for questions, and if you are unable to attend the webinar will also be recorded.

To register, please visit: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/meet-the-nuclear-regulator/webinar-NexGen-Rook-I-and-Denison-Wheeler-River-Projects.cfm>. More information can also be found at: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/meet-the-nuclear-regulator/index.cfm>.

Feel free to share with your distribution groups or anyone else that might be interested. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jes Way

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

# Registration Report

Report Generated: 2022-09-13 14:48

Topic	Webinar ID	Scheduled Duration (minutes)	# Registered	# Cancelled
NexGen Rook I and I	832 5063 0419	#####	60	85

## Attendee Details

First Name	Last Name	Email	Organization	Registration Time	Approval Status
Jon	Henderson	jhenderson	NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-08-18 10:24	approved
Uditha	Senaratne	uditha.sen	Canadian Nuclear Laborat	2022-08-18 10:29	approved
Wesley	Ros	wesley.ros	Canadian Nuclear Safety C	2022-08-18 10:30	approved
Alyse	Swerhone	aswerhone	NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-08-18 10:31	approved
Ashley	Carlson	ashley.carl	Government of Saskatche	2022-08-18 10:34	approved
Charlene	Burnett-Seidel	Charlene_E	Cameco Corporation	2022-08-18 10:38	approved
Kimberly	Gilmour	kgilmour@	nxe-energy.ca	2022-08-18 10:43	approved
Hongda	Yuan	hongda_yu	Cameco Corporation	2022-08-18 10:45	approved
Nathalie	Plante	nathalie.pl	ECCC	2022-08-18 10:50	approved
Janna	Switzer	jswitzer@d	Denison Mines	2022-08-18 11:07	approved
Kevin	Himbeault	khimbeault	Denison Mines Corp.	2022-08-18 11:10	approved
Brady	Balicki	brady_bali	Cameco Corporation	2022-08-18 11:14	approved
Michael	Dawe	mdawe@d	Denison Mine Corp.	2022-08-18 11:18	approved
Ryan	Nagel	rnagel@de	Denison Mines Corp.	2022-08-18 11:44	approved
Dana	Harris	dharris@denisonmines.com		2022-08-18 12:04	approved
Melissa	Scansen	mscansen@	NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-08-18 12:25	approved
TASNEEM	ELBASHER	tassneama	NONE	2022-08-18 12:34	approved
Kent	England	kent_engla	Cameco	2022-08-18 12:54	approved
glenn	lafleur	glenn.lafle	Orano Canada	2022-08-18 13:13	approved
Jennifer	Skilnick	Jskilnick@denisonmines.com		2022-08-18 13:39	approved
Gillian	Brown	gillian.bro	ECCC	2022-08-18 13:55	approved
Heather	Konopski	heather.ko	ECCC	2022-08-18 14:31	approved
Abdelmadjid	Cherf	mcherf@y	none	2022-08-18 14:37	approved
Kevin	Scissons	khssolutions2@gmail.com		2022-08-18 15:32	approved
Anne	Gent	anne_gent	Cameco	2022-08-18 16:42	approved
Cindy	Dolan	cindy_dola	Cameco Corporation	2022-08-18 17:27	approved
Rina	Parker	rparker@ecometrix.ca		2022-08-19 1:13	approved
Sarah Gabrielle	Baron (she/her)	sarahgabriellebaron@gmail.ca		2022-08-19 6:05	approved
Chad	Sorba	csorba@denisonmines.com		2022-08-19 11:48	approved
Khashayar	Ghandi	kghandi@u	University of Guelph	2022-08-21 22:32	approved
Kathleen	Prosser	kathleen.prosser@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca		2022-08-22 8:04	approved
Salar	Babazadeh	sbabazadel	BWXT NEC Inc. (formerly C	2022-08-22 10:03	approved
Jamie	Fairchild	jamie.faircl	NRCan	2022-08-22 10:10	approved
Breann	Whitby	breann.wh	Government of Saskatche	2022-08-22 10:41	approved
<b>Brent</b>	<b>Laroque</b>	<b>blaroque@</b>	<b>Metis Nation - Saskatchewan</b>	<b>2022-08-22 15:33</b>	<b>approved</b>
Carolanne	Inglis-McQuay	cinglismcq	Denison Mines Corp.	2022-08-23 9:56	approved
Grant	Greenwood	ggreenwoc	NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-08-24 12:36	approved
Luke	Moger	lmoger@nxe-energy.ca		2022-08-24 13:33	approved
Adam	Engdahl	aengdahl@	NexGen Energy Ltd	2022-08-24 13:45	approved
Anthony	Clark	anthony.cl	Birch Narrows Dene Natio	2022-08-24 14:11	approved
Walter	Smith	wsmith@k	Kineepik Metis Local	2022-08-24 16:44	approved

Billie Jo	Natomagan	Bnatomagz Kineepik Metis Local	2022-08-24 17:26	approved
Frank	Halliday	fhalliday@NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-08-24 21:24	approved
Tim	Moulding	tim.mouldi Saskatchewan Ministry of	2022-08-25 11:00	approved
Casey	Frantik	casey.frant Government of Saskatche	2022-08-25 11:12	approved
Brittany	Schmidt	Brittany.Sc Department of Fisheries a	2022-08-25 11:19	approved
Jerry	Vandenberg	jerry@vws Vandenberg Water Scienc	2022-08-25 12:14	approved
Greg	Adilman	greg.adilm: Ministry of Environment	2022-08-25 12:18	approved
Alessio	Iuvara	alessio.iuvara@fastwebnet.it	2022-08-25 12:25	approved
Jenifer	Hill	jenifer_hill@telus.net	2022-08-25 12:29	approved
Claudia	Schiocchet	claudia.sch Santé Canada	2022-08-25 12:40	approved
Bryan		bryan.fette BHP	2022-08-25 13:52	approved
Courtney	Campbell	Campbellcourtney795@gmail.com	2022-08-25 14:55	approved
Collin	McGuire	collin.mcgl Government of Saskatche	2022-08-25 15:53	approved
Cassidy	Dutchak	Cassidy.Du Health Canada	2022-08-25 16:33	approved
Walker	Smith	Walker.sm Natural Resources Canada	2022-08-25 16:37	approved
Leonard	Montgrand	Leonardmontgrand@yahoo.ca	2022-08-25 17:01	approved
Deb	Shewfelt	Debra.Shev RESPEC Consulting	2022-08-26 0:35	approved
Kaouterh	Marzouki	Kaouterh.n Centre de recherche en m	2022-08-26 3:31	approved
Angus	Calderhead	angus.cald: Environment and Climate	2022-08-26 7:27	approved
Aimann	Sadik	aimann.sac Government of SK	2022-08-26 15:51	approved
BRIANNE	ENGLAND	brianne.en Saskatchewan Ministry of	2022-08-28 16:10	approved
Vikash	Narine	vikash.nari NRCan	2022-08-29 9:23	approved
Candace	Piper	candace.piper@gov.sk.ca	2022-08-29 10:29	approved
Brittany	Neumeier	brittany.ne Ministry of Environment: I	2022-08-29 10:47	approved
Camille	Jensen	camille.jen Government of Saskatche	2022-08-29 10:56	approved
Catherine	Paul	catherine@fuse-advisors.com	2022-08-29 14:53	approved
Chris	Sunderland	csunderlan NexGen Energy	2022-08-30 4:10	approved
Cheyenna	Campbell	Cheyenna.: English River First Nation	2022-08-30 10:16	approved
Jamie	Kneen	jamie@mir MiningWatch Canada	2022-09-01 15:57	approved
Jana	Lung	jana.lung@Saskatchewan Ministry of	2022-09-02 16:52	approved
Martin	Schultz	martuzzi@gmail.com	2022-09-04 22:40	approved
Eugenia	Carbee	EugeniaCarbee@gmail.com	2022-09-06 4:12	approved
Mark	S	mark_sher Cameco Corporation	2022-09-07 13:04	approved
Farah	Al.	farah.alzewylif@cnscccsn.gc.ca	2022-09-08 10:18	approved
Kristie	Bonstrom	kbonstrom NexGen Energy Ltd	2022-09-12 12:37	approved
Robert	Paine	rpaine@nx NexGen Energy Ltd.	2022-09-12 12:57	approved
Victoria	Tschirhart	victoria.tschirhart@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca	2022-09-13 7:34	approved
Julie	Anderson	julie.c.anderson@hc-sc.gc.ca	2022-09-13 10:08	approved
Kendra	Warnock-Juteau	kendra.wai CNSC	2022-09-13 10:57	approved
Christine	Chene	chistine.ch CNSC	2022-09-13 10:58	approved
Don	Hovdebo	emg@sask Kingsmere Resource Servi	2022-09-13 11:10	approved
Aimee	Rupert	rupertaime CNSC	2022-09-13 11:52	approved
Steve	Wilkie	steve.wilki SK Ministry of Environmer	2022-09-13 11:59	approved
Wanda	Lewis	wanda@w: CRDN	2022-09-13 12:14	approved

# Approved	# Denied
85	0

tatus



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

# NexGen's Rook I Project & Denison's Wheeler River Project

## Regulatory Review Process Overview

### CNSC Staff Webinar



September 13, 2022

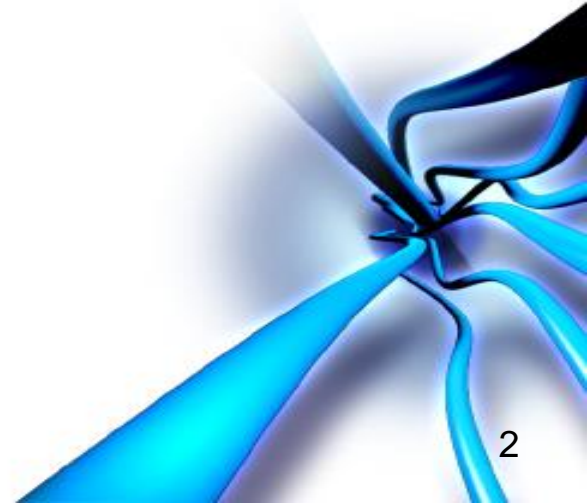
[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

Canada 



# Presenters

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# Purpose

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To provide an overview of CNSC's regulatory review process

- ❖ Environmental Assessment
- ❖ Licensing **Regulatory Review Process**
- ❖ Project Updates

---

# OVERVIEW OF CNSC

[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

# CNSC Mandate

- ❖ Regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security and the environment
- ❖ Implement Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- ❖ Disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public



# CNSC Regulates All Nuclear Facilities and Activities

Uranium mining



Transportation



Dosimetry



Nuclear research



Uranium fuel processing



Nuclear power generation



Radioactive waste management



Nuclear medicine



Nuclear substance processing

# The Commission

- ❖ Established in 2000 under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA)
- ❖ Created to replace the Atomic Energy Control Board (founded in 1946)
- ❖ Reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources
- ❖ Independent Commission members
- ❖ Quasi-judicial administrative tribunal
- ❖ Reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources
- ❖ Science-based decision making
- ❖ Open and transparent public participation in Commission decision making process



# CNSC Staff

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- ❖ Perform technical assessments and reviews
- ❖ Presents staff's assessment findings and recommendations
- ❖ Implement Commission decisions
- ❖ Conduct compliance inspections and oversight of the licensees facilities and activities
- ❖ Verify and enforce compliance with regulatory requirements
- ❖ Develop regulatory requirements and guidance
- ❖ Engage the public and Indigenous groups through outreach



# Responsibilities

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## **CNSC Responsibilities:**

- ❖ Make independent, objective, science based and risk-informed decisions
- ❖ Set requirements
- ❖ Verify compliance

## **Licensee Responsibilities:**

- ❖ Manage regulated activities in a manner that protects health, safety, security and the environment, while respecting Canada's international obligations
- ❖ Responsible and accountable for the safe operation of facilities and activities

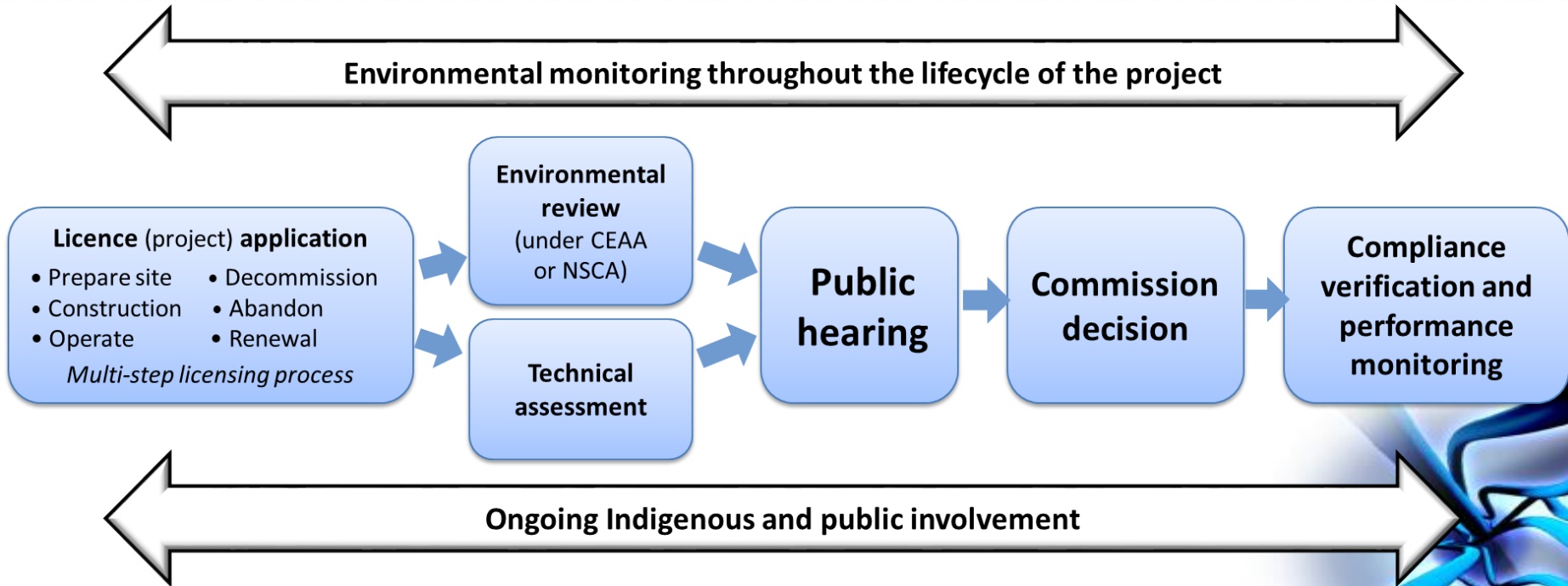


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# **REGULATORY REVIEW PROCESS**

[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

# Licensing



# Licensing - Safety and Control Areas

<b>Management</b>	Management system
	Human performance management
	Operating performance
<b>Facility and equipment</b>	Safety analysis
	Physical design
	Fitness for service
<b>Core control processes</b>	Radiation protection
	Conventional health and safety
	Environmental protection
	Emergency management and fire protection
	Waste management
	Security
	Safeguards and non-proliferation
	Packaging and transport

- Safety and control areas are the technical topics CNSC staff use across all regulated facilities and activities to assess, evaluate, review, verify and report on regulatory requirements and performance.
- Public information, community outreach, and Indigenous engagement activities are also considered throughout the licensing assessment

# Rook I Project Update - Licensing

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- ❖ Undergoing licensing regulatory review since 2019
- ❖ CNSC and NexGen staff have held several technical themed meetings to discuss staff review concerns/comments and expectations since the receipt of the licence application
- ❖ NexGen has responded to hundreds of CNSC staff comments from technical assessments
- ▶ ❖ Ongoing reviews of revised documents and NexGen's responses to CNSC comments related to:
  - ❖ Underground Tailings Facility, Waste Rock Storage Area as well as Decommissioning and Reclamation Plans

# Environmental Assessment

---

## ❖ Environmental Review is central to the CNSC's responsibilities

- ongoing Environmental Assessments (EA) under CEAA 2012
- Impact Assessments (IA) under the IAA
- Federal land reviews under the IAA
- environmental protection reviews under the NSCA
- environmental assessment under land claim agreements / provincial, territorial regimes

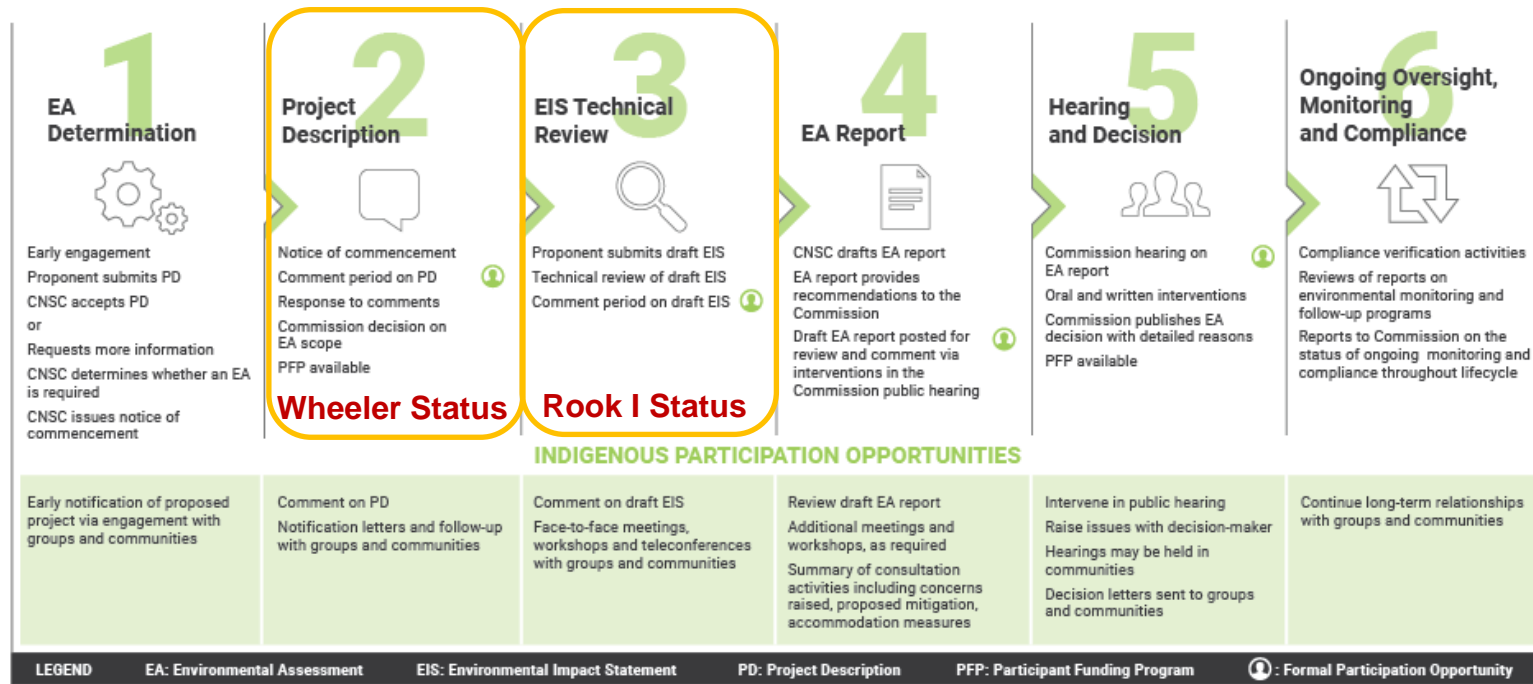
# Environmental Assessment

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- ❖ Opportunities for public and Indigenous consultation are continuous
- ❖ Federal and provincial agencies are involved and contribute their expertise in Impact Assessments and Environmental Assessments
- ❖ Decisions are independent, transparent and evidence-based

# Environmental Assessment Process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012

CNSC engages with Indigenous groups and communities throughout the EA process



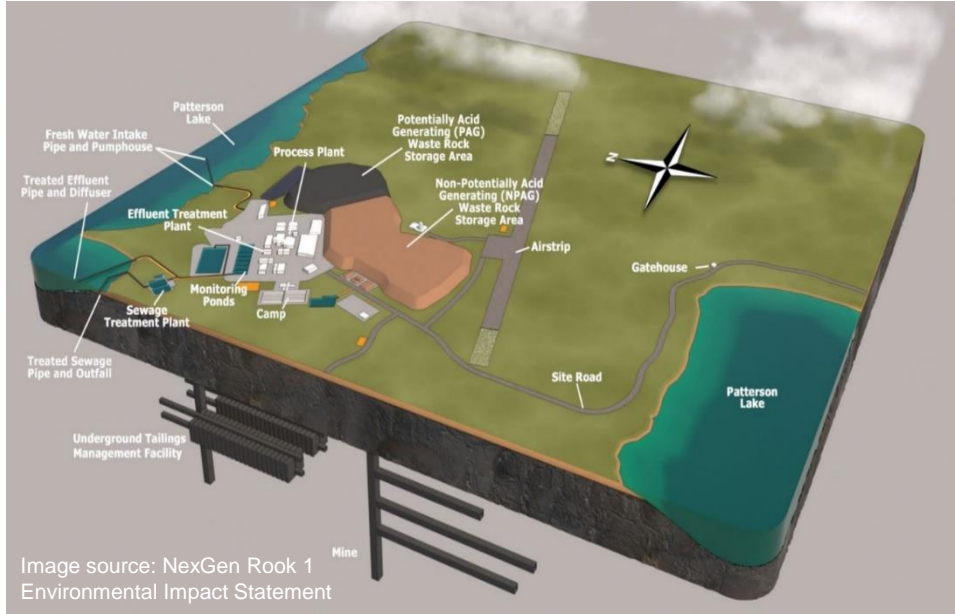
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# PROJECT OVERVIEW AND UPDATES



# Rook I Project Overview

- ❖ NexGen is proposing to develop an underground uranium mine in the Patterson Lake peninsula in the southwestern Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan within the traditional Treaty 8 territory, the homeland of the Métis, and within the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.



# Rook I Project Update - EA

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- ❖ In 2019, NexGen submitted a project description to provide a general overview of the proposed Rook I project
- ❖ In June 2022, NexGen submitted a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project.
- ❖ The draft EIS and technical supporting documents are available for public comment on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry until **October 12, 2022**
- ❖ Concurrently, the federal and Indigenous review team are performing a technical review of the draft EIS

# NexGen Rook 1 Project - Next Steps

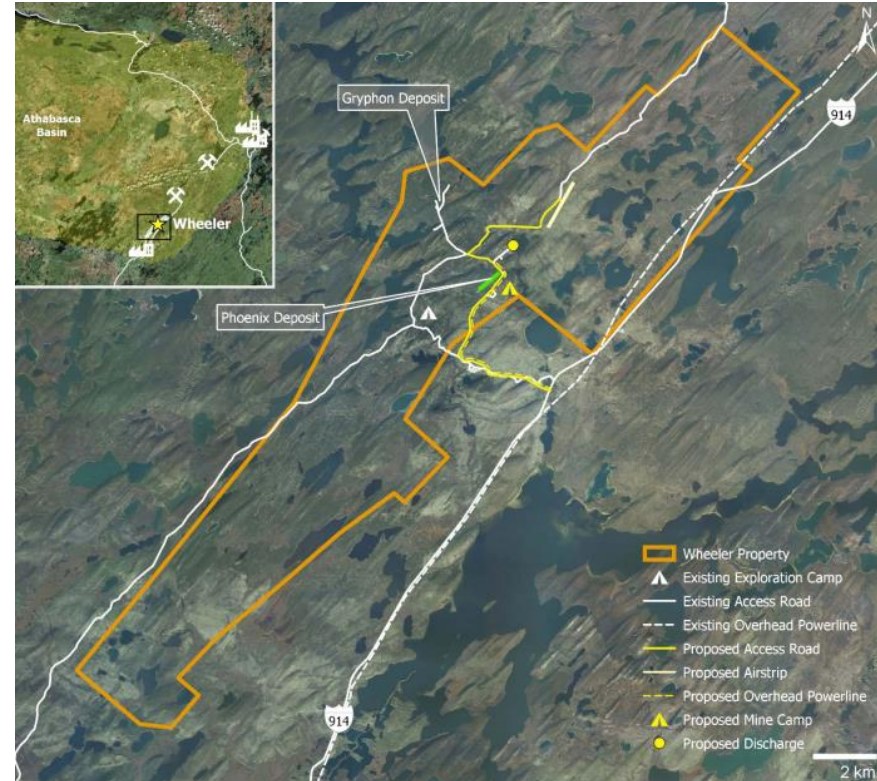
---

- ❖ Draft EIS and technical supporting documents are available for public comment on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 80171) until **October 12, 2022**
- ❖ Once the draft EIS meets regulatory requirements, CNSC staff will proceed to the development of an Environmental Assessment report and the Commission Member Document

# Wheeler River Project Overview

Denison is proposing to develop a uranium mine and processing plant.

The proposed site is located in the eastern area of the Athabasca Basin region, within the Treaty 10 territory, the homeland of the Métis, and the traditional territories of the Dene, Cree, and Métis peoples.



# Wheeler River Project Update - EA

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- ❖ In February 2019, Denison submitted a project description to provide a general overview of the proposed Wheeler River project – a scoping decision was made in late 2019
- ❖ In March 2020, Denison informed the CNSC that they would be temporarily suspending the Environmental Assessment, due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- ❖ In December 2020, Denison provided a revised Project Description with a freeze wall design
- ❖ In 2021, Denison notified the CNSC of the resumption of the EA for the Wheeler River Project

# Wheeler River Project – Next Steps

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- ❖ Following submission of the draft EIS, CNSC will perform 30 day conformity review to ensure the EIS package is complete, and then we will move on to the EIS technical Review.
- ❖ The EIS technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team will be performed over 120 days
- ❖ The result of the EIS technical review will be information requests, to which Denison will be required to respond
- ❖ Concurrent to the EIS technical review will be a 90 day public comment period



# Indigenous Engagement and Consultation

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- ❖ The CNSC, as Canada's nuclear life cycle regulator, engages with Indigenous Nations and communities over the life of a project
- ❖ As an agent of the Crown, CNSC consults with potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities to understand and address potential impacts to Indigenous and/or treaty rights from a project
- ❖ CNSC requires proponents and licensees to engage with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities early in the development and throughout the life of their project

***Building long-term positive and trusted relationships with Indigenous Nations and communities in Canada***

# Get Involved and Be Heard

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# **We Will Never Compromise Safety**

---

THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire



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Contact us

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Wylie, Doug](#);  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes - Rook I and Wheeler River EAs - September 12th, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-09-16 1:49:12 PM

---

Hi Brent, Shannon,

Thank you for making time to meet with us earlier this week. Below are the meeting minutes from that call.

If you have any questions, concerns or edits, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Have a great weekend!

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

September 12, 2022 1-2:30PM CST

Attendees: Brent Laroque, Shannon Landrie-Crossland, Ryan Froess, Laura DeCoste, Konrad Gorzowski, Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Shannon O'Neill, Wish Yen

NexGen

- Project is currently in the technical review phase
- Public and technical comments are due October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Participant funding program
  - MN-S applied in 2019, with approximately 90 thousand dollars awarded for the public comments period
    - MN-S confirmed that 45 thousand dollars was advanced by the CNSC
  - Funding will be available for the Commission hearing phase/EA report at a later date
- MN-S has met with NexGen on the joint working group and on prioritizing reviews of documents
  - Internal MN-S engagement session preparation September 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Preparation for leadership (President and council) for the upcoming Metis specific community meeting
  - Community meeting with all citizens for engagement in NR2

- MN-S will send out invitation for CNSC and the provincial government to participate (if they are available)
- MN-S is currently waiting on the draft from Two-Worlds to begin their review, Two-Worlds will also be preparing a walkthrough presentation on September 30

#### **CNSC Webinar on NexGen and Wheeler River EAs**

- [NexGen Rook I and Denison Wheeler River Projects Webinar](#) on September 13, 2022 from 12-1PM EST (CNSC staff can make this available as a recording, if MN-S staff missed it)

#### **Wheeler River**

- Denison has indicated they will be submitting the EIS likely first week of Oct and if the EIS passes the 30-day conformity review, the 90-day comment period will kick off
- Participant funding program
  - MN-S was awarded funding to participate in the 90-day comment period
- Shannon will be in Pinehouse participating at the culture camp when CNSC travel to Northern Saskatchewan later this month; Brett is unavailable to meet with CNSC staff that week
- Denison has not yet submitted a licence application, so the process is slightly different than NexGen which is undergoing both the licencing process and environmental assessment process

#### **UMMD ROR**

- Thursday in-person UMM ROR engagement session in Saskatoon
- December 15 and 16, 2022 – Commission hearing for the Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium and Nuclear Substance Processing Facilities in Canada: 2021

#### **Action Items**

- CNSC to share PFP information for the NexGen and Wheeler River projects, including specifically funded activities and award amounts – COMPLETE
- CNCS to update consultation meeting on NexGen to October 27<sup>th</sup>, in person at CNSC's Saskatoon office - COMPLETE
- MN-S to share invite for the MN-S community engagement meeting on NexGen

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](mailto:jerry.bernard@erfn.net); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](mailto:wsmith@kineepik.ca); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:bnatomagan@kineepik.ca); [glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work); [Brent Laroque](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](mailto:kevin.mercredi@outlook.com); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](mailto:b-tsannie@hotmail.com); [csayazie@hotmail.com](mailto:csayazie@hotmail.com); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](mailto:d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net); [d.classen@sasktel.net](mailto:d.classen@sasktel.net); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](mailto:norma.catarat@brdn.ca); [receptionist@mltc.net](mailto:receptionist@mltc.net); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_larock@hotmail.com); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

**Sent:** 2022-10-24 11:28:00 AM

---

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Jena Nicholls](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Wylie, Doug](#);  
[Frigault, Nicole](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#);  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2022  
**Attachments:** [CNSC-MNS Meeting on Proposed Wheeler River Project](#)  
**Sent:** 2022-11-10 12:05:38 PM

---

Hi All,

Below are the meeting minutes from our meeting earlier this week.

@Shannon, I just wanted to highlight that I did propose some dates to meet on Wheeler for the week of Nov 21<sup>st</sup> – as attached. Please let me know if any of these time slots will work for MN-S.

Thanks,  
Jes

-----  
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

Date/time: November 7, 2022 3-4:30PM EST

Attendees: Brent Laroque, Shannon Landrie-Crossland, Jena Nicholls, Konrad Gorzkowski, Doug Wylie, Jessica Way, Shannon O'Neill, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess

**NexGen and Rook I:**

- MN-S introduction of new community coordinator for Northern Region 2: Jenna Nicholls (in orientation for the next two weeks)
- EIS engagement activities – reviews and comments were submitted
- Update on community meetings by MNS:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (Oct) – high level, traditional knowledge, how to participate in the process
    - 60+ participants enjoyed the presentation, but wanted more detailed information on environmental impacts from the project
    - MNS still feels that there is work to be done in informing the community regarding the project
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (Jan 14/15) – Buffalo Narrows/Laloche – to be hosted by Two-Worlds
    - Providing deeper overview of environmental impacts, as community members indicated wanting to hear more from consultants
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting (anticipated for February, in Buffalo Narrows and La Loche)
    1. Separate meeting between CNSC, MN-S project team and Two-Worlds
    2. MN-S has requested community events with regulator/proponent which would have CNSC, Province of Saskatchewan, NexGen and Two-Worlds provide presentations. CNSC proposed the possibility of having NexGen present for the first half, then step out for the final portion of the meeting so that the MNS and community can speak directly with the regulators without the proponent present.
- Community relationship building has been encountering difficulties

- NexGen identified IBA as part of the mitigation processes which is raising concerns with MN-S leadership
  - EIS process and IBA negotiations are being confused by leadership
  - MN-S project team working internally to clarify the IBA and EIS are separate processes
- Exploration agreement – MN-S recently met with NexGen
  - Meeting to be scheduled with Adam Zenobi to discuss PFP to support permits
  - GOS application or community engagement funding part of it
- Traditional land use currently being digitized by Exterra

#### **Round table with CNSC President:**

- Currently not feasible due to ongoing licensing and environmental assessment

#### **Cluff Lake:**

- MN-S engagement and outreach for Cluff Lake has to be postponed to next year
- Notice on results of PFP will be shared November 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>
- November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Commission Member Documents published for review
  - CNSC recommends reviewing the environmental protection review report which will provide a summary of the environmental protection and human health
- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – interventions are due
- March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – hearings in Ottawa
- Orano's long term monitoring program
  - CNSC would like to establish meetings with MN-S to understand concerns around Cluff
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting – CNSC and MN-S project team and consultant
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting – CNSC and MN-S community members
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting – CNSC, Province of SK and Orano presenting to community together

#### **Wheeler River Project:**

- Denison submitted the EIS on October 21<sup>st</sup>
- Conformity review is currently underway and results will be published on November 21<sup>st</sup>
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – Project activities to kick off if conformity review is passed
  - Public comment period runs from November 21<sup>st</sup> through to mid-February (90 days)
  - CNSC proposed meeting with MN-S to discuss comment period and how this will differ for the Wheeler River Project (MNS has PFP to participate in the comment period, but is not participating in the FIRT). Also to discuss, additional engagement with NR1 and path forward **(Action)**
  - CNSC also noted hoping to travel to SK in early March (Week of March 6<sup>th</sup>) to discuss comments on EIS, at which time would also like to meet with MN-S to discuss EIS activities, including RIA and other steps of the process
- MN-S is excited to work on the EIS
  - Collaboration with Walter (KML) has been developing
  - Brent and Shannon to meet with Carolanne week of November 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the workplan
    - Building relationship with Denison
    - MN-S wants to grow to a joint working group to focus on high priority concerns of the community

- TLU meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> – to garner interest for a committee formed by interested elders or community members
    - Walter (KML) presenting on TK study and VC's to Northern Region #1
    - Story mapping, interviews to be discussed, workplan underway
- MN-S working with Parks Canada to run TLU studies with more consistent methodologies
- Outreach and engagement meetings requested by MN-S (NR1 and NR3 – Uranium City/Stony Rapids/Athabasca region)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> meeting with MN-S board members to disseminate EIS information
  - Additional outreach and engagement meetings with the members of the community and CNSC staff would be desired from MN-S – for further discussion with CNSC

#### Other Updates:

- Planning lots of staffing at MNS. Have a new project Manager starting next Monday, and a Program Coordinator Rosaline Smith. Looking to increase the team by approx. 12 people.

#### Action Items

- Rook I: CNSC to reach out to NexGen and Province of SK to plan a tripartite community outreach event for Metis communities, Buffalo Narrows and La Loche, sometime in early February
- Rook I: Next monthly meeting – CNSC and MNS to discuss February outreach events and possible timing.
- Cluff: MN-S to review activities timelines to determine Cluff Lake engagement sessions
- Wheeler: CNSC to propose meeting times prior to next monthly meeting, to discuss comment period / difference in process compared to Rook I. **Completed** - Proposed for week the review will potentially begin.
- Wheeler: Next monthly meeting – CNSC and MNS to discuss additional outreach and engagement meetings with NR1

#### Jes Way, MEnv, PMP

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
[Cheyenna Hunt](#); ['jerry.bernard@erfn.net'](#); ['nvp.mike@sasktel.net'](#);  
['wsmith@kineepik.ca'](#); ['bnatomagan@kineepik.ca'](#);  
['glenmccallum@mns.work'](#); ['Brent Laroque'](#); ['Shannon Landrie-Crossland'](#);  
['garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'](#); ['shea.shirley@yathinene.com'](#);  
['kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
**Bcc:** [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#);  
['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#);  
['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#);  
['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@llrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#);  
['gchristiansen@llrib.ca'](#); ['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#);  
[karenbird@pbcn.ca](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public  
Comment Period Begins  
**Sent:** 2022-11-21 2:42:00 PM

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Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission **complete**. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [\*Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012\*](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**

**Environmental Assessment Officer**

Email: [wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day

public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Brent Laroque](#);  
**Cc:** [Roslyn Smith](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); [DeCoste, Laura](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2022  
**Sent:** 2022-12-15 11:14:41 AM

---

Hi Shannon, Brent,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from our last meeting. Just a reminder that the UMM ROR Commission meeting is happening today, if MN-S is interested in listening in. It starts in 45 minutes: [Watch a public Commission proceeding online - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#) (click "Connect to the Webcast").

Here is the agenda: <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/pdf/CMD22-M44B-RevisedAgendaDecember15-16-2022-CommissionMeeting-e.pdf>

Sorry for the delayed send.

Jes

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Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Denison Mines Wheeler River Project & NexGen Rook I Project

December 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 – 2:00pm-3:00pm CST

Attendees: Brent Laroque, Roslyn Smith, Konrad Gorzowski, Sydney Nickolet, Jes Way, Ryan Froess, Doug Wylie, Nicole Frigault, Shannon O'Neill, Laura DeCoste

**Topics Discussed:**

Introduction of Roslyn to the team, who is now working with Environment at MN-S. Shannon was unable to make the meeting.

**Denison Wheeler River EIS:**

- The EIS is currently at the technical review stage (open for comments)
- Public comment period is open until February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023: [Public Notice - Public Comment Period on Denison's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Wheeler River Project \(ceaa-acee.gc.ca\)](#)
- Next meeting is on January 2<sup>nd</sup> (holiday) so we should move our meeting. CNSC moved our next meeting to January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Brent is meeting with Shannon this week and will have more of an update on Denison at our next meeting
- MN-S signed the capacity funding agreement with Denison in October and MN-S will be meeting with NR-1 on December 21<sup>st</sup> to go over the agreement but will hopefully touch on

the EIS in the meeting as well.

- Capacity funding agreement is to support TLU work happening in NR-1 related to Denison. It will be wrapped up within a year but hopefully sooner. Region doesn't have a lot of experience with TK studies, so could impact timing.

#### **NexGen Rook I:**

- CNSC Environmental Assessment Division provided FIRT IRs to NexGen a few weeks back (containing many MN-S comments), and is now putting together the table of public comments and will be sending back to NexGen once finalized and posting to the registry. Remaining comments from MN-S will be pulled into this table
- CNSC had meetings with NexGen last week in Ottawa and the discussions mostly revolved around the EA process.
- MN-S is meeting with NexGen tomorrow (Dec 6<sup>th</sup>) regarding the joint working group activities for the new year.
- Marlene had asked Nicole to join a meeting regarding NexGen on December 13<sup>th</sup> with Métis Local 62 – Nicole will attend virtually.
- Brent will find out about community tour in January and what dates the MN-S is thinking of and share back with CNSC so we can plan and hopefully attend.
  - CNSC staff asked this to be done as soon as possible so that we can make the proper arrangements to attend, as internal processes take time

#### **Cluff Lake Project:**

- December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting booked for the MN-S 4<sup>th</sup> floor board room
  - Virtual one-hour or two-hour meeting instead of full day in-person would be better
  - CNSC is planning a meeting for the new year which would be better suited for in-person that will hopefully include Orano and the Province
  - Ryan will send out the invite for the 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-2:30pm
- The PFP funding that was awarded to MN-S is flexible and can also be used for travel where MN-S sees fit
- Ryan/Sydney will send over the CMD's for CNSC and Orano to MN-S
- Doug (CNSC) mentioned the environmental protection review reports (EPRR), which is a transparent summary of CNSC staff's work done for environmental protection and how CNSC staff make their recommendation to the Commission regarding the protection of the environment and human health. The Cluff Lake EPRR is attached as an appendix to the CMD, and will be published online at a later date.
  - CNSC is also looking at making a 2-page document which will help summarize what was heard in the EPRR

#### **UMM ROR:**

- UMM ROR Commission meeting is happening on December 15<sup>th</sup> if MN-S wants to listen in

#### **Cameco Key, McArthur and Rabbit Lake License Renewal:**

- PFP announcements for funding will be coming out in late-December
- The hearing is taking place in early June 2023 in Saskatoon

#### **Update on Ryan's Conversation with Shannon (December 5<sup>th</sup>):**

- MN-S would like to only have one monthly meeting with the CNSC going forward on all projects we are working on together. This would be max 3-4 CNSC staff per monthly meeting
- MN-S would prefer that there are no side meetings outside of the monthly meetings until MN-S gets more capacity to support on projects. If there are side meetings that need to be set up that CNSC go through Roslyn at the MN-S and she can support with that

- CNSC will continue to support MN-S on any upcoming timelines well in advance so they can plan accordingly
- CNSC may need to reschedule the meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup> to a more suited time for MN-S

**Actions:**

1. Ryan will send out the invite for the Cluff Lake meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup> (complete)
2. Ryan will send Brent the links to the CNSC and Orano Cluff Lake CMD's (complete)
3. Jess will update our next meeting invite to January 9<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday (complete)
4. Brent will discuss the Denison project with Shannon and have more of an update at our next meeting on January 9<sup>th</sup>

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#);  
**Cc:** [Jena Nicholls](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023  
**Sent:** 2023-01-18 1:08:00 PM

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Hi Brent and Shannon,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from our last meeting. Apologies for the delay.

Thanks,  
Jes

-

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 3-4:30PM EST

MNS - Brent Laroque, Jenna Nicholls, CNSC - Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

Cluff Lake Hearings (March 1<sup>st</sup>)

- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Intervention deadline
- MN-S had a meeting with Minister Montgrand concerns around legacy issues/fund
- The current relationship between Orano and MN-S is not the strongest on this file.
  - MN-S is hoping to resolve some issues and concerns with Orano prior to engaging with province of SK
  - Orano is engaging on the institutional control program (ICP) with the Province of SK
- Two-Worlds and Orano are exchanging information in preparation for the hearings
- January 25<sup>th</sup> - Virtual open house hosted by Orano and open to public

PFP for Key Lake, McArthur River and Rabbit Lake Operations (June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>)

- PFP Funding has been decided and announcements will be shared shortly with MN-S
- MN-S is open to a March meeting to discuss the licensing renewal for these three sites

Denison - Wheeler River Project

- February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Public comment period closes (deadline for PFP recipients as well)
- CNSC is currently focused on completing review of the EIS submission as part of the technical assessment
- March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the public comment period and technical assessment as well as next steps on the project in Saskatoon
- MN-S has a Northern Region 1 meeting for the project

- As capacity is built, MN-S will move forward on relationship building with Denison similar to NexGen

#### NexGen - Rook 1 Project

- Regarding concerns around effluent versus economic opportunities, CNSC's mandate is on safety and health - economic benefits are outside of our mandate
- Buffalo Narrow's Metis Local board wanted additional information on EA and had set up meeting with Nicole - did not take place in December. Open to having a virtual meeting if the board would like.
- CNSC sent public comment period tables to NexGen in December and NexGen
  - NexGen has requested a meeting with CNSC to discuss these tables prior to posting on the IAAC registry, but CNSC re-emphasizes we do not see any substantial changes to the tables prior to posting

#### SRC project Cleans Mine tour led by SRC for Northern Region 1 (Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Communities that will participate include Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Black Lake
- Gunnar and Lorado sites
- MN-S would like to invite the CNSC to present
- SRC should provide additional information to MN-S on future tour and engagement on these sites

#### Action Items

- MN-S: to get back to the CNSC on whether additional discussions with the Province will be needed on Cluff Lake
- CNSC: to follow up with Shannon/Brent on outreach for EAs in the region at the Metis level with CNSC colleagues in early February at our next meeting
- MN-S: (Jenna) to follow up with Nicole on the presentation to the Metis Local if still interested



**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Andie Arnold](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Levine, Adam](#);  
**Cc:** [Jena Nicholls](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023  
**Sent:** 2023-01-18 2:56:10 PM

---

Hi Shannon,

Thanks for the MN-S update on engagement on these files. Definitely a lot going on and will be busy 2023! A few to notes that I can take away as actions from our side.

#### **Cluff Lake**

- CNSC will reach out to Orano and GOS and to have a discussion on the Cluff Lake. I don't think Feb 15 will work as I know there are some CNSC meetings planned that day that may interfere. I will get back to you when I hear back from both and propose Feb 16th. We can discuss an agenda once a day/time has been determined.

#### **Denison/other**

- Let us know what date work for CNSC staff to provide similar presentation we delivered to in December at MN-S office to NR1. This will likely need to be virtual. As long we know a week or two ahead of time we should be able to attend and delivery a presentation and answer questions on our mandate, Denison EA update and other updates for the region. We can perhaps give an update on the Key/Rabbit and MacArthur license renewals as well at this meeting?

#### **NexGen**

- Let us know when the community meetings in NR2 are planned in March to take place and we will do our best to attend in person. We will likely need a month notice to make sure we can send the right folks and be present at these meetings. It would likely be a few folks from CNSC that would be attending. My guess is the last few weeks in March are likely best.

Our next monthly meeting with MN-S is February 6<sup>th</sup>. We can discuss any updates on above then but feel free to reach out in the meantime if you have anything !

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

---

**From:** Shannon Landrie-Crossland <[slandriecrossland@mns.work](mailto:slandriecrossland@mns.work)>

**Sent:** January 18, 2023 12:43 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>; Andie Arnold <[aarnold@mns.work](mailto:aarnold@mns.work)>

**Cc:** Jena Nicholls <jnicholls\_94@hotmail.com>; O'Neill, Shannon <shannon.oneill@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Wylie, Doug <doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Frigault, Nicole <Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Good afternoon, Jessica

Thank you for following-up with us and for the reminders on Action items.

A few updates:

**Cluff Lake**

- MN-S would like to request a meeting with NR 2 Regional Council, MNS, Two Worlds, CNSC, Orano and GOS "Technical Review and Legacy Issues." (February 15<sup>th</sup> or February 16<sup>th</sup>)
- Currently MNS is working on the submission of the technical review (January 19<sup>th</sup>) and NR2 community intervention presentation (February 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- February 2023 - Still need to confirm in-person meeting with NR 2 Regional Council and Board members "Technical Review and Intervention Presentation."

**Denison**

**NR 1 – Minister Laura Burnouf**

- December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – TLU Workshop and Introduction to EIS
- January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Legacy Meeting and Introduction to EIS
  - February 2023 Confirm date for NR1/MNS/Denison/CNSC/GOS meeting "Introductions and Legacy Issues Meeting."

**NR 2 – Minister Tex Bouvier**

- January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Initial meeting with Minister Bouvier to discuss EIS and Capacity Agreement (TLU). Receive direction on how to move forward with EIS engagement.

**NexGen**

- January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – Introduction to NexGen Baseline Monitoring and Food Study with NR 2 Regional Council and Board members. (2<sup>nd</sup> engagement session)
- March 2023 – NR2/MNS/Two Worlds/NexGen/CNSC/GOS 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of EIS Community Meetings (Buffalo Narrows and La Loche)

Best,  
Shannon

*Shannon Landrie-Crossland*

Senior Engagement Advisor  
Citizen Engagement and Events Unit  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
310 – 20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, SK. S7K 0A7  
Tel: 306-361-9521  
Email: [slandriecrossland@mns.work](mailto:slandriecrossland@mns.work)

Homeland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:08 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <[slandriecrossland@mns.work](mailto:slandriecrossland@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Jena Nicholls <[jnicholls\\_94@hotmail.com](mailto:jnicholls_94@hotmail.com)>; O'Neill, Shannon <[shannon.oneill@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:shannon.oneill@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Frigault, Nicole <[Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023

Hi Brent and Shannon,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from our last meeting. Apologies for the delay.

Thanks,  
Jes

-

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 3-4:30PM EST

MNS - Brent Laroque, Jenna Nicholls, CNSC - Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

Cluff Lake Hearings (March 1<sup>st</sup>)

- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Intervention deadline
- MN-S had a meeting with Minister Montgrand concerns around legacy issues/fund

- The current relationship between Orano and MN-S is not the strongest on this file.
  - MN-S is hoping to resolve some issues and concerns with Orano prior to engaging with province of SK
  - Orano is engaging on the institutional control program (ICP) with the Province of SK
- Two-Worlds and Orano are exchanging information in preparation for the hearings
- January 25<sup>th</sup> - Virtual open house hosted by Orano and open to public

#### PFP for Key Lake, McArthur River and Rabbit Lake Operations (June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>)

- PFP Funding has been decided and announcements will be shared shortly with MN-S
- MN-S is open to a March meeting to discuss the licensing renewal for these three sites

#### Denison - Wheeler River Project

- February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Public comment period closes (deadline for PFP recipients as well)
- CNSC is currently focused on completing review of the EIS submission as part of the technical assessment
- March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the public comment period and technical assessment as well as next steps on the project in Saskatoon
- MN-S has a Northern Region 1 meeting for the project
- As capacity is built, MN-S will move forward on relationship building with Denison similar to NexGen

#### NexGen - Rook 1 Project

- Regarding concerns around effluent versus economic opportunities, CNSC's mandate is on safety and health - economic benefits are outside of our mandate
- Buffalo Narrow's Metis Local board wanted additional information on EA and had set up meeting with Nicole - did not take place in December. Open to having a virtual meeting if the board would like.
- CNSC sent public comment period tables to NexGen in December and NexGen
  - NexGen has requested a meeting with CNSC to discuss these tables prior to posting on the IAAC registry, but CNSC re-emphasizes we do not see any substantial changes to the tables prior to posting

#### SRC project Cleans Mine tour led by SRC for Northern Region 1 (Jan 30<sup>th</sup> to Feb 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Communities that will participate include Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Black Lake
- Gunnar and Lorado sites
- MN-S would like to invite the CNSC to present
- SRC should provide additional information to MN-S on future tour and engagement on these sites

#### Action Items

- MN-S: to get back to the CNSC on whether additional discussions with the Province will be needed on Cluff Lake
- CNSC: to follow up with Shannon/Brent on outreach for EAs in the region at the Metis level with CNSC colleagues in early February at our next meeting

- MN-S: (Jenna) to follow up with Nicole on the presentation to the Metis Local if still interested

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); ['jerry.bernard@erfn.net'](#); ['nvp.mike@sasktel.net'](#); ['wsmith@kineepik.ca'](#); ['bnatomagan@kineepik.ca'](#); ['glenmccallum@mns.work'](#); ['Brent Laroque'](#); ['Shannon Landrie-Crossland'](#); ['garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'](#); ['shea.shirley@yathinene.com'](#); ['kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); ['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@lrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#); ['gchristiansen@lrib.ca'](#); ['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#);

**Bcc:** [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); ['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@lrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#); ['gchristiansen@lrib.ca'](#); ['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#);

**Subject:** Reminder: Wheeler River Project Public and Indigenous Comment Period

**Sent:** 2023-01-18 7:34:00 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

Just sending a reminder that if you would like to provide comments on the Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement, they are due on **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Please feel free to share with anyone that would be interested in providing a submission during this comment period.

If you have any questions about the information in these emails, please don't hesitate to contact me at the information below.

Thanks,

**Jes Way**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Way, Jessica

**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:42 PM

**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission **complete**. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**  
**Environmental Assessment Officer**  
Email: [wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



---

**From:** Brent Laroque  
**To:** [Way, Jessica; Shannon Landrie-Crossland;](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023  
**Sent:** 2023-01-31 6:18:12 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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I wouldn't mind seeing you folks' offices, I haven't been there yet.

---

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** January 31, 2023 5:13 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <slandriecrossland@mns.work>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023

Great, thanks for confirming.

We would be happy to have you visit us at the CNSC office, or we can come to the MN-S office. Please let me know which MN-S would prefer, but for now I will get a placeholder in the calendar.

Thanks!

Jes

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:30 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <slandriecrossland@mns.work>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Yup, still works for me!

---

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** January 31, 2023 12:09 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <slandriecrossland@mns.work>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brent,

In our last meeting, we had talked about meeting in person with MN-S on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We haven't sent an invite yet but we had agreed to block off a couple of hours that morning. I wanted to confirm, is this still going to work for MN-S? We were thinking between 9 and noon-ish that day.

To reiterate what we discussed on the 9<sup>th</sup>, the agenda would be focused on next steps of the EA process with MN-S, including: In terms of topics, we'd like to discuss the comments that will be

Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 1:08 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <[slandriecrossland@mns.work](mailto:slandriecrossland@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Jena Nicholls <[jnicholls\\_94@hotmail.com](mailto:jnicholls_94@hotmail.com)>; O'Neill, Shannon <[shannon.oneill@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:shannon.oneill@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Frigault, Nicole <[Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** MNS-CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - January 9th, 2023

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Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 3-4:30PM EST

MNS - Brent Laroque, Jenna Nicholls, CNSC - Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

Cluff Lake Hearings (March 1<sup>st</sup>)

- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Intervention deadline
- MN-S had a meeting with Minister Montgrand concerns around legacy issues/fund
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Denison - Wheeler River Project

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- Regarding concerns around effluent versus economic opportunities, CNSC's mandate is on safety and health - economic benefits are outside of our mandate
- Buffalo Narrow's Metis Local board wanted additional information on EA and had set up meeting with Nicole - did not take place in December. Open to having a virtual meeting if the board would like.
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- Communities that will participate include Stony Rapids, Fond du Lac and Black Lake
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- MN-S would like to invite the CNSC to present
- SRC should provide additional information to MN-S on future tour and engagement on these sites

#### Action Items

- MN-S: to get back to the CNSC on whether additional discussions with the Province will be needed on Cluff Lake
- CNSC: to follow up with Shannon/Brent on outreach for EAs in the region at the Metis level with CNSC colleagues in early February at our next meeting
- MN-S: (Jenna) to follow up with Nicole on the presentation to the Metis Local if still interested

**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Cc:** [Jena Nicholls](#); [Roslyn Smith](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs  
**Sent:** 2023-02-13 4:57:00 PM

---

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the meeting minutes from last week below for your consideration.

Thank you and have a great week,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Agente en évaluation environnementale

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



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du Canada

-  
Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

February 6, 2023 3-4:30PM EST

Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Jena Nicholls, Roslyn Smith, Nicole Frigault, Jessica Way, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

- Welcome
  - Andrew Spriggs (Christopher Lake) – Lands and consultation officer

**NexGen Project**

- No new updates for the NexGen project from CNSC
- Information requests were shared back to NexGen in November and CNSC is currently waiting for responses to IRs from NexGen
  - No technical meeting requests from NexGen on the IRs yet
- Presentation on post-EIS meetings were done in late December
  - Shannon and Marlene have not yet reached out on the presentation or if additional information is requested by the local board
- MNS currently has direct agreements with NexGen on food studies
  - NexGen and CanNorth visited MNS on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to present on food studies
  - Shannon is waiting until after the 18<sup>th</sup> prior to following up with NexGen

**Denison Wheeler River Project**

- February 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>: presentations for NR-1 and NR-3 on CNSC as a regulator and our roles
- February 18<sup>th</sup>: deadline for Public comment period
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: in-person meeting at CNSC's Saskatoon office
- March 20<sup>th</sup>: Information requests from technical review by the FIRT will be shared back with Denison for their response

### Cluff Lake Operations

- February 16<sup>th</sup>: meeting in Buffalo Narrows with CNSC, Two-Worlds and Orano
  - CNSC will be present from 5:30-7PM CST
- March 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>: [Agenda for the Hearing on Cluff Lake Operations](#)
  - Interventions have been received
  - Intervenors and public viewers have separate Zoom links – Louise (CNSC) will assist with IT checks in advance for oral interventions
    - It is recommended that a headset with a boom microphone be used for the intervenors
  - Dene translations will be available during the hearing

### Key, McArthur and Rabbit Operations

- January 30<sup>th</sup>: Environmental Protection Review Reports were published for [Rabbit Lake Operation](#), [Key Lake Operation](#) and [McArthur River Operation](#)
  - CNSC is currently working on summary pamphlets and will share once available
- February 22<sup>nd</sup>: CMDs will be published (1 for Rabbit Lake Operation and 1 for Key Lake and McArthur River Operations combined)
- June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: Hearings for [Rabbit Lake](#) and [Key/McArthur River](#) Operations

### Action Items

- Brent to forward meeting link and agenda for February 16<sup>th</sup> Cluff Lake meeting to Sydney and Adam
- Ryan will forward Brent the agenda for the Cluff Lake hearing day (linked above)
- Ryan will forward CMD for Cameco license renewal once it is made public on Feb 22nd

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2022 3:09 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Shannon Landrie-Crossland; Brent Laroque; Frigault, Nicole; Nickolet, Sydney

**Cc:** Jena Nicholls; Roslyn Smith

**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs

**When:** February 6, 2023 3:00 PM-4:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** MS Teams

Updated so that we can use this meeting to talk about both Rook I and Wheeler on one call.

Thanks,  
Jes

---

—

# Microsoft Teams meeting

## **Join on your computer or mobile app**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Northern Region 1 meeting Feb 11  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 11:28:24 AM

---

**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 4:13 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** MN-S Northern Region 1 meeting Feb 11

- Questions to Denison:
  - How much water will be used and recycled during the drilling process? 40 cubic meters
  - Is the deposit homogenous? Very consistent and pure ore
  - How far off the road is the project from HW 914? 5KM west of the road, about 30km north of Wheeler water body itself
  - What is the release point for treated water? Whitefish Lake (showed on a map)
  - Will there be solids in the water and how will they be treated? Will be filtered out through treatment center
  - Won't there be a mix of liquids and solids in the landfill? Do not have traditional tailings facilities; solid waste (piping for ex) that will go to contaminated landfill
  - Will be injecting 100% without having 100% recovery – will be leaching about 85% (this question/response was a bit confusing, didn't get it down well)
    - Denison discussed how would be saturating deposit completely, bringing solution to the surface, the second phase would include flushing, and then groundwater remediation, as needed
    - Follow up – share links to IEMP, EARMP and other related data links (page with open data and science)
  - What precipitates will come from the water in discharge?
  - What release standards will you need to meet? Surface water quality guidelines, CCME guidelines
  - Questions around proximity and placement of monitoring wells
  - The last question was: What is ISD?
- Questions to all:
  - MN-S wants to be part of monitoring process – who is monitoring? Concerned about contaminated animals, who will be monitoring over the long term? Lots of leaders saying how can they be monitoring with Cluff, but not involve the Nations in this monitoring
    - Discussed EARMP, IEMP, I did also point to Denison saying that we supported collaborative monitoring programs.
- Questions to Province:
  - Concerns about fast track funding for consultation work by the province, only \$10,000 for review of consultation report; not a technical review, and not even the full amount...this was news to Brianne
  - What is the Indigenous engagement review?
  - Lots of overlap between public and Indigenous engagement when conducted by proponents (just because members of the public may be Indigenous, does not mean



that it is Indigenous engagement) - are SMOE looking at this and giving "checkmark" for indigenous engagement (as it is not the same thing)?

- When involved in engagement sessions that have been public, for instance Mayor there in a public capacity; also wants to be engaged as Metis. Some people wear double and triple hats
- All are hoping with 2022 guidelines, these things change.
- Notification process is lacking – a roldex of people switching has to be maintained.
- 2022 revision for province and changes to how communicate. Considering a recommendation or taking the recommendation and changing policy.
- What did CNSC do to protect the people of Wollaston who were told not to eat fish due to concerns related to molybdenum? (possibly at Cigar Lake?) I think Brianne suggested this was a Rabbit.
  - CNSC will provide a written response to Shannon for distribution with NR1, if there is interest, a licensing officer would also be able to speak to the incident
- How does CNSC incorporate Indigenous knowledge?
  - Is there a specific team that helps with this? Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division with Ryan Froess and Adam Levine
- Are CNSC's policies or our administrative procedures related to Indigenous engagement available online? If not administratively documented, How do we know you will do them?
  - The policies and procedures are not posted publicly, but a general overview of different activities to build engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities can be found on our website: [Indigenous engagement - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)
- For the Environmental Assessment Process – is Indigenous engagement limited to steps 2-4?
- From an MNS perspective – there wasn't enough time to review the EIS – especially with 30 days gone due to Christmas and 2 EIS' (NexGen/Denison) one after another
  - Is there opportunity for additional engagement after? CNSC wants to clarify and highlight that there will be continuous engagement on this project, including regular monthly meetings with the MNS and in the iterative steps of the IR reviews – there are also opportunities to participate in the hearing process
- What does the hearing process look like?
  - Notification a hearing is being scheduled and publicly posted
  - Written or oral interventions would be requested to share interest, concerns, issues or support for the project with the Commission
    - MN-S will pass information from CNSC to the NRs
- Wheeler River oversight to date
  - Initiatives for Indigenous people to oversee the sampling? Participation in IEMP?

#### Action Items

- CNSC to provide a written response regarding exceedances in molybdenum impacting the people of Wollaston (or arrange a meeting with UMMD PO)
- Shannon from MN-S to share NR-1 leadership contacts to the CNSC for the distribution list
- OJ from uranium city says hi to Adam Levine
- Follow up – share links to IEMP, EARMP and other related data links (page with open data and science)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Northern Region III Meeting Feb 12th - notes for review  
**Sent:** 2023-02-12 5:22:50 PM

---

Thanks Sydney! Appreciate you joining even though we were largely, not needed.

My notes here, and some additional points added below.

To add, most of the interest was in asking Denison questions. Shannon called me partway through the morning to note that we may not get to present (which we and the province did not), and that there were concerns around timelines because NR1 and NR3 wanted to be brought together to discuss the assessment by Two Worlds. I noted we could do 2 weeks max, as long as we had a draft in advance (same as YNLRO).

Here are the things I noted from before Sydney joined:

- Lack of trust (specifically with the province and the CNSC) – the governments haven't done anything for people in the North, hard to trust because of what has happened at Cluff; most concerned about safety and the environment
- The importance of monitoring by regional MN-S members is extremely important – there were questions around capacity building, support programs in place to support community monitoring initiatives by Indigenous people in Northern SK; have indigenous people in Northern SK with the degrees, cultural science and training to do this kind of work, who they are more likely to trust that the water is safe, the animals, etc.
  - I did talk about IEMP and Brianne talked about EARMP (but again, the trust issue)
  - Don't want to wait until things are disastrous, don't want to be taken advantage of
  - Want to have own plans and want inclusion in western science monitoring, in order to ensure things are being done safely
  - Want to protect themselves, not hear about it long after
  - Province gets money to do monitoring, but don't involve nation
- NR1 and NR3 want to be engaged all together, not separately as has happened this weekend
- Want to ensure that the cultural science and Indigenous knowledge is incorporated and considered in our processes
- Concerns about Cluff, given workers from the communities reporting back how messy things were there
  - Also noted that comparing the collaborative monitoring program used by Cameco is a bad example, as they are not actually conducting collaborative monitoring, and pointed to legacy issues of Cluff

---

**From:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 12, 2023 3:38 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** MN-S Northern Region III Meeting Feb 12th - notes for review

Hi All,

Please see below the questions that I was able to capture (couldn't hear the best). Looks like they didn't have time for our presentation/questions but I was able to capture some of the questions directed towards Denison as an FYI:

**Denison:**

1. How far away is the site from the river?
2. Question about location of Whitefish lake, distance from the site
3. How will they prove that contaminants have indeed been contained, through monitoring?  
What groundwater criteria will Denison need to meet?
4. Can the region have a training system in order to do their own assessment and monitoring?  
Do not have enough trust in regulatory oversight of the CNSC, of the province, nor Denison.
5. How do you reconcile the difference between technical data and knowledge of people that are on the land? Lived experiences from Cluff lake?
6. Questions around use of ISR technology elsewhere
7. Monitoring wells are 200 meters out. Ground water moves 1 meter per year – question around location of wells and how they will measure this migration of water
8. What is the difference between the two different deposits?
9. What is the spillproof program that will be in place??
10. Question around the Griffin deposit and how it is captured in the EIS
  - a. Denison is only advancing the regulatory EA process for the Phoenix deposit not Griffin at this time
11. Question on Denison's yearly production rates
  - a. Didn't capture answer
12. NR11 wants to understand the economics more and how that is incorporating the Region
  - a. Janna mentioned that they talk about economics within the EIS including jobs, training, business opportunities, etc. It also talks about the money flowing into the communities.
13. Comment that NR-3 supports the project, but want Denison to obtain social licence
14. Comment that NR-3 needs an extension, want to bring NR1 to the table and want to be once voice with NR1 (which we agreed to)
15. Tex mentioned that there is a need for further education within the Region and improvement to the communities through economics . Socioeconomic impacts must be considered, training aspect is critical:
  - a. There is no system in place that helps northerners be involved the way they want to
  - b. Lower end economic benefits for local people, higher benefits to contractors.
16. When Denison says it's evaluating economics, what does that mean?
17. Comment on human resource development and how that is important to the Region – questions to Denison and the province.
18. Comment on racism within the mine sites, camps and with contractors. Not necessarily with Denison but just within the camps themselves

- a. Carolanne mentioned that 11 out of 14 employees working on the field test this summer are Indigenous =
  - b. Shannon raised in response that when we are talking about creating a safe work environment, truth and reconciliation and racism, it's not just about the workers hired directly. It's about consultants, and the consultant's consultants – This is where regardless of organizational efforts and policies, objectives can become diluted.
  - c. When looking at structure and breakdown of who organizations hire, need to create indigenous awareness; first nation and Metis awareness, and need to educate contractors on truth and reconciliation. The efforts may be there but once you start to get into the field, it's not working and racism is still present.
19. Saskatchewan First Act was mentioned and how the Region has many concerns with it, [and the province's DTC policy](#). Seems like the Province is trying to cut corners. Joe wants Denison to be on the look out for that happening.
- a. Breanne (SK) responded that from her understanding the act won't change anything on the EA side and that it is not to change the duty to consult either. She is not involved with it and that is at the political level within the government.
    - i. [Comments heard from media and minister – what trying to achieve is business first, cut the crap, and this could mean cutting northerners](#)
20. Regarding VC's assessed – EIS is leaving out a few; employment and contracts are good, but also have to leave something to the community ([the environment](#))
21. Comment on the DTC process and how some locals with NRIII are not included in the identified Nations and communities but they should be. The whole Region should be included not just some locals.
22. Denison mentioned the capacity funding agreement that was signed with MN-S and that it is a significant agreement including 12 months of TLU plans with NRIII and NRI.
- a. Two Worlds shared the Metis Knowledge Study timeline with the group
    - i. [have it slotted to complete in December 2023 \(Denison has requested this by October 2023. There was no discussion of this discrepancy\)](#)
  - b. Tex asked why NRIII and NRI aren't involved in the hiring of the community coordinator
  - c. Looks like there needs to be more internal discussions between MN-S and the Regions on the process and the deliverables of the agreement.

Thanks,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone: 306-491-3371

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
 Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
 Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone: 306-491-3371

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and  
Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [England, Brianne ENV](#); Brent Laroque;  
**Cc:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Aimann Sadik](#) ([aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca));  
**Subject:** RE: NR 1 and NR 3 Regional Council follow-up EIS Review Session  
**Sent:** 2023-02-20 1:21:00 PM

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Hi Shannon,

Thanks for the invite to this joint meeting.

Ryan and Sydney will just be returning from being out of office so if the CNSC were to join, it would likely be me joining virtually. Related to objective #1, it seems like this is really more for Denison to present to leadership and I wonder if we are needed for this agenda item. I can absolutely make myself available to join for a Q&A period and answer questions on behalf of the CNSC on EA related process topics, but I wanted to clarify - is there a particular desire for CNSC and SMOE to be present for Denison's presentation? My other question would if you know what kinds of questions there might be for the CNSC. Our EIS Technical review is still underway and I wouldn't have answers specific to our assessment of Denison's work at this stage, but I can answer questions more broadly about the EA and other regulatory processes. Additionally, if questions for us were more likely to be on certain topics (human health, environmental protection, or how we look at a particular component of the environment), I could see if we have a subject matter expert available to attend and answer questions on how CNSC regulates on these aspects.

In any case, I can make myself available to join upon request (once you are ready for me to join) or at a particular point in the agenda (e.g. Once it is expected the agenda item for Denison's presentation on the environmental assessment process and assessment methodology is complete), but if you would prefer that we are there for Denison's presentation as well, I can likely join for that part of the presentation. Please let me know. I want to make sure that our attendance helps meet the objectives you have, that we have the right people there, and that we are supporting in the way MN-S needs.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Shannon Landrie-Crossland <slandriecrossland@mns.work>

**Sent:** Friday, February 17, 2023 3:50 PM

**To:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; England, Brianne ENV <brianne.england@gov.sk.ca>; Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>

**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.work>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** Re: NR 1 and NR 3 Regional Council follow-up EIS Review Session

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good afternoon, All

As per our direction from NR 1 and NR 3 leadership we are currently working with Denison on setting up a joint EIS Review session. We will meet internally in the morning and have Denison and Regulators join in the afternoon.

As with the previous sessions we would invite regulators to be there to answer any questions from Leadership.

Objectives for follow-up session:

1. Denison present on the environmental assessment process and assessment methodology for the Wheeler River Project
2. Local and Regional Presidents have opportunity to ask us questions, points of clarification, etc

Date: Monday, February 27, 2023

Time: 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Location: Dakota Dunes Hotel

Best,  
Shannon

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Sydney Nickolet](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#); [Hillary Ashley](#); [Madeleine Wong](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Denison Technical Review  
**Sent:** 2023-03-03 5:33:00 PM

---

Hi Brent,

Thank you for the submission of MN-S's comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Denison's proposed Wheeler River project. Note, these will soon be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) for the project.

Looking forward to discussing next week. Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Sydney Nickolet <s.nicolet@mns.work>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.work>; Shannon Landrie-Crossland <slandriecrossland@mns.work>; Shalyn Fladager <sfladager@mns.work>; Hillary Ashley <hashley@twoworldsconsulting.com>; Madeleine Wong <mwong@twoworldsconsulting.com>  
**Subject:** MN-S Denison Technical Review

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good Afternoon Jessica.

Please see the attached Denison EIS Technical review prepared by Two Worlds Consulting on behalf of Métis – Nation Saskatchewan. If you have any questions, please let us know!

Maarsii!

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

306-361-3189

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Canada S7K 0A7

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**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Cc:** [Jena Nicholls](#); [Roslyn Smith](#); [O'Neill, Shannon](#); Manickum, Katherine;  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs  
**Sent:** 2023-03-17 4:15:00 PM

---

Good afternoon everyone,

We apologize for the delay in sharing these meeting minutes, but please find the March 6<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting minutes below for your review.

Thank you and have a wonderful weekend,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Agente en évaluation environnementale  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



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Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

March 6, 2023 3-4:30PM EST

Brent Laroque, Shannon Landrie-Crossland, Andrew Spriggs, Jena Nicholls, Elder Morin Max, Ryan Froess, Jessica Way, Shannon O'Neill

**Denison Wheeler River Project**

- Denison comment period on the EIS closed on February 18th
- MN-S and CNSC to have an in person meeting on Wednesday March 8th in Saskatoon to discuss MN-S comments on the draft EIS
- MN-S completed a technical review with Two-Worlds which was incorporated into the submission
- Elder Morin discussed the meeting with Denison on February 27th
  - Expressed concern over working relationship with Denison
  - Expressed concern regarding road infrastructure
  - Noted that local presidents are underfunded and have limited support
  - Noted that it would be great if mining companies could hire from northern Saskatchewan
  - Concerned about mining companies monitoring themselves
    - Noted that it is important to have Métis able to perform monitoring to build trust
  - Noted that waterways are important to Ile a la Crosse
- CNSC noted that Denison should continue to engage with MN-S

**NexGen Project**

- NexGen provided an introduction to the Rook I project in La Loche in late January
- MN-S to conduct interviews for Metis food study that should be starting off in the next few months

- MN-S to follow up about in-community meeting with CNSC and NexGen, potentially in April – MN-S to follow-up with CNSC month in advance if something is being planned
- NexGen and CNSC are planning to hold in-person information sessions on the Rook I project on the third week of June alternatively if the MN-S interested in participating then.

#### CNSC Capacity Fund

- CNSC noted that we are introducing a new Capacity Fund in April to support Indigenous Nations and Communities
  - **ACTION** – Invite Adam Levine to a future MN-S monthly meeting to discuss this new capacity fund (Ryan)

#### Monitoring

- MN-S noted that monitoring is a priority and required to build trust
  - MN-S reached out to various training programs to discuss options of training members (BEAHR training – Eco Canada)
- MN-S asked about the Environmental Quality Committee (EQC)
  - Noted that it's funded by industry but currently on hold
  - Includes municipalities and Indigenous Nations
  - ACTION – Ryan to connect Brent with EQC contact
- MN-S asked about Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP)
  - Noted that there are multiple funders – Province of Saskatchewan, CNSC, Industry
  - Started in 2011, over 1000 samples of publicly available data available at [www.earmp.com](http://www.earmp.com)
  - Noted that it's on the eastern side of the province but the CNSC has expressed interest in expanding it to all of Athabasca
  - ACTION – Ryan to follow up with MN-S on future of EARMP when more is known as discussions are in very early stages.

#### Next Steps

- MN-S noted that they need to have an internal conversation about the IBA process and separate it from regulatory process
- MN-S asked about the next phases after the EIS processes are complete:
  - Currently in EIS phase, where information requests are with the proponent (NexGen) or soon to be with the proponent (Denison)
  - All information requests need to be responded to which is an iterative process until the CNSC is satisfied with all responses
  - Once the EIS is deemed conforming, the CNSC will develop an EA report
  - Hearing process will include another PFP opportunity to intervene
  - Overall, still early in the process
  - Expect the proponents to engage with MN-S throughout the whole process
- CNSC noted that in the meantime we would like to understand MN-S issues and concerns and begin work on the Rights Impact Assessment
- MN-S requested additional detail on other projects coming up
  - Orano's Cluff hearing is complete. CNSC follow up with there is a decision from the Commission.
  - Cameco's McArthur River, Key Lake and Rabbit Lake relicensing hears is in Saskatoon on June 8/9
  - Beaverlodge will be in 2024/2025
  - Continue work on NexGen's Rook I and Denison's Wheeler River proposed projects
  - Potential SMR projects in Southern Saskatchewan in the future
  - Fission's proposed Patterson Lake South project
- MN-S noted that the Elder's gathering in June would be a good event for CNSC to participate in

---

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** April 22, 2022 3:09 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Shannon Landrie-Crossland; Brent Laroque; Frigault, Nicole; Nickolet, Sydney

**Cc:** Jena Nicholls; Roslyn Smith; O'Neill, Shannon; Manickum, Katherine

**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs

**When:** March 6, 2023 3:00 PM-4:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** MS Teams

Good afternoon ev

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**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#);  
**Subject:** FW: 2023-04-11 MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting Notes  
**Sent:** 2023-04-19 4:40:06 PM

---

FYI

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**From:** Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 2:42 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>; Shalyn Fladager <sfladager@mns.work>  
**Subject:** RE: 2023-04-11 MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting Notes

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Jessica,

Just a minor correction in the MN-S update section. Listed is that MN-S had an April 6 meeting in regard to Cameco. That meeting is May 6 and it is a Métis Public info meeting in La Ronge. Discussion I have had with Ryan (CNSC) is he will attend Virtually.

Cheers,

Andrew

---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 12:14 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>; Shalyn Fladager <[sfladager@mns.work](mailto:sfladager@mns.work)>; Roslyn Smith <[rsmith@mns.work](mailto:rsmith@mns.work)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.work](mailto:aspriggs@mns.work)>; Monica Brunet <[mbrunet@mns.work](mailto:mbrunet@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Snider, Richard <[richard.snider@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:richard.snider@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Pandolfi, Dana <[Dana.Pandolfi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Dana.Pandolfi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Frigault, Nicole <[Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** 2023-04-11 MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting Notes

Hi All,

Thanks for your time in Tuesday's meeting this week. Please see below for the meeting minutes.

Attached is the presentation provided on the relicensing for the three mines. We also wanted to note, Richard has also offered to provide a presentation on Beaverlodge at some point in the

future, if MN-S would like to learn more about the site. Please let us know if you would be interested in this.

Have a great weekend!

Jes

---

### **Metis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – All Projects**

April 11th, 2023 1PM-2:30PM CST

Attendees: Brent Laroque, Shalyn Fladager, Roslyn Smith, Andrew Spriggs, Monica Brunet, Sydney Nickolet, Jes Way, Wish Yen, Nicole Frigault, Richard Snider, Dana Pandolfi

#### **Denison CNSC Update:**

- CNSC has shared the IR's back with the FIRT on March 20<sup>th</sup> and they have also been posted publicly to the Registry – as committed during the meeting, here is the link to the IRs: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/147103>
- Currently, CNSC is going through the public and Indigenous comments on the draft EIS and pulling them into a comment table. The public comments are also posted publicly on the Registry – as committed during the meeting, here is the link to comments: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80178/contributions>. Once the comment table is complete, it will also be posted on the Registry

#### **NexGen CNSC Update:**

- The IR and public comment table is currently sitting with NexGen and they are working through the IR's
- CNSC has had a couple of meetings with NexGen regarding the IR's to confirm they are on the right track and responding appropriately
  - CNSC is currently waiting on NexGen to see if more technical meetings are required to work through the IR's

#### **MN-S Update:**

- MN-S has hired Monica Brunet as the Director of Citizen Engagement – Shannon Landrie-Crossland has moved back to her role in the engagement unit and will be reporting to Monica moving forward
  - The primary contacts for CNSC related projects will be Brent and Andrew moving forward
  - Monica and Shannon will be working on the MN-S internal engagement process and also supporting with engagement events
- NexGen:
  - MN-S has restarted the work with NexGen and have resolved the joint working group issue and are currently working through that now
  - MN-S is currently working through the Metis food study
- SMR's:

- Brent has received the email regarding an initial meet on the SaskPower SMR. The Regions will be working on that individually but Brent and Andrew would like to be copied on information being sent out to the Regions. Brent and Andrew would also be the main contact as a starting point for SMR's for MN-S
- Cameco License Renewals:
  - MN-S is had an internal meeting in La Ronge regarding the license renewals on April 6<sup>th</sup> and then will be having the community meeting on the license renewals in La Ronge on April 21<sup>st</sup>. CNSC will be in attendance for the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and will be presenting

#### **Cameco License Renewals:**

- UMMD (Richard and Dana) gave a presentation on the upcoming license renewals (similar presentation that will be given at the community event on the 21<sup>st</sup>) (Attached)
- MN-S asked about the current trend on license renewals and if it is a common practise for licensees to be requesting a longer license?
  - CNSC responded stating that right now it is a case by case basis but will ultimately depend on the interventions that are received if the Commission moves in that direction
- MN-S asked what the purpose of a renewal is as the regulator and why the CNSC is not granting the indefinite license?
  - CNSC responded that the license renewal provides a more comprehensive regulatory look at the site – how it is performing, updating documentation, safety, etc. By requiring a license renewal, it allows the regulator to review this information more regularly but the decision is ultimately up to the Commission
- MN-S asked what kind of engagement is completed when the mid-year report is conducted if the Commission were to grant the renewals? MN-S also asked CNSC to clarify what regulatory hook forces a licensee to engage regularly (as opposed to waiting until the end of the licence term, or opting not to do this adequately). CNSC responded that:
  - Regulatory Oversight Reports are a mechanism to evaluate licensee performance on a yearly basis, and the Commission welcomes oral interventions from Indigenous Nations and representatives
  - The licensee is to provide the CNSC with an Indigenous Engagement Report that will be reviewed by the Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division (i.e. Ryan and Sydney's team) to ensure that the licensee is following the engagement requirements: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/published/html/regdoc3-2-2/index.cfm>
  - CNSC will be having regular meetings with Nations and would be looking to hear how the engagement is going with the licensee
  - The Commission makes the final decision and in some cases will provide the licensee to go back and conduct more engagement if the engagement completed is not done sufficiently

**IEMP:**

- CNSC works internally to ensure that IEMP is applied to Saskatchewan facilities in a similar fashion to Eastern Canada
  - IEMP will continue to take place at facilities in Saskatchewan
- Cameco and Orano are currently funding the EARMF and future monitoring could be funded by Denison/NexGen
- The independent monitoring programs are lauded by CNSC and are a good resource for CNSC and Nations and communities
- IEMP results for the [Key Lake](#) (2014 and 2021), [McArthur River](#) (2014 and 2021) and [Rabbit Lake](#) (2022) operations are available at the links

**Beaverlodge (Richard added some more background):**

- Eldorado Nuclear Limited, a federal Crown corporation, operated the Beaverlodge Project site from 1952 to 1982. Decommissioning was completed in 1985 following the decommissioning plan. The approved plan stated that the site water quality and vegetation were expected to recover naturally in the long term. In 1988, Eldorado Nuclear Limited and the Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation, a provincial Crown corporation, merged to form Cameco Corporation (Cameco). As a result of this merger, Cameco was assigned the responsibility of maintaining and monitoring of the Beaverlodge site. Canada Eldor Inc., a subsidiary of the federal Crown corporation, Canada Development Investment Corporation, was to provide the funding for all site activities. Cameco holds the licence issued by the CNSC and is being financed by Canada Eldor Inc.
- 2-year licence renewal (hearing took place already) and interventions were received – a decision has not been made yet
  - Next public hearing is coming soon

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:**

- Glenn will present additional information related to the re-licensing
- Brent has requested that acronyms not be used throughout the presentation (ROR, UMMD etc)
- Justification for the 20-year relicensing rationale provided by CNSC –
  - CNSC wants to re-iterate that the Nation is always welcome to provide honest feedback to the Commission for their consideration

**ACTIONS:**

1. CNSC will send links to Wheeler River FIRT comments and public comments – Completed, See above



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Andrew Spriggs](#)  
**Cc:** [Yen, Wish](#); [Froess, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Denison - CNSC Completes Initial Review EIS  
**Sent:** 2023-05-18 11:14:48 AM

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Hi Andrew,

Apologies for the delayed reply on this one. Ryan forwarded along your inquiry, and I meant to get back to you on this right away.

Right now we are working on compiling a full list of comments that came in during the public and Indigenous comment period. These will be posted in two tables: one that is directed to the proponent, and another that is directed to the CNSC (comments that are more regulatory in nature). We are just wrapping this up, so these will be posted in the coming weeks.

As you are probably aware, the EIS technical review is an iterative process and Denison is currently reviewing the Information Requests (IRs) that followed the initial EIS technical review (the information in the link you provided below). Once we have Denison's first round of responses to these IRs, which could be as early as end of June, the federal review team will conduct another round of review. This iterative process will continue until the CNSC is satisfied that all IRs have been addressed. Once we are comfortable that all IRs have been adequately answered, we will advise Denison that we are ready for them to submit a revised, Final EIS. Along with the final EIS, it will be expected that Denison provide responses to all of the comments included in the public and Indigenous comment table, so this won't occur until closer to the end of the EIS technical review (CNSC will do the same).

Please let us know if you have any follow up questions. Happy to discuss further.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.work](mailto:aspriggs@mns.work)>  
**Sent:** May 5, 2023 11:39 AM

**To:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Denison - CNSC Completes Initial Review EIS

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hey Ryan,

Our consultant just brought this up to me. They are wanting clarification on the MN-S comments and if there is going to be an additional review posted that includes the MN-S comments.

<https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/146962?culture=en-CA>

Cheers,

**Andrew Spriggs**  
Lands and Consultation Coordinator

306-381-7854

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



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**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#);  
**Cc:** [Jena Nicholls](#); [Roslyn Smith](#); Manickum, Katherine; [Cole Chretien](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](mailto:mbrunet@mns.work); [Hughie Hill](#);  
**Subject:** 2023-06-05-CNSC to MN-S monthly meeting minutes  
**Sent:** 2023-08-09 7:59:00 AM

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Good morning Brett, Andrew, Monica, Roslyn, Hughie and Shalyn,

The June monthly meeting minutes weren't shared back in June, please find them below for your review.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission/Government of Canada

[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

#### Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 1-2:30PM CST

Attendees: Monica Brunet, Roslyn Smith, Shalyn Fladger, Hughie Hill, Andrew Spriggs, Nicole Frigault, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet and Wish Yen

New employee with MN-S: Hughie Hill Traditional Land Use Specialist

#### **Key Lake, McArthur River and Rabbit Lake Hearings**

- June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>: Hearing date for combined Key, McArthur and Rabbit Hearings
- MN-S will be presenting June 8<sup>th</sup>

#### **Wheeler River Project**

- Denison has indicated that they will be resubmitting late June
- Next Steps: CNSC will conduct a 30-day completeness check, if the completeness check passes, a 90-day technical review will take place
- Traditional Land Use Studies
  - MN-S has been connecting with Two-Worlds consulting for TLU training for NR-1
  - MN-S staff will also be taking TLU training in Victoria
  - La Ronge interviews have been planned for end of June/July
    - MN-S has reached out for a meeting with Denison to request an extension
- Public comments tables will be going through approvals process prior to posting on the Registry
  - CNSC will share an email to the Nations once the public comment tables are posted
- Elder's gathering for Pinehouse will be underway and MN-S will be in attendance

#### **NexGen Project**

- CNSC will be completing information sessions with Clearwater, Buffalo Dene First Nations, Buffalo Narrows and LaLoche
  - CNSC invites MN-S to participate in these sessions, but the MN-S does not plan to attend or participate at this time
- There will be a joint working group between MN-S and NexGen on June 19<sup>th</sup>
- CNSC will be sharing the What We Heard Report for the NR-2 TLU with MN-S shortly to see if there are comments on the document and to ensure everything is captured appropriately. CNSC is looking for comments on it this summer.

#### **REGDOC 3.2.2**

- Updates have been shared with the MN-S for feedback. CNSC is looking for feedback by July 14<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SMR Tour**

- MN-S is working with SaskPower to try set up a meeting regarding the project. Initially, it was scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> but that date no longer works so it is being rescheduled. CNSC mentioned that if needed, they would be willing to attend to present from their perspective on SMR's and how they are involved.
- SaskPower wants MNS to go through the Province of SK fast track grant to support this meeting as SaskPower is no long providing funds to MN-S to supports meetings.
- CNSC mentioned that they are still interested in attending the ER3 Regional Council meeting sometime this summer to talk about SMR's

#### **New Indigenous Capacity Funding**

- June 30<sup>th</sup> – deadline for the first round of applications
- MN-S will reach out mid-June with any questions or concerns

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](mailto:jerry.bernard@erfn.net);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](mailto:wsmith@kineepik.ca); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:bnatomagan@kineepik.ca);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work); [blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](mailto:Shannon.Landrie-Crossland@mns.work); [rsmith@mns.work](mailto:rsmith@mns.work); [sfladager@mns.work](mailto:sfladager@mns.work); [aspriggs@mns.work](mailto:aspriggs@mns.work);  
[mbrunet@mns.work](mailto:mbrunet@mns.work); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com);  
[shea.shirley@yathinene.com](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com);  
[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](mailto:kevin.mercredi@outlook.com); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](mailto:b-tsannie@hotmail.com); [csayazie@hotmail.com](mailto:csayazie@hotmail.com); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](mailto:d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net);  
[d.classen@sasktel.net](mailto:d.classen@sasktel.net); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_larock@hotmail.com);

**Bcc:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca);  
[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca);  
[norma.catarat@brdn.ca](mailto:norma.catarat@brdn.ca); [receptionist@mltc.net](mailto:receptionist@mltc.net); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca);  
[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com);  
[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca);  
[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net);  
[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](mailto:mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com); Heidi Klein; Janna Switzer; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay; Steven Coupland; Sorouche Mirmiran;

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Public and Indigenous Comment Tables Posted

**Sent:** 2023-06-27 8:27:00 PM

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Good evening everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment process.

As you may be aware, the 90-day [public and Indigenous comment period](#) for the proposed Wheeler River draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) took place from November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff have now reviewed [all comments received](#), and these been detailed in public comment tables. These can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at the following links:

- [Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement - For Denison Response](#)
- [Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement - For CNSC Response](#)

It is expected that Denison, CNSC staff and any other parties provide responses to these comments by the time a final EIS is submitted. These will be posted to the registry at a later date, along with

the Final EIS.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire



To  
A  
c.c. Executive Management Committee Members

Clare Cattrysse, Adam Levine, Neil Babcock

From  
De Patrick Burton  
Director  
Uranium Mines and Mills  
Division  
Nana-Owusua Kwamena  
Director  
Environmental Review  
Division

Subject  
Objet Pinehouse Elders Gathering and Denison Site Tour – Trip Report for ISRD, ERD & UMMD: Pinehouse,  
SK June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

Security Classification - Classification de sécurité

Unclassified

File - Référence

e-Doc #7077863

Your File - Votre référence

Date

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Tel. No. - N° de tél.

**Location:** Proposed Wheeler River site, SK; Pinehouse, SK

**Dates:** June 19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023

**CNSC Participants:** Sydney Nickolet, Policy Officer, ISRD; Torin Takala, Project Officer, UMMD; Konrad Gorzkowski, Project Officer, UMMD; Wish Yen, Environmental Review Officer, ERD; Patrick Burton, Director, UMMD; and Nana-Owusua Kwamena, Director, ERD

**Event:** Pinehouse Elders Gathering organized by the Kineepik Métis Local (KML) and Denison Wheeler River Site Tour

**Background:** CNSC staff from ISRD, ERD and UMMD attended a Denison Wheeler River Site Tour as well as participated in the Pinehouse Elders Gathering in Pinehouse, SK. The site tour focused on Denison's work to-date in developing their site, and a description of their future plans. The Pinehouse Elders Gathering was an opportunity for CNSC staff to meet with Elders and community members, participate in traditional activities and try traditional foods. CNSC staff were able to engage local community members with information on the role of the nuclear regulator in Canada. The CNSC set up a display booth which included outreach materials, a sample optically stimulated luminescence dosimeter, several artifacts provided by the CNSC Lab, radiation meters, pamphlets and CNSC-branded giveaways.

### Highlights:

- CNSC staff participated in activities that were happening at the Elders Gathering such as relay races; preparation of traditional foods; watching moose hide tanning; watching traditional wood carving and canoe preparation; sacred medicine teachings; watching the powwow and helping with dinner clean up. CNSC staff slept in tents provided by the community, which in conjunction with CNSC staff's participation in the relay race, left a very positive impression.
- Many attendees were aware of the CNSC, and were interested in the proposed Denison Wheeler River Project and where the CNSC is at in the EA and licensing processes. There was also interest in operating sites within KML's traditional territory including

Cameco's Key Lake and McArthur River operations; historic sites near Uranium City were also mentioned.

- CNSC staff had discussions with Glen McCallum, President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), Walter Smith, Environment, Education and Training Manager for KML, Mike Natomagan Mayor of Pinehouse, SK and President of KML, Jim Lemaigre, Saskatchewan Member of the Legislative Assembly for Athabasca and David Cates, CEO of Denison Mines, as well as with many community members.
- CNSC staff toured Denison's site, including the three wells associated with their 2022 field test and production well components which Denison had displayed on the surface. During the 2022 field test, Denison recovered nearly 7 tonnes of uranium oxide, which they store in solution under a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.
- Photos can be found at Q:\ADD PHOTOS HERE\2023-06-19 Denison Pinehouse

### **Lessons Learned:**

- The CNSC branded fishing lures were a popular giveaway item; however, the sizing of the lure was too small for northern Saskatchewan. When ordering the next batch of fishing lures, a larger size should be ordered.
- The weather during the Elders Gathering featured a heavy downpour for most of the evening. CNSC staff should ensure that we are well equipped for the weather for outside events including proper attire and protection of outreach materials.
- Items to identify CNSC staff at these events, such as shirts or hats, would be beneficial. Most of the other representatives had branded clothing representing their organization so having CNSC branded clothing would bring in more interest by attendees and distinguish CNSC staff from industry. Some CNSC staff that attended the Elders Gathering had CNSC inspection shirts but having specific general outreach branded clothing would have been beneficial for community members to recognize who we were at the event.
- The Pinehouse Elders Gathering was a very large and well attended event. Accommodations in the area were booked up months in advance. When participating in the future, CNSC staff should look into accommodations months in advance due to limited accommodations in the area and high demand.
- Fire dangers must be considered for summer trips to northern Saskatchewan. The CNSC team was guided by advice from Denison and from KML leadership, and had prepared to back out of the trip rather than take excessive fire risks.
- Renting pickup trucks was a must given the hundreds of kilometers on gravel roads.

### **Next Steps:**

- It is recommended that CNSC staff continue to attend similar events to continue to learn about Indigenous culture in northern Saskatchewan, to build relationships, and to continue on our path towards reconciliation. Glen McCallum, President of the MN-S invited CNSC staff to attend Back to Batoche Days in July 2023, CNSC staff are evaluating whether we can attend.





**Figure 1. CNSC staff demonstrating a contamination survey meter to church exchange students from BC**



**Figure 2. CNSC staff participating at the 2023 Pinehouse Northern Elders Gathering**



**Figure 3. CNSC staff observing moosehide tanning**

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#); [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Way, Jessica](#); Manickum, Katherine;  
**Subject:** MN-S and CNSC Minutes from July 10th Monthly Meeting  
**Sent:** 2023-07-28 12:22:05 PM

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Good morning,

Apologies for the delay but please see below the meeting minutes from our last monthly meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> below for your review.

Thank you and happy Friday 😊

-

**MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting – July 10<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST**

Participants: Brent Laroque, Shalyn Fladager, Hughie Hill, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Katherine Manickum and Sydney Nickolet

**Fission Patterson South Project:**

- Notification letters went out to Indigenous Nations and communities including MN-S on June 28<sup>th</sup> informing the Nations of Fission's application for a license to site, construct and operate a uranium mine and mill facility
- CNSC's next step is looking to set up meetings with interested Nations to introduce, or provide updates on the project likely in late-summer into fall
- CNSC is meeting with NR2 after this meeting (July 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm-3pm CST) as an introduction meeting on the project
  - Brent mentioned that depending on this meeting, the next steps would be to set something up with the CNSC, NR2 and MN-S for the Fission project

**Denison Wheeler River Project:**

- Denison should be sending their responses to the IR's on the draft EIS from the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) sometime this week
- The public comment tables were sent back out to Denison at the end of June and they are currently working on responding to the comments from that table
- Denison is only responding to FIRT in the next submission and will be providing a table with their responses not a revised EIS at this time
- Denison will be providing responses to the public comment table later on. The MN-S comments were in the public comment table not the FIRT table
- MN-S has taken training on traditional land use and Brent, Andrew, Hughie and Gavin went out to visit TWC. Andrew and Hughie have been out in La Ronge and will be in Patunak next week collecting some interviews from Elders and community members.
- MN-S has a capacity agreement for the TK study submission by fall, but may not be able to meet this timeline and is working with Denison to ensure a steady stream of information is provided

-Brent mentioned that the 3D diagram that Denison provided at their kick off meeting earlier this year was very helpful and helps with the understanding of the project for community members  
-Wish asked about how best way to get the information out to the community on the project and Brent mentioned doing a video and collaborating with CNSC to talk about who we are and what we do would be beneficial to both the MN-S and community.

**NexGen Rook I Project:**

-Ryan talked about the recent NexGen outreach in June and gave an update on that community tour  
-NexGen is planning to resubmit their responses to the IR's for their draft EIS soon  
-MN-S had their JWG meeting with NexGen about 2 weeks ago and it was the first one in a while  
-MN-S and NexGen are working back and forth on finalizing the issues table

**REGDOC 3.2.2:**

-MN-S probably won't provide feedback for this early engagement phase but are interested in submitting feedback during the formal consultation period in Spring 2024  
-MN-S would be interested in meeting with Nick Bridges from CNSC and learning more about REGDOC 3.2.2 sometime in August. **ACTION:** CNSC to follow up with Brent to set up a meeting on this for sometime in August (complete)

Cheers,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and  
Homeland of the Métis  
Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Back to Batoche summary  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 12:55:40 PM

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**From:** Takala, Torin  
**Sent:** July 21, 2023 10:11 AM  
**To:** Burton, Patrick <[patrick.burton@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.burton@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Back to Batoche summary

Hello Patrick and Adam,

As Sydney is off for today I wanted to provide the summary of how the event went while it was still fresh. First off I'd like to mention that there was an absolutely massive amount of people there for an event that hadn't officially started yet, it was basically a town at that point and we were told at multiple points that more people were still expected for the weekend.

Once we arrived we were able to speak briefly with Glen McCallum, President of MN-S, who recognised us both stopped to chat with us and welcome us to the event. After getting a bit orientated we tried to find the Pinehouse Tent area, which was fairly removed from the majority of the event and on the way we were ran into Jordan Adillman from Saskpower and spoke with him briefly about Saskpower's presence at the event. While at the Pinehouse Tent we spoke with Jason McKay from MN-S who was also visiting the tent as well as Carolanne and Stephanie from Denison. The Pinehouse elders that we were able to speak to had questions about the Commission licensing decision for Key, McArthur and Rabbit, the ISR mining method and the Denison site itself. Mike Natamagan, Mayor of Pinehouse, was also there but we were not able to speak to him. After leaving the Pinehouse area we spoke to some MN-S registry staff as well as one Metis Citizen who once hearing who we work for had questions about SMR's, uranium processing, the fuel cycle, and uranium mining jobs.

We also had the opportunity to speak with some fellow federal government employees' from Veterans affairs who gave some excellent advice for our potential future booth. They had managed to sneak in past the registration deadline and set up a table in the main hall however they told us the deadline was apparently sometime in March. For us booking the space for an outside tent where more people are likely to be wandering around would be the best as the Veterans Affairs' table was both isolated and near the music of the main hall which makes it very difficult to have conversations. That being said we should keep an eye out for announcements for vendor registration for the Back to Batoche event early next year in order to secure that spot. The Saskatoon police also had a booth beside the Veterans Affairs stall and we briefly spoke with them and they asked a bit about what we both did in our work for the CNSC.

The amount of people, even on Thursday before the event really started, was substantial and not only were many people from the northern communities like Pinehouse were there but also from many other communities from southern Saskatchewan as well as from Alberta and BC. The people that we talked to that had not heard of us were very interested and engaged and we had very good conversations about what the CNSC does and the Nuclear industry in general and overall, I think that this would be an excellent event for the CNSC to come out to in a more significant way in future years.

Please let me know if you have any other question about the event or you want to see more pictures as I was limited in the volume that I could send along via an email.

Best,  
Torin Takala  
Project Officer  
Uranium Mines and Mills Division  
[torin.takala@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:torin.takala@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#); [hhill@mns.work](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); Manickum, Katherine;  
**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Meeting Notes - August 14th  
**Sent:** 2023-08-17 3:48:51 PM

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Good afternoon Brent,

Below I have included the meeting minutes from our monthly meeting on Monday. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions on the notes!

Thank you

-

**CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting**

Monday August 14<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST

Participants: Jes Way, Wish Yen, Sydney Nickolet, Doug Wylie, Nicole Frigault, Brent Laroque, Hughie Hill and Andrew Spriggs

**Denison Wheeler River - CNSC Update:**

-CNSC has concluded our completeness check of Denison's responses to IR's and there were a few that did not pass completeness. The FIRT will not be able to move on to the technical review. Denison will need to go back and rework some responses before resubmitting.  
-CNSC will let the FIRT know about Denison not passing completeness, but nothing has been sent out publicly yet.

**MN-S Update on Wheeler River:**

-MN-S completed the data collection for the Denison TLU study but will be heading back up to the community in order to verify the audio recordings and transcribe the interviews. This will be happening in the coming weeks.  
-MN-S is discussing a capacity agreement with Denison. MN-S is wanting to set up a similar process to NexGen where community is more involved in the process including meetings with community leadership – Brent needs to get a budget to Denison.

**NexGen Rook I - CNSC Update:**

-NexGen is getting ready to submit IR responses at any time now  
    -Will have 60 days to review once the technical review begins  
-Brent had a question on the FIRT and who was on that for MN-S  
    -CNSC responded that Shannon and Marlene were on the FIRT for MN-S  
    -Brent clarified that Shannon is no longer working on consultation and engagement files so he will find a replacement for Shannon – possibly Andrew.  
    -FIRT correspondence will go to Brent for now and he will distribute it out  
-It is best if the Nations accept the IR responses rather than NexGen making the assumption that they are accepted in their response

**MN-S Update on Rook I:**

-MN-S is currently working with NexGen to verify concerns and IR's and have been meeting regularly

**UMM ROR:**

-The uranium mines and mills ROR engagement session is taking place in Saskatoon on Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> for one day. It will be located at the Delta Marriott downtown Saskatoon and lunch will be provided.

-The final agenda was sent out to Brent on August 11<sup>th</sup>

-MN-S let CNSC know that during that week, most of local leadership will be out of town so it will most likely just be Brent and Andrew in attendance on September 20<sup>th</sup> but Brent will confirm with CNSC by the deadline of September 1<sup>st</sup>

**Fission Patterson South Project:**

-CNSC confirmed that they sent the official notification letter for the licensing application to MN-S.

-CNSC has met with Leonard Montgrand from NR-2 in July and have a placeholder for a second meeting scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup>. CNSC hasn't heard back from Leonard on the status of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting so it may be cancelled. MN-S confirmed that CNSC can proceed with the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting with Leonard if he chooses to do so.

-MN-S may have more of an update on Fission at the next monthly meeting.

**Next Meeting** – currently scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST. Jes and Nicole will be travelling but Sydney, Ryan, Wish and Doug are available and so are Brent and Andrew. Decided to keep the next meeting for September 11<sup>th</sup>

Best,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#);  
[wsmith@kineepik.ca](#); [bнатomagan@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#);  
[blaroque@mns.work](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#);  
[sfladager@mns.work](#); [aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
**Bcc:** [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#);  
[gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#);  
[mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#); [Heidi Klein](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Steven Coupland](#); [Sorouche Mirmiran](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Yen. Wish](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Additional August 2023 Completeness Check and Next Phase of EIS Technical Review  
**Sent:** 2023-08-31 5:48:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide another update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) Process.

On August 18, 2023, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted responses to information requests (IRs) for the proposed Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are sufficient to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [August 28, 2023 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The 90-day technical review has since begun, and will conclude by November 27, 2023. The focus of this review will be the following documents, all posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(August 18, 2023\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)

- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting September 11th Notes  
**Sent:** 2023-09-19 2:17:28 PM

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Sounds good, Brent. Thanks for letting us know!

Sydney

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:59 AM  
**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Wylie, Doug <doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Frigault, Nicole <Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.work>  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting September 11th Notes

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Thank you Sydney. Still no word on the “one voice” discussion, but it has been flagged with our Legal and senior management.

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**From:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 11:07 AM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Wylie, Doug <[doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:doug.wylie@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Frigault, Nicole <[Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nicole.Frigault@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting September 11th Notes

Hi Brent,

Thanks for meeting with us for our monthly meeting last week. See below the notes from that meeting. Please let me know if you have any edits or changes to the notes!

-

CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting – September 11<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST:

Participants: Sydney Nickolet, Ryan Froess, Wish Yen, Doug Wylie and Brent Laroque

Denison Wheeler River:

- Denison has resubmitted their EIS submission package and they have passed the CNSC completeness check
- The Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) is undergoing the technical review phase and will finish reviewing responses to the IRs towards the end of November
- CNSC would be happy to discuss any valued components that MN-S wants the FIRT to be aware of that may have come out of the TLU study
  - CNSC anticipates another round of comments and the TLU could be submitted then if not ready for this round
- MN-S is hoping to have a draft of the TLU finished by the end of the month
  - Denison has requested the TLU as soon as possible and MN-S is hoping to speed through the draft phase so they can provide it to Denison
- MN-S is formalizing a joint working group with Denison to ensure there is consensus on the EIS comments that MN-S provided
  - Difficult with 2 Regions (NR1 and NR3) being involved in Denison unlike the NexGen project
- Andrew will be in Uranium City next week to wrap up the TLU with community

#### Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Funding (ISCF):

- Currently Hugh Hill is on a one year contract with the Denison funding and it is expiring in November so MN-S is planning to keep him on with the CNSC funding that was provided
  - Hugh grew up in Chitek Lake area but has family in the Buffalo Narrows area so is a local hire from the community

#### Fission Patterson South:

- Fission is quiet right now as CNSC is waiting on the EIS to be submitted to the province which is expected end of 2023 or early 2024
- Fission licensing application has come in but it was not complete so CNSC is awaiting more documents
- MN-S hasn't been as active on Fission due to Denison and NexGen taking up a lot of time throughout the summer months
- Fission is hoping to have some community sessions in the fall/early winter. CNSC hasn't been officially invited yet but hopefully will know more soon
- CNSC asked about the consultation process for the Fission project that MN-S wants to take since Leonard mentioned that he wants to be the main point of contact on the consultation for Fission and CNSC wanted to know how to move forward since typically we work through the MN-S.
  - ACTION:** Brent responded that he is going to seek clarity on this as MN-S is taking the 'one voice' approach when it comes to industry projects and confirm it with the CNSC.
  - Brent mentioned that NR2 has been more assertive ever since the signing of the NexGen IBA
  - CNSC would need something in writing to clarify the proper approach to consultation for the Fission project

#### Beaverlodge:

- Brent was invited to the long term monitoring workshop in Uranium City this week
- Kristin has been involving MN-S in Beaverlodge activities more frequently since the last Beaverlodge hearing and MN-S is working well with Cameco currently – have been involving NR1 in activities on the project as well

NexGen Rook I:

- NexGen has submitted their EIS submission package and Nicole is currently completing the 30-day completeness check
- MN-S, NexGen and CNSC may have a meeting scheduled with President/ Vice President of MN-S in Ottawa with CNSC Executive and NexGen Executive in October or November
- FIRT technical review will kick off if NexGen passes the completeness check
  - Next meeting we can confirm who the FIRT participants are for MN-S
- EA Report writing is a later step in the process and CNSC can work with MN-S on that when the time comes

SMR:

- MN-S is planning an upcoming meeting with SaskPower and ER3 to talk through the siting process for the proposed SMR
- SaskPower has said they will not be providing money to MN-S or ER3 for this meeting
- MN-S is trying to get money from the Province's fast track grants for this meeting but are hitting road blocks
- ACTION:** Sydney to check with Adam on funding opportunities for SaskPower project and the Region (complete)
  - Adam confirmed that there is funding available through Stream 3 of ISCF for either a tri-party meeting between MN-S ER3, SaskPower and CNSC on SMR's or the funding could support a workshop on SMR's with the Region.
  - Brent will let CNSC know if they receive funding through the Province and if not, he will apply under CNSC Stream 3

ROR:

- Engagement session on September 20th at the Delta downtown
- Brent, Andrew and possibly Hugh will be there in-person and Brent may give a quick presentation on the MN-S during the morning of the session
  - \*EDIT\* Brent confirmed that Andrew and Hugh won't be there due to travel but Brent is bringing recent hires from the MN-S engagement team.

-**ACTION:** Ryan will update the meeting invites for October and November so they do not land on the stat holidays (complete)

Thanks,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Denison Metis Knowledge Study Draft  
**Sent:** 2023-09-28 1:29:15 PM

---

Thanks for the update Brent.

Wish is off today but we will be interesting in learning more about the MN-S Métis knowledge Study for the Denison project when its becomes available and perhaps this is something we can add for discussion at our next monthly meeting on next steps etc. I have included Jessica and Sydney on the correspondence so they are aware.

Have a great weekend,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.work>  
**Sent:** September 28, 2023 8:50 AM  
**To:** Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** MN-S Denison Metis Knowledge Study Draft

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Morning Wish. I have a reminder in my calender to reach out to you regarding the MN-S Métis Knowledge Study for the Denison project. Right now it is with Chris Gall our chief legal and Arend Hoekstra with Cassels for review. It'll probably be at least another week. We still attempting to find times that work with community to review it, but it's increasingly looking like we'll have to share the draft with only legal review and not community review.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

306-361-3189

310 - 20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

## Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory



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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work); [Andrew Spriggs](#); Brent Laroque;  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting Summary Notes - October 10th  
**Sent:** 2023-10-17 3:22:48 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent, Andrew and Hughie,

See below the notes from our monthly meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any questions or edits to the minutes. Have a great rest of your week!

-

**CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting – October 10<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST**

Participants: Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet, Jes Way, Nicole Frigault, Wish Yen, Hughie Hill, and Andrew Spriggs

Denison Wheeler River:

- MN-S has a draft report ready for the TLU study and is currently being reviewed by the MN-S legal team
- Hoping the finalized first draft will be ready for the deadline of October 24th and then will have a final copy ready 30 days after that
  - Found lots of use in the Denison area from the Metis that are west of the site - Patunak, Beavual, etc.
  - Didn't interview anyone from Pinehouse
  - Found some use from people out of La Ronge and Uranium City – interviews discovered that people from Uranium City that went to work at mines in the Denison area (Key Lake, McArthur River, etc.) ended up developing land use in the area during their off time.
- CNSC is doing some outreach in Pinehouse at the end of October
  - MN-S will be attending on the 24th
- CNSC is still working on the EIS technical review in response to the IR's
  - Deadline is for technical review is October 20th and will be getting back to Denison on Nov 27th
- CNSC will resend information on remaining PFP and how MN-S can access those funds of \$27,500.00

NexGen Rook I:

- Upcoming meeting in Ottawa with MN-S, NR2, NexGen and CNSC at the end of the month

-NexGen didn't pass the completeness check when they resubmitted their IR responses - they were missing a few technical documents and engagement documents

- Haven't heard back from NexGen yet on the completeness check - **\*update\*** CNSC is meeting with NexGen on Oct 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss the completeness check
- Once they resubmit and pass the completeness, CNSC will pass that onto MN-S for their technical review
- MN-S had one implementation meeting with NexGen and Leonard has been chatting with Adam from NexGen on the EIS and the verification of that process
- CNSC is wanting to work with MN-S and NexGen on the EIS comments from MN-S and ensuring the responses are verified by MN-S and NR2

Fission:

-MN-S is planning 2-3 community meetings on the project in November. NR2 is taking the lead on organizing

- CNSC to keep this on our radar as it would be a good opportunity for CNSC to come to the meeting as well and talk about how CNSC is involved in this project
- MN-S finished interview portion of the TLU for Fission and will be getting a report together shortly

-Fission funded MN-S to complete this study

SaskPower:

- MN-S won't know until October 16th whether or not they received funding from the province for the Nov 4th meeting in Estevan.
- Once they hear, MN-S will reach out to CNSC with agenda and invite

**ACTION:** CNSC (Adam Z.) will resend the email to Brent about the remaining Denison PFP funding (complete)

**ACTION:** MN-S will share agenda and invite for Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> meetings with CNSC on SaskPower once available

**ACTION:** MN-S will share information on Fission community meetings with CNSC once available

Cheers,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
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Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting Minutes - Nov 21st  
**Sent:** 2023-11-24 2:33:57 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent and Andrew,

Please see below the minutes from our monthly meeting earlier this week! I have also attached the CNSC Confidentiality Request Form for Traditional Knowledge if you are interested in filling it out prior to you submitting the Denison and Fission TLU's to CNSC – it allows for protection of the information that you are sharing with the CNSC. If you would like, we are happy to walk through the form with you at a later date as well if you would like. Let me know if you have any questions on the form or the minutes!

Hope you both have a great weekend and goodluck at the MNLA this weekend 😊

Sydney

-

**MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting – November 21<sup>st</sup> 1:30pm-2:30pm CST**

Participants: Ryan Froess, Wish Yen, Sydney Nickolet, Doug Wylie, Brent Laroque and Andrew Spriggs

**NexGen Rook I Project:**

- CNSC received NexGen's resubmission of IR responses with the outstanding IR's and have determined that this submission has passed completeness check
- We are now in the technical review phase and information about that should go out this week to the FIRT
- CNSC is meeting with NexGen to work through the licensing documents and refining the documents that have been submitted

- NexGen from the licensing side is planning to travel out to Ottawa in late November to meet regarding licensing
- The provincial EA for NexGen has been approved with multiple conditions on it

- CNSC recommends MN-S reach out to Steve Wilkie from the Province to discuss the approval of the provincial EA and the conditions that are surrounding the approval
- CNSC met with Keith, Leonard and Marlene and NexGen representatives in Ottawa to conduct a meet and greet including an overview of engagement and consultation to date on the NexGen file

- High-level meeting

-Big takeaway was on the airstrip and CNSC took an action to reevaluate that

-Nicole is currently looking at this action and will reach out once CNSC has a conclusion

-CNSC attended a caribou workshop meeting and there were representatives from NR2 in attendance - Jenna Nichols and Bryan MacDonald

-NexGen gained feedback from the Nations on what they would want to see in their caribou offset plan

-MN-S has a meeting set up with NexGen for next Monday to discuss the IR's and work through some of them together with NexGen

### **SaskPower SMR Project:**

-MN-S did receive funding from the province to set up meetings with ER3 on the SaskPower project on the consultation side which are currently planned for December 10<sup>th</sup>

-Brent is concerned that the Province is only planning to provide funding to MN-S this one time and not in the future

-Since they received funding from the Province, MN-S did not need to apply for CNSC's ISCF funding

-MN-S may be interested in applying into the ISCF in the future for SMR meetings/workshops

-CNSC is waiting for SaskPower to formally choose a site and then will be submitting a draft project description to the Impact Assessment Agency (IAAC) into 2024 and 2025

-CNSC will have ISCF funding available to support work on SMR's like workshops or meetings to introduce CNSC to the MN-S impacted Regions

### **Funding:**

-CNSC mentioned upcoming funding into 2024 and this included funding on revisions REGDOCS into 2024.

-A few REGDOCs that will be coming up for revision into 2024 will be:

-REGDOC 2.3.3 Periodic Safety Reviews in Q1

-REGDOC 2.10.1 Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response (opportunity has closed)

-REGDOC 3.2.1 Public Information and Disclosure in Q1

-REGDOC 3.2.2 Indigenous Engagement in Q3

-REGDOC 1.3.1 Licence Application Guide for Uranium Mines and Mills in Q1

-CNSC asked about the ISCF Stream 1 funding and when Hughie will move over onto the funding

-MN-S and CNSC will schedule a meeting to work through roles and responsibilities on the funding

**Denison Wheeler River Project:**

-CNSC is finalizing the technical review and will be sending Denison a letter with the results on Monday

-MN-S submitted the draft of the TLU but haven't been able to finalize the document since they haven't met with the Regions yet but will be meeting with NR3 and NR1 in December

-CNSC would be interested in seeing the study once finalized if MN-S is comfortable

-CNSC has confidentiality agreements to keep the document confidential

-MN-S will check with their internal legal team about sharing the document with CNSC

-Denison is further behind with their licensing documents than they are with the EA but have been submitting documents to CNSC

-CNSC will provide any licensing updates on Denison at next meeting

-CNSC enjoyed the trip to NR3 on the Denison project and were able to attend community meetings in Pinehouse, Beauval and Ile a la Crosse

**Fission Patterson South Project:**

-MN-S had a meeting with Fission yesterday to talk about the study report because it is due now

-MN-S and Two World's presented information on the study and MN-S has promised to have the study to Fission by the end of the month

-Fission expressed that there will be a delay on the draft EIS submission - now planning to submit a few months into 2024 rather than a submission in January

-CNSC mentioned that Keith, Marlene and Leonard mentioned that they are interested in learning more about Fission (expressed at the NexGen meeting in Ottawa) and would be looking to set up a meeting into the new year with NR2, CNSC and MN-S to discuss the project and roles and responsibilities moving forward

-MN-S agrees that this would be beneficial to set up

**ACTIONS:**

-CNSC will send through some dates and times in December to meet with Brent and Hughie regarding Stream 1 funding and getting that started (complete). MN-S to respond which dates work the best for them.

-MN-S will check in with their internal legal team about sending CNSC the draft Denison and Fission TLU studies

-If MN-S agrees, Brent will send the studies over to CNSC

-Confidentiality form is attached to this email

-CNSC will add MN-S (Brent) to the mailing list that informs the public and Indigenous Nations on upcoming revisions to the REGDOCs

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and  
Homeland of the Métis  
Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Yen, Wish](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Takala, Torin](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#);  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](#); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](#);  
[georges@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blarogue@mns.work](#);  
[slandriecrossland@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#);  
[aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#);  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#);  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#);  
[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#);  
[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#);  
[mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** Full Public and Indigenous Distro List

**Sent:** 2023-12-08 2:04:00 PM

---

To all participants of the Wheeler River regulatory review process,

CNSC staff will be providing regular updates to all those who have participated and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project, in the form of project bulletins.

Please find the Winter Project Bulletin (dated December 2023) attached to this email which will provide a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", in both English and French.

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>.

If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please reply to this email to let us know.



Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aEIC.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject/iaac-aEIC.gc.ca).

**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** 2023-12-23-Meeting minutes-MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs  
**Sent:** 2024-01-24 5:04:00 PM

---

Good afternoon everyone,

I apologize for the delay in sharing these meeting minutes from December. Please find them attached below for your review.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



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Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

December 18, 2023 3:30-4:30PM EST

Attendees: Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill, Konrad Gorzowski, Jessica Way, Nicole Frigault, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

**NexGen**

- Discussions are moving forward on the IBA
- IR comments and feedback were discussed with NexGen and will be shared back in early January for sign-offs
- MN-S is working with NexGen to present to the EC committee
- MN-S is following up on the airport construction process on behalf of NexGen
  - CNSC staff reiterate that as the airport has been scoped within the project description submitted by NexGen, construction on the airport cannot begin until the EA process is complete

**SRC Rare Earth Processing facility**

- Discussions with SRC are underway but are preliminary
- MN-S is concerned with thorium as a by-product of the rare earth processing and would like to know when CNSC would provide oversight of radioactive by-products
  - CNSC waste management staff would only inspect the facility if thorium by-product is processed or above a certain threshold (similar to uranium as a by-product of mining other minerals)
- ISCF-Stream 3 would be able to support communities that aren't currently impacted by a project – and additional discussions on funding to build capacity to understand this project and participate in the provincial EA process can be provided

**Fission**

- CNSC is currently awaiting for the provincial EIS to be submitted (likely Feb/Mar 2024). Fission is going through a provincially led EA process but CNSC will be reviewing all documentation as a federal expert in the process.
- CNSC has sent out notification letters to the identified Nations back in June regarding the license application that was submitted to CNSC. Since then, CNSC has met with NR-2 in August regarding the Fission project and has continued to speak to Fission at our monthly meetings with MN-S. CNSC is interested in setting up a larger meeting in 2024 with MN-S and NR2 which may potentially also include the Province and Fission at the meeting, if MN-S is interested.
- CNSC is the federal regulator for licensing and will be providing documents regarding environmental protection for consideration in the licensing process
  - As with other projects, mine construction cannot proceed until a licence to construct is granted by CNSC
  - CNSC is still early in the licensing review process for Fission but once the all the documents are submitted then there will be an opportunity for participants to review the documentation and participate in the hearing process. CNSC will continue to update MN-S on the Fission project and potential opportunities to be engaged and involved in the regulatory review process including funding opportunities.

#### **Engagement**

- CNSC is interested in attending any MN-S events or engagement sessions with MN-S Regions to discuss any upcoming projects and project impacts
  - CNSC would be happy to provide a deep dive into specific subjects or federal processes, if MN-S is interested
- ISCF-Stream 1 will likely open up in Spring 2024 – callouts will be shared in the new year and CNSC will ensure to keep MN-S updated on any funding opportunities in 2024
- Open House at Uranium City is potentially being planned for Spring/Early Summer
  - MN-S wants to focus on engaging with the community rather than diving into technical information during these sessions
  - MN-S provides Cameco kudos for reaching out to engage on monitoring sites and early discussions have taken place. It's a step in the right direction on engagement with Cameco

#### **SaskPower SMR**

- Would the ISCF cover TLUs for the Athabasca region for SMRs?
  - MN-S should communicate with SaskPower regarding funding for TLUs for the SMR project however, only the Southern and Central parts of the province are currently being consulted with on SaskPower's two potential siting locations – Estevan and Elbow
  - Once Stream 1 opens up in Spring 2024, MN-S can look into applying into that in order to complete TLU's for MN-S Regions
  - SaskPower has indicated that they don't want to fund MN-S directly and fast-track funding from Province is two-months behind
  - There is also currently no project description provided to date

---

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** July 10, 2023 1:33 PM

**To:** Froess, Ryan; Wylie, Doug; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Brent Laroque; Frigault, Nicole; Way, Jessica;

Andrew Spriggs; Yen, Wish

**Cc:** hhill@mns.work; Nickolet, Sydney

**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs

**When:** December 18, 2023 2:30 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-06:00) Saskatchewan.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Updated monthly meetings between CNSC and MNS on the two EA files – please forward to others needed on the calls as needed.

Brent - needing to move to next week as we have all have town hall today – let me know if date and time do not work?

---

–

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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Phone Conference ID: 845 954 840#

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work);  
**Subject:** MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting - January 8th 1pm-1:30pm CST  
**Sent:** 2024-01-12 3:36:10 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

See below the notes from our meeting on Monday. Please let me know if you have any edits to the notes and I can incorporate the changes! Hope you have a great weekend!

-

**MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting – January 8<sup>th</sup> 1pm-1:30pm CST**

Participants: Sydney Nickolet, Jes Way, Doug Wylie, Konrad Gorzowski, Nicole Frigault, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill, Brent Laroque

**MN-S Update:**

- MN-S has hired Janelle and she will be working on Climate Change initiatives on Brents team
- MN-S had a EC meeting with NexGen in December and have a another meeting scheduled on Friday – things have been going well with NexGen and validating the IR's
- MN-S will flag the TLU's (Denison and Fission) with MN-S internal legal at their meeting tomorrow and get back to CNSC about sharing the documents
- Fission TLU was sent to Can North on the Friday before Christmas and it is currently in their hands - draft copy

-Will be meeting with community on the 22nd on the Fission TLU to finalize the report

-CNSC can reach out to Kristy Ross from MN-S on having a booth at the 2024 Back to Batoche days. Brent shared Kristi's email with Sydney

**NexGen:**

-CNSC would like to have a meeting with MN-S on the IR's to confirm the IR's are closed out from MN-S's end

-Andrew will probably take the lead on that meeting from MN-S but Brent will join if available

-Nicole can reach out to Andrew to begin setting this up

**Denison:**

-Denison is reviewing CNSC's response to the IR's right now

- Denison is looking to resubmit responses to the outstanding IR's by the end of January
- MN-S met with Denison on Dec 19th -

- MN-S is working towards a joint working group process for Denison

- MN-S is trying to arrive at a one voice agreement internally (similar approach that was taken for NexGen) - MN-S is hoping they can move that forward within the next three weeks

- Denison spoke about the TLU that MN-S completed and how they are planning to incorporate it into the EIS - Denison feels that MN-S's concerns raised in the TLU are similar to other Indigenous groups and feels from a general standpoint that these views are represented within the EIS.

- MN-S and Denison have a meeting in January scheduled to continue the conversation

#### **Fission:**

- Doug will be moving to back up from CNSC on the Fission file and Shannon will be taking over as lead for the EA on the file

- CNSC is currently waiting for the EIS to be submitted provincially - expected in March 2024 where CNSC will review the document as federal expert in the process

- MN-S is meeting with Fission on the Jan 22nd and going into community on Feb 6th and 7th in La Loche and Buffalo Narrows to share the EIS findings with community

#### **Beaverlodge:**

- On Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 Cameco submitted a formal request to the CNSC to release the remaining 27 Beaverlodge properties into the Institutional Control Program (ICP)

- CNSC is anticipating a Commission hearing for Beaverlodge at the end of 2024 (approx. November)

- This will likely be a public Commission hearing where we will accept written and oral interventions from Indigenous Nations and the public

- There will be an opportunity for Indigenous Nations to apply for Participant Funding (PFP) for this hearing

- CNSC will ensure to keep MN-S updated as this progresses and will send the information on funding to MN-S once released

#### **ACTIONS:**

- CNSC to send MN-S update on Beaverlodge and when that is anticipated to be announced (complete - added in minutes)

- CNSC to send around invite for Jan 18th to onboard Hughie to the Stream 1 CNSC funding (complete)

- CNSC to work with MN-S to set up a meeting in the near future to discuss finalizing the NexGen IR's

-CNSC to reach out to Kristi Ross in the near future to begin planning for Batoche

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and  
Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Brent Laroque  
**To:** [Yep, Wish](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Draft TLU for Wheeler River EA  
**Attachments:** [20240212 - CNSCConfidentialityRequest.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2024-02-12 3:44:40 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Here you go Wish!

---

**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:10 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Draft TLU for Wheeler River EA

Good afternoon Brent,

I wanted to follow up on the confidentiality form for the draft TLU. We want to make sure that the draft report is appropriately managed per the MN-S's requests.

Would you mind filling out and signing the confidentiality form and sharing it back? If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)  
Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233  
 **Government of Canada** **Gouvernement du Canada**

---

**From:** Yen, Wish  
**Sent:** Friday, February 2, 2024 10:26 AM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

Thank you for sharing the draft study Brent! Unfortunately the File Exchange system is very old, archaic and not intuitive. We really appreciate that you're able to share the draft Métis Knowledge Study in advance of our next technical review of the draft EIS.

I've saved the report in our system following our privacy and protected documents policy.

I'll share with Jes, Ryan and Sydney and internal CNSC SMEs for review as well.

Thank you again and have a wonderful weekend!

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)  
Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233  
 **Government of Canada** **Gouvernement du Canada**

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 8:47 PM  
**To:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

File 3 of 3.

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**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 1, 2024 2:43 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

Good afternoon Brent,

I just wanted to follow up and see if you were able to gain access to the File Exchange website? I shared the folder that you'd be able to upload the TLU study in, but please find a direct link here as well. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you encounter any issues uploading the study.

<https://fx.cnscccsn.gc.ca/url/mjdivham6batjqgi>

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)  
Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233  
 **Government of Canada** **Gouvernement du Canada**

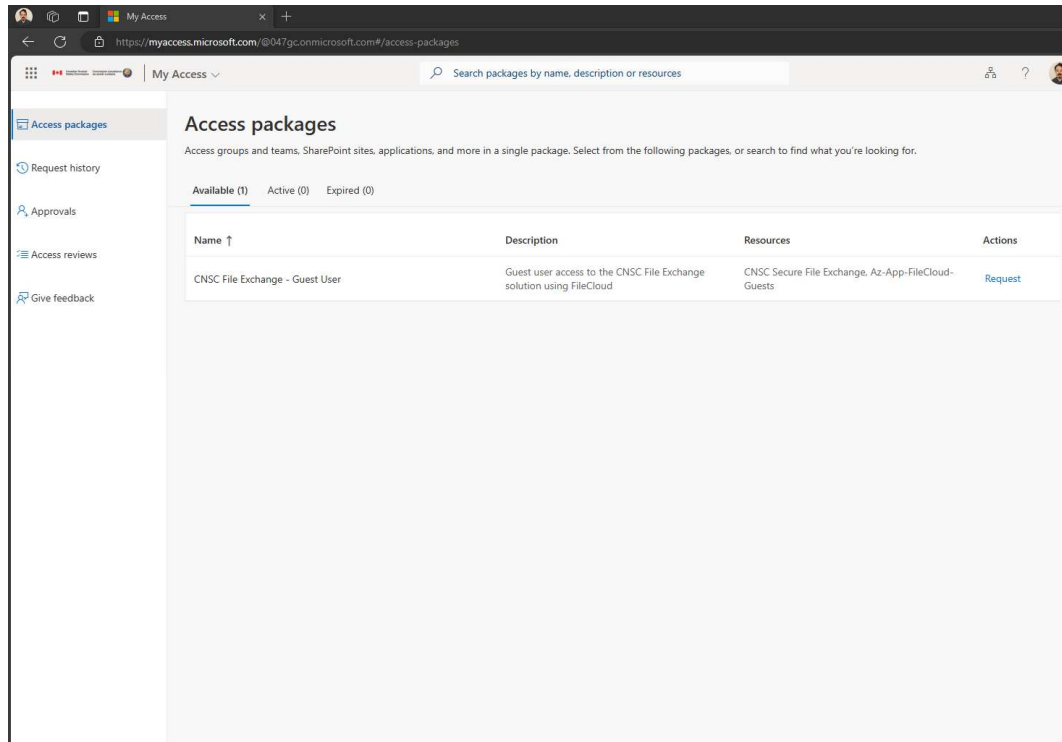
---

**From:** Yen, Wish  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2024 12:13 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 6:12 PM  
**To:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; TSC-CST (CNSC/CCSN) <[tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hey Yen, I'm in, but I'm not 100% clear on next steps, I sent a "request" (blue link below). Presumably after it's been approved I'll have access to upload?



**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:40 AM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; TSC-CST (CNSC/CCSN) <[tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

Good morning Brent,

Please let me know if you have any issues registering on our network or confirm once you've registered.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)  
Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233

**From:** TSC-CST (CNSC/CCSN) <[tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:tsc-cst@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 25, 2024 8:30 AM  
**To:** [blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work)  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Welcome to CNSC File exchange / Bienvenue! Échange de fichiers CCSN

Welcome to CNSC File exchange!

With this account, you can upload, send, and receive documents with CNSC partners (up to [Protected-B classification](#)).

**You have also received an additional Microsoft email** on behalf of CNSC containing an invitation to the CNSC File Exchange. Click 'Accept Invitation' in this email to begin using the CNSC File Exchange. Please ensure to check your Junk Folder or Deleted Folder for this email.

Once completed you may request the CNSC File Exchange package under this link: [My Access \(microsoft.com\)](#).

Please refer to the [CNSC File exchange user guide \(PDF\)](#) for more information about the tool. If you experience problems with CNSC File exchange, please refer to this user guide. If the problem persists, contact the [CNSC Technical Support Centre](#).

**Important!** If you no longer require your account, or leave your organization, please notify your CNSC guarantor to disable your account.

Thank you,

CNSC Technical Support Centre

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Salut,

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**Vous avez également reçu un autre courriel de Microsoft** au nom de la CCSN contenant une invitation à l'échange de fichiers de la CCSN. Cliquez sur " Accepter l'invitation " dans ce courriel pour commencer à utiliser le service d'échange de fichiers de la CCSN. Veuillez vérifier si ce courriel se trouve dans votre dossier de courrier indésirable ou votre dossier de suppression.

Une fois que vous avez terminé, vous pouvez demander la trousse d'échange de fichiers de la CCSN en cliquant sur ce lien : [My Access \(microsoft.com\)](#).

Pour en savoir davantage, vous pouvez consulter **le guide d'utilisation sur Échange de fichiers CCSN (en format PDF)**. Veuillez également vous y référer en cas de problème avec l'outil. S'il persiste, communiquez avec le [Centre de soutien technique de la CCSN](#).

**Important :** Si vous n'avez plus besoin du compte ou que vous quittez votre emploi, veuillez informer votre responsable au sein de la CCSN pour qu'il le désactive.

Cordialement,

Le Centre de soutien technique de la CCSN

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work);  
**Subject:** MN-S & CNSC Monthly Meeting - February 12th  
**Sent:** 2024-02-14 3:52:59 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

See below the notes from our meeting on Monday. Please let me know if you have any edits or comments on the minutes below! Hope you have a great rest of your day 😊

**CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting – February 12<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST**

Participants: Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet, Nicole Frigault, Wish Yen, Konrad Gorzowski, Jessica Way, Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, and Hughie Hill

**NexGen Update:**

- CNSC is sending the review results of the IR responses back to NexGen today
- MN-S has shared that they are happy with the IR comments from NexGen but CNSC noted that there are a few MN-S IR's that are stated as not accepted due to not seeing it within the document yet. They are conditionally accepted and will be finalized and accepted once CNSC see's the next revision of the EIS.
- CNSC will copy MN-S on the correspondents when sending this review back to NexGen as part of the FIRT process
- For the next round, NexGen will need to provide a revised EIS, an updated Indigenous Engagement Report and a commitments report
- CNSC will be asking NexGen for a further response on the Jan 5th letter from NexGen to determine what is happening at site and get a clearer picture
- The Region would like to meet with MN-S on the EA process (Leonard, Keith and Marlene) to discuss the process and address some questions that they have
  - CNSC can work to set this up and MN-S will share some dates that work for that meeting (meeting has been set for March 1, 2024)

**Denison Update:**

- Denison sent in the revised EIS and updated comments to IR's this past weekend and CNSC will be sending an email to confirm receipt of these documents
  - Once everything is resolved and CNSC and the FIRT agree that the IR's have been addressed, the CNSC will let Denison know that they can resubmit as a final EIS package
  - Then CNSC would move towards the drafting of a EA report and the rights impact assessment which CNSC will work with MN-S on drafting their sections, as appropriate
- CNSC is anticipating another 90-day review for this round of comments
- CNSC received MN-S's TLU study and is just awaiting the confidentiality form to be filled out
- CNSC is still completing our review on Denison's license application and once CNSC deems it sufficient, it will begin the 2-year technical assessment of the documents

**Fission Update:**

- CNSC is anticipating to get the EIS sometime in February. This will be a provincial process and the EIS will be coming in through the province and CNSC will be reviewing as a federal technical expert
- Fission may be sharing the EIS documents with MN-S and NR-2
- MN-S had two in-person community meetings with Fission in Buffalo Narrows and La Loche. They went well, except the information that was presented by Fission was very base level and more of an update than specifics on the project

**Beaverlodge Update:**

- Notification letter for the project will be sent out sometime in the next week or two by CNSC and Brent will be copied on the letter that will be sent to President McCallum
- MN-S isn't planning on being too heavily involved in the Beaverlodge project – they may apply for PFP to support Metis citizens living in the area around Uranium City

**ROR Update:**

- CNSC is looking at new ways to display the information for Indigenous Nations and the public
- There will be PFP available for the ROR this year which takes place in December through a Commission meeting. Written and oral interventions are welcome
- The CNSC will hold a ROR engagement session with Indigenous Nations, which usually takes place in the fall (September-October sometime) and MN-S has previously participated in

**SMR Update:**

- IAAC reached out to CNSC regarding MN-S inquiring about funding for SMR's in Saskatchewan. If MN-S is requiring funding for SMR's in the early engagement phase they can apply for funding through our Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund (ISCF) - [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Fund Application Guide - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#)
- MN-S is allowed to speak to any entity regarding funding, CNSC just wanted to ensure that if funding is needed for early engagement on SMR's then CNSC and SaskPower would be the ones to provide such funding. IAAC process and funding won't kick in until they receive an Initial Project Description (IPD) for the project
- Brent mentioned that MN-S did meet with IAAC on funding but it was more so on land use, not SMR's. The inquiry mentioned may have been WR2A reaching out to IAAC regarding funding. Brent mentioned that WR2A approached SaskPower for funding but SaskPower told them to contact IAAC.
- SaskPower is planning to narrow down the sites and the selection process within the coming months and then is planning to submit a draft IPD in 2024 and their final IPD to IAAC in early 2025.

**ACTIONS:**

- MN-S will share some dates with CNSC for NR-2 and MN-S to meet with CNSC on NexGen and then CNSC will work to set that meeting up (complete)
- MN-S to fill out the confidentiality form for the TLU that was sent to CNSC (complete)

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and  
Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la  
patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](#);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](#); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](#);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blaroque@mns.work](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#); [aspriggs@mns.work](#);  
[mbrunet@mns.work](#); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#);  
[shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#);  
[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#);  
[d.classen@sasktel.net](#); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#);

**Bcc:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#);  
[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#); [receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#);  
[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#);  
[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#);  
[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#);  
[rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#); [Heidi Klein](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Steven Coupland](#); [Sorouche Mirmiran](#);  
[Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Yen](#), [Wish](#), [Way](#), [Jessica](#);

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Revised EIS and Submission Package - February 2024

**Sent:** 2024-02-23 5:27:00 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

On February 10, 2024, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a revised draft EIS package for the proposed Wheeler River Project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding information requests (IRs) have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [February 21, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) will run from February 21, 2024 to May 20, 2024. Subject Matter experts will review the responses to IRs provided by Denison, which includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(February 21, 2024\)](#).
- [Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(February 21, 2024\)](#)

- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).



**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Cc:** [Roslyn Smith](#); [hhill@mns.work](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#); Manickum, Katherine;  
[Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs  
**Sent:** 2024-04-10 1:39:00 PM

---

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the monthly meeting minutes from March attached – I apologize for the delay in getting these out! The April minutes will follow soon.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

#### Wheeler River EA Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024 3-3:30PM EST

Attendees: Hughie Hill, Andrew Spriggs, Ryan Froess, Jes Way and Wish Yen

#### **CNSC-NR-2 Meeting**

- MN-S has no follow up questions on the meeting with CNSC, NR-2 was appreciative of the meeting and information shared
- CNSC has shared back IRs generated from the technical review with NexGen
  - MN-S had an implementation meeting for the IBA with NexGen to ensure updates were shared
  - NexGen is still addressing the public comments

#### **Wheeler River Project**

- Denison has submitted a revised draft EIS submission package in February
- CNSC and the FIRT are currently working on a technical review and will set up technical meetings with SMEs and Denison to address outstanding IRs
- CNSC is currently reviewing the TLU study that MN-S shared and will share back a “What We’ve Heard Report” to ensure we’ve accurately reflected the information shared
- CNSC is working with Denison to set up outreach and engagement sessions if MN-S has any communities that would be interested in the project update

#### **Fission**

- Fission has submitted a draft EIS to the Province of SK and CNSC is a SME reviewing the submission
- MN-S has consultants reviewing the draft EIS and will respond by April 15<sup>th</sup>
- CNSC will be setting up an outreach booth at the Back to Batoche event

**PFP Application**

- Letter for the hearing has been shared out and the PFP application will be shared shortly (ISCF Stream 2)
  - MN-S will be working with external consultant to provide online surveys to ensure community members are aware and can participate if interested
- MN-S has been invited to a tour from Cameco and Kristen from Cameco should be sharing an invite to Brent, Allen (May 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> in Uranium City)

**Action Items**

- CNSC to share meeting placeholder for NexGen quarter 2 NR-2 meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon
- Ryan to share REGDOC PFP applications

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 1:33 PM

**To:** Froess, Ryan; Frigault, Nicole; Wylie, Doug; Andrew Spriggs; Yen, Wish; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Brent Laroque; Way, Jessica

**Cc:** Roslyn Smith; hhill@mns.work; Shalyn Fladager; Manickum, Katherine; Nickolet, Sydney

**Subject:** MN-S/CNSC Monthly Meeting - Rook I / Wheeler River EAs

**When:** April 8, 2024 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (UTC-06:00) Saskatchewan.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Updated monthly meetings between CNSC and MNS on the two EA files – please forward to others needed on the calls as needed.

—

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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---

—

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque  
**Cc:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Summary of Meeting - April 8th  
**Sent:** 2024-04-16 5:33:44 PM

---

Hi Brent,

See below the notes from our monthly meeting on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you have any comments or edits to the notes and I can make those changes. Have a great evening!

-

**CNSC & MN-S Monthly Meeting – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST**

Participants: Sydney Nickolet, Ryan Froess, Wish Yen, Nicole Frigault, Hughie Hill, Andrew Spriggs, and Brent Laroque

**NexGen Update:**

- NexGen is preparing to resubmit their EIS package and response to IR's
  - NexGen may possibly submit within the next month
- CNSC has been having side meetings with NexGen and subject matter experts to confirm outstanding IR's and responses
- CNSC may be reaching out to MN-S in the near future regarding closing off summary of issues and concerns tables and rights impact assessments that CNSC will be writing in the coming months
  - CNSC will be writing the EA report which includes the rights impact assessment that MN-S and NR-2 will review
- CNSC addressed the article regarding NexGen and the licensing process
  - Article addresses the 24-month clock on the licensing process as NexGen still has a few outstanding items including the EIS. CNSC has paused that clock until outstanding items are addressed.
- CNSC may be attending the NexGen tour planned for either end of May or last two weeks of June - CNSC will probably send 3 staff to attend
- CNSC may be also be planning a CNSC led tour in the fall of 2024 which would include information on NexGen and Fission projects - more to come on this
- MN-S MNLA is taking place May 24-26 and the regional directors and local presidents will be in Saskatoon for that event
- When there is a final EIS on NexGen there will be another round of participant funding to review the EA report and to attend the commission hearing

**Denison Update:**

- Denison submitted their round 3 of responding to IR's with a revised final EIS in February and CNSC is wrapping up our review now and will be sending it back to Denison in May
- CNSC is planning to hold technical meetings with Denison on any outstanding IR's following this review to hopefully eliminate any outstanding IR's for the next round so that Denison can move forward with their final EIS

- All the same processes for NexGen will also take place for Denison including working with MN-S on summary of issues and concerns tables and right impacts assessment for MN-S to review
- There is a possibility that both hearings for Denison and NexGen may both take place next year in 2025

#### **Fission Update:**

- MN-S has submitted Type 1 comments to the Province on the EIS due to the lack of information from MN-S incorporated into the EIS including access trails, economics and others
  - The Province's response seemed very passive and did not indicate how those comments would be addressed
  - CNSC can raise this at our next meeting with the Province and Fission to understand how they will be addressing these concerns going forward
- The Fission EIS has been submitted to the Province for review in early March and CNSC is wrapping up our review on the document and will be sending our comments back to the Province shortly
- The Province will do a 30-day public consultation review once their comments have been wrapped up by Fission

#### **Beaverlodge:**

- Participant funding for Beaverlodge has been released and the deadline for applications is June 21st, 2024
- Beaverlodge tour is planned for the first week of May and an invite has been extended to MN-S with a couple seats available on the plane
- Hearing will take place in January 2025 and location is still being determined

#### **MN-S Updates:**

- MN-S is planning a conference on climate change and Metis guardians program on June 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Wanting to see if CNSC would have someone attend the conference and have someone from CNSC speak at the conference on the work that we do and the work we do together
  - Ryan would be interested in speaking at the conference on the IEMP program and other monitoring opportunities

#### **Funding:**

- Stream 1 of the Indigenous Stakeholder and Capacity Fund (ISCF) has just been announced and is open until June 15th, 2024
  - Stream 1 includes applications on capacity for Nations for resource hires, land use information, studies, etc.
- Stream 3 of the funding is open at all times and is used for things like conferences, workshops, meetings, travel, etc. that are not specific to a project
  - Brent mentioned that MN-S would be interested in this funding to host meetings with ER3 for the SaskPower project once SaskPower narrows down their locations

#### **ACTIONS:**

- CNSC to send over the confidentiality form for MN-S to review before sharing the Fission TLU study with CNSC (complete)

-MN-S to send CNSC more information on the June conference and invitation for Ryan to present (complete)

Thanks,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties  
intéressées

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory  
and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité  
6 et la patrie des Métis*



## NORTHERN VILLAGE OF PINEHOUSE

P.O. Box 130

PINEHOUSE LAKE, SK. S0J 2B0

PHONE: (306) 884-2030

FAX: (306) 884-2021

ADMIN EMAIL: [NVP@SASKTEL.NET](mailto:NVP@SASKTEL.NET)

Mike Natomagan  
Mayor  
Northern Village of Pinehouse

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Jessica Way  
Project Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
[Jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Dear Jessica Way,

### **Re: Support for the Wheeler River Project (the “Project”)**

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Village of Pinehouse (the “Village”) to confirm that the Village has entered into an agreement with Denison Mines Corp. in respect of the Project (“Community Benefit Agreement”). The Community Benefit Agreement provides, among other matters, for substantive commitments by Denison to support the Village in developing our economic capacity, and the support and consent of the Village for the development and operation of the Project.

The Village confirms that it supports the development and operation of the Project and intends to continue to support the Project in a manner consistent with its obligations in the Community Benefit Agreement.

Sincerely,

Mike Natomagan  
Mayor



# Northern Village of Ile-a-la Crosse

P.O. Box 280 Ile-a-la Crosse, Saskatchewan S0M 1C0

Phone: 306-833-2122 Fax: 306-833-2132

[village.of.ilealacrosse@sasktel.net](mailto:village.of.ilealacrosse@sasktel.net)

April 22, 2024

Jessica Way  
Project Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Jeff Dereniwski  
Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator  
Ministry of Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6

Via email: [Jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)  
[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)

Dear Jessica Way and Jeff Dereniwski:

Re: Support for the Wheeler River Project (the "Project")

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse "Ile a la Crosse" to confirm that Ile a la Crosse has entered into an agreement with Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison") in respect of the Wheeler River Project (the "Agreement"). The Agreement provides, among other matters, for substantive commitments by Denison to support Ile a la Crosse in developing our economic capacity, and the support and consent of Ile a la Crosse for the development and operation of the Project.

Ile a la Crosse confirms that we support the development and operation of the Project and intends to continue to support the Project in a manner consistent with our obligations in the Agreement.

Sincerely,

Duane Favel

Mayor, Northern Village of Ile a la Crosse

CC: Council Members



**Northern Hamlet of Cole Bay**

---

Box 80

Cole Bay, Sask. S0M 0M0

Phone (306) 829-4232

Fax (306) 829-4312

[hamletcb@sasktel.net](mailto:hamletcb@sasktel.net)

April 19, 2024

Jessica Way  
Project Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Jeff Dereniwski  
Senior Environmental Assessment  
Administrator  
Ministry of Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6

Via email: [Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)

Dear Jessica Way and Jeff Dereniwski:

Re: Support for the Wheeler River Project (the "Project")

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Hamlet of Cole Bay "Cole Bay" to confirm that Cole Bay has entered into an agreement with Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison") in respect of the Wheeler River Project (the "Agreement"). The Agreement provides, among other matters, for substantive commitments by Denison to support Cole Bay in developing our economic capacity, and the support and consent of Cole Bay for the development and operation of the Project.

Cole Bay confirms that we support the development and operation of the Project and intends to continue to support the Project in a manner consistent with our obligations in the Agreement.

Sincerely,

Nadine Coullonneur  
Mayor, Northern Hamlet of Cole Bay



PO Box 19 · Beauval, SK · S0M 0G0

**Phone:** (306) 288-2110

**Fax:** (306) 288-2348

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024**

Jessica Way  
Project Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Jeff Dereniwski  
Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator  
Ministry of Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6

Via email: [Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)

Dear Jessica Way and Jeff Dereniwski:

**Re: Support for the Wheeler River Project (the "Project")**

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Village of Beauval to confirm that Beauval has entered into an agreement with Denison Mines Corp. in respect of the Wheeler River Project. The Agreement provides, among other matters, for substantive commitments by Denison to support Beauval in developing our economic capacity, and the support and consent of Beauval for the development and operation of the Project.

Beauval confirms that we support the development and operation of the Project and intends to continue to support the Project in a manner consistent with our obligations in the Agreement.

If there are any additional documents or information needed to confirm this support, please do not hesitate to contact me at (306) 288-7123 or [mayor.beauval@sasktel.net](mailto:mayor.beauval@sasktel.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Daigneault".

---

Nick Daigneault  
Mayor, Northern Village of Beauval



# Northern Hamlet of Jans Bay

Box 230, Canoe Narrows SK, S0M 0K0  
Phone: (306) 829-4320 Fax: (306) 829-4424  
Email: [jansbay@sasktel.net](mailto:jansbay@sasktel.net)

April 22, 2024

Jessica Way  
Project Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Jeff Dereniwski  
Senior Environmental Assessment  
Administrator  
Ministry of Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6

Via email: [Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
[jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:jeff.dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)

Dear Jessica Way and Jeff Dereniwski:

Re: Support for the Wheeler River Project (the "Project")

I am writing on behalf of the Northern Hamlet of Jans Bay "Jans Bay" to confirm that Jans Bay has entered into an agreement with Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison") in respect of the Wheeler River Project (the "Agreement"). The Agreement provides, among other matters, for substantive commitments by Denison to support Jans Bay in developing our economic capacity, and the support and consent of Jans Bay for the development and operation of the Project.

Jans Bay confirms that we support the development and operation of the Project and intends to continue to support the Project in a manner consistent with our obligations in the Agreement.

Sincerely,

Joyce Maurice  
Mayor, Northern Hamlet of Jans Bay

**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Cc:** [Roslyn Smith](#); [hhill@mns.work](#); [Shalyn Fladager](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** 2024-05-13 MNS-CNSC monthly project meeting minutes  
**Sent:** 2024-05-14 2:06:00 PM

---

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the minutes from yesterday's meeting attached.

Andrew or Brent, please take a look at what I noted for the Fission project, I just want to make sure that I captured the information regarding consultation with the Province of SK accurately.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan/ MNS-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Update

May 13, 2024 1-2PM EST

MN-S - Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill, Christopher Gall, CNSC - Konrad Gorzowski, Nicole Frigault, Wish Yen, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet

CNSC would like to request shifting the NR-2 meeting from June 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday June 7<sup>th</sup>

**Wheeler River Project**

- Technical review is undergoing internal reviews and will be completed on May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Pinehouse Elder's gathering
  - MN-S may be travelling to the Pinehouse Elder's gathering (TBD) on June 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>
  - CNSC will be participating at the gathering on June 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup>
- MN-S has a few concerns to discuss with CNSC regarding Denison's engagement
  - Ideally a virtual meeting could be set up with local NR-3 Presidents
- Denison and MN-S will be moving forward with joint working group meetings with Denison as requested by MN-S but currently MN-S is doing an internal review on advancing this process
- MN-S will set up joint working groups with Denison pending approval from the legal team
  - IBA negotiations will also take place soon
  - CNSC staff encouraged MN-S to meet to discuss issue and concerns with Denison

- CNSC staff is open to meeting with MN-S staff and/or elected leadership on Denison in June.

#### **Rook I Project**

- Revised submission has not been received - anticipated for mid-to late -May
- Ongoing Exploration Permit work
  - CNSC sent NexGen a letter on February 12th letter requesting additional monitoring data regarding the ongoing work under the provincial exploration permit
    - CNSC staff want to ensure that NexGen did not complete any additional clearing that was not approved (demonstrated through aerial photos from the draft EIS)
    - CNSC requested that NexGen demonstrate that the baseline presented in the draft EIS has not been altered
      - Province of SK and other federal agencies are also waiting for this additional information requested of NexGen
  - NexGen responded to the letter this morning (May 13, 2024) and CNSC is currently reviewing this information – however at first glance – NexGen did not provide any monitoring data to demonstrate compliance with MBCA, SARA, etc.
    - CNSC will have internal meetings to determine the next steps and will meet with NexGen early next week to discuss

#### **Fission Project**

- The draft EIS was submitted to the Province of SK and CNSC submitted IRs to the Province as a technical expert on multiple technical areas including Indigenous engagement. The comments are now with the Province and the Province is currently working on compiling all the comments to send back to Fission.
- MN-S only got the DTC notification from the Province of SK a week ago, the engagement and outreach on the project has not been well communicated (Brent or Andrew, would you mind confirming this was accurately captured?)
- CNSC licensing process for the Fission project is currently ongoing and Fission is continuing to submit documents for CNSC review but only a few documents have been received to date.
- CNSC would like to schedule a separate meeting with MN-S to discuss the Fission project further and answer any questions that MN-S may have. We can also give an update on the project at the meeting with NR2.

#### **Outreach and Engagement**

- Northwest Tour (May 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>)
  - NexGen's annual information session
  - CNSC will be participating with a booth and will be available to speak to and answer any questions regarding Rook I and/or Fission
- Uranium City Tour (May 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>) for Beaverlodge outreach/engagement
- CNSC lead Regulatory Outreach Open House (Planning for Fall 2024)

- CNSC hopes to work with MN-S and NR-2 to set up an outreach event with introductions of CNSC to communities
- CNSC will be preparing a presentation and hosting dinner if the communities in the northwest are interested
- CNSC is also interested in getting into the schools to talk about who we are and what we do to students during this tour

## **PFP/Hearings**

### **Beaverlodge**

- PFP is due on June 21<sup>st</sup> – if an extension is needed, please let us know – the wiggle room is maybe 1 week
  - It will be 4-6 weeks for the decision to be released
  - MN-S is already working on the PFP and will be reviewing the application internally shortly
- Uranium City information and outreach meeting (September 24<sup>th</sup>)
  - MN-S tentatively have a meeting planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> and hope to engage the local president from Stony Rapids, elected officials and interested members of the community
  - Please don't hesitate to reach out to CNSC if we our participation in the event would be helpful
- The hearing location will be determined by the Registrar, but will most likely be held in Saskatoon. Requests for the hearing to be held in Stony Rapids will be hard to meet as there may not be sufficient accommodations available to support everyone that is part of the hearing.

### **UMMD ROR**

- Outreach session to be held the week of September 16th in Saskatoon
  - CNSC is trying to book it at the same time every year going forward to ensure it is on everyone's calendars
  - Meeting will focus on the ROR, but there will be updates the CNSC health science team and other topics of interest
- The ROR will have some larger updates to the formatting compared to previous years
  - Aiming to make the report shorter and easier to understand and disseminate
  - Will include the historic and decommissioned facilities (3-year review cycle in the RORs)
- PFP
  - MN-S would like to bring down a regional director or a delegate, but the PFP is too cumbersome for such a small amount of funding
  - Ryan will speak with Adam Z to see if there are alternative avenues for funding or grants (possibly under Stream 3 of the ISCF)
  - CNSC will let MN-S know once the funding is available for the UMM ROR

### **SaskPower**

- CNSC is trying to get ahead in outreach and early engagement and would like to have outreach events in the southern Saskatchewan in the future once a site is selected. CNSC

has no mines or mills to regulate in southern Saskatchewan and want to build up our presence and meet to build relationships with communities.

- Stream 3 funding is available for engagement with communities around the SaskPower proposed sites
  - Stream 1 funding will likely be available once the location is selected, but we are open to working and hearing from Nations on proposed funding applications earlier of interest.

ACTIONS:

- CNSC will reach out to MN-S to set up a separate meeting to learn more about the Fission project
- CNSC will reach out to MN-S to potentially reschedule the June meeting with NR2

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque  
**Cc:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [hhill@mns.work](mailto:hhill@mns.work);  
**Subject:** CNSC-MN-S Denison EA meeting - Saskatoon week of June 17  
**Sent:** 2024-05-07 3:37:05 PM

---

Hey Brent,

Hope things are well! We wanted to reach out and find a time to sit down with you and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to discuss Denison EA. Jessica will be in town the week of June 17 for some meetings and we were hoping you and others from the MN-S were available to meet?

Ideally we could sit down for morning or afternoon session and go through in some detail where we are at with MN-S concerns that MN-S has raised with respect to the project, discuss next steps and timelines on EA report, and continued consultation opportunities moving forward.

Are you available to meet the week of June 18? If so would morning or afternoon work best? Feel free to respond to here or give me a call with what might work best or alternative.

Have a great week and talk next week on Monday's monthly EA meeting.

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892



**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque; [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S - Métis Knowledge Study - CNSC What We Heard Report  
**Attachments:** [MN\\_S\\_What\\_We\\_ve\\_Heard\\_Report\\_on\\_draft\\_Metis\\_Knowledge\\_Study.DOCX](#)  
**Sent:** 2024-07-26 4:33:49 PM

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Good afternoon Brent and Andrew,

I hope the summer has been treating you both well and had some time to disconnect and spend time with family and friends, fish, and enjoy the summer!

We have completed our review of the Métis Knowledge Study (MK-S) that MN-S provided to us that was funded by Denison and shared with the CNSC for their Wheeler River Project. The purpose of this document is to summarize what CNSC staff understood from MN-S study, for discussion purposes. We are happy to discuss further if you would like when we meet again on August 9 and provide an update on the Denison Project in future meetings.

We do understand that many folks are on holidays as well so not a huge rush but hoping to seek any feedback on the report by August 30<sup>th</sup> if you have any. Once finalized, CNSC will continue to work with MN-S to ensure that the information captured is accurate for sharing with CNSC subject matter experts to ensure they are taking into consideration MN-S knowledge and land use information shared when drafting our EA report.

Thanks and enjoy the summer and see you next on August 9!

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

**From:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#)  
**To:** Brent Laroque; [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#);  
[Takala, Torin](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Denison Meeting - Aug 9th Notes and Issues & Concerns Table  
**Sent:** 2024-08-23 1:00:16 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent and Andrew,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us regarding the Denison project. Below I have included the notes and I have also attached the issues and concerns table for MN-S's review. Please let the team know if you have any questions or comments – hope you both have a great weekend!

**MN-S & CNSC Meeting on the Denison Project – Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1pm-2pm CST**

Participants: CNSC - Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet, Wish Yen, Konrad Gorzkowski, Torin Takala, Jessica Way, Justin McKeown, Rain Noakes MN-S - Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Arend Hoekstra (legal counsel), and Hilary Peterson (legal counsel)

**Denison Wheeler River Project:**

- CNSC is currently in the third phase of the EA process where we are in the technical review phase and it is currently delayed due to technical discussions to wrap up this phase.
- Once all responses are accepted then we would move to a final EIS where the EA report writing and review of that information will begin after receiving a final EIS.
- CNSC has compiled all of the issues and concerns relating to EIS coming from these meetings as well as reviews of documentation related to Wheeler River that MN-S has commented on.
  - CNSC will share this table with MN-S for comment and validation
- CNSC has received the TLU study for this project earlier this year and wants that information included within the EA report as well as the Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) that will be drafted following a final EIS. CNSC has shared the What We Heard Report back with MN-S for comment on the TLU study.
- The EA report will accompany the Commission Member Document (CMD) that is shared with the Commission prior to the hearing
- The RIA helps fulfill the duty to consult (DTC) under S.35 and is drafted by the CNSC staff with review/input provided by MN-S
- The EA needs to be decided first before the licensing decision can be decided
- There will be funding available again to review the final EA Report and attend the Commission hearing once there is a final EIS and CNSC will keep MN-S updated on all funding opportunities for this project.
- There are concerns coming up from the one-voice agreements between NR1 and NR3 and MN-S is wondering where to insert those concerns/comments.
  - Will be able to provide more comments near the end of the process when additional funding becomes available

**Upcoming Engagements/Events:**

- Potential Regulator-led community tour the week of October 7<sup>th</sup> to the northwest side of the province to present and answer questions on NexGen and Fission projects. MN-S will work with NR2 as well as CNSC to discuss if there is interest for La Loche and Buffalo Narrows.
- UMM ROR Engagement session on September 18<sup>th</sup>. CNSC will keep MN-S in the loop on location and agenda for that event.
  - MN-S representatives and possibly Regional Directors may be attending the event
- MN-S planning an engagement for the Beaverlodge project in U City and will keep CNSC updated with those plans as they move forward and if CNSC staff are required.

**SaskPower SMR Project:**

- MN-S is interested in having CNSC present and be involved in meetings with ER3 in the Estevan area to introduce them to the project and introduce the CNSC to the region. This is something that CNSC can fund under Stream 3 of our capacity fund.

**Fission Patterson South Project:**

- Fission is currently going through a provincial EA process where CNSC have been involved as technical experts.
- CNSC submitted comments on the draft EIS back to the Province in March. Fission has now responded to all comments from both the Province and CNSC and has shared those with the Province. CNSC is currently waiting for the Province to share those response with us.
- MN-S is concerned with this being a provincial EIS process and it not being as thorough as the federal process as the Province's DTC process is not as fulsome.
- CNSC hasn't received many licensing documents from Fission to date as it seems like they are focusing on their EIS for now.

**ACTIONS:**

1. CNSC to share the issues and concerns table with MN-S for the Denison project for their review (complete)
2. MN-S to provide comments to CNSC on the What We Heard Report, if any
3. CNSC to share Stream 3 application with MN-S for ER3 meetings for potential SaskPower SMR project
4. CNSC to reach back out to MN-S to gauge interest to fall tour for NexGen and Fission to the Northwest

Thanks,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
New Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties  
intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](#);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blaroque@mns.work](#);  
[slandriecrossland@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#);  
[aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
**Bcc:** [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#);  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#);  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#);  
[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#);  
[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#);  
[mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Dennis Sherratt](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
[jessielacosta2017@gmail.com](#); [Damien Georges](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
[Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Takala, Torin](#); [Paul James](#);  
[alfreddawatsare@erfn.net](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);

**Subject:** Wheeler River Update - Summer 2024

**Sent:** 2024-08-23 6:17:00 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

You are receiving this email because you have participated in and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Please see that attached project bulletin for summer 2024, which provides a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", as well as the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for this project](#).

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get->

[involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm](#)

If you would prefer not to receive updates like this in the future, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject/iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); Brent Laroque;  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Noakes, Rain](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC-MNS Wheeler River EA Meeting  
**Attachments:** [CNSC & MN-S Denison Meeting - Aug 9th Notes and Issues & Concerns Table](#); [MN-S - Métis Knowledge Study - CNSC What We Heard Report](#);  
**Sent:** 2024-09-24 1:22:29 PM

---

Hi Brent and Andrew,

Given that our meeting series ended and we haven't met since the beginning of August, I was wondering if we could get something in the calendar for October.

Could either of the following work for your team?:

- Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm SK time
- Tuesday October 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm SK time

Regarding the agenda, we'd like to share an update on progress specific to the EA, hear from MN-S how engagement has been going with Denison, and also continue discussions on the Issues and Concerns table (which was sent in the minutes for the Aug 9<sup>th</sup> meeting), and any comments from MN-S on the What We Heard Report (also attached).

Please let us know if either of these times could work, and if there are topics you would like to add to the agenda.

Looking forward to meeting soon!

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River EA meeting  
**Sent:** 2024-10-11 11:05:31 AM

---

Good morning Brent ,

Thanks for the email and clarification on the process and discussions that MN-S is trying to advance with Denison. We will make sure this is reflected in our meeting mins from our meeting on Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> that we will send over today for your review.

We will communicate the concerns that MN-S has shared with CNSC staff to Denison and encourage them respond providing a continued opportunity to meaningfully address MN-S concerns.

Have a good long weekend ,

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Subject:** re: Wheeler River EA meeting

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Afternoon Ryan and Jess. During our meeting on Tuesday it was suggested that Metis Nation - Saskatchewan is not engaging with Denison on the Wheeler River Project. This is not accurate. We have asked Denison to engage in a parallel consent-based discussion, presenting an opportunity to meaningfully address our concerns. MN-S has been clear with Denison that we are not making our engagement in a robust and



meaningful consultation process conditional on Denison agreeing to such a consent-based process. However, it is our understanding that clarification with respect to consent-based process would be imminent. We have been waiting for some several months to confirm whether this is Denison's intent. The consent-based conversations and the continuous engagement will together make the process more relevant for Metis participants.

Maarsii!

**Brent Laroque** (he/him)  
Director of Environment  
306-361-3189

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**  
310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

### Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory

 [Book time to meet with me](#)



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If you received this e-mail in error, please advise me (by return e-mail or otherwise) and destroy it immediately.

**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca); [aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca); [hhill@mns.ca](mailto:hhill@mns.ca); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** MNS/CNSC - Wheeler River - October 8th Meeting Minutes - Call for Edits + Issues & Concerns Table  
**Attachments:** [E-DOCS-#6769025-v3-MNS-Issues\\_and\\_Concerns\\_Tables\\_for\\_Wheeler\\_River\\_EA.XLSM](#)  
**Sent:** 2024-10-15 8:14:17 AM

---

Hello Everyone,

I hope that folks had a nice weekend. Please find below the minutes from our meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Wheeler River Project. In the event that anything was not captured appropriately, please let me know and I will make the necessary edits as soon as possible. **In addition, you will also find the most recent Issues and Concerns Table; we are seeking your input by October 30<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you for all of your efforts and attention in this matter. Looking forward to working with you.

Kindly,

Rain

---

**Title:** CNSC/MN-S – Wheeler - Meeting Notes

**Date:** October 8, 2024 (1-2pm SK time)

**Participants:**

- Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC): Jessica Way, Ryan Froess, Konrad Gorzowski, Rain Noakes
- Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (MN-S): Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill

## Funding and Project Update on MN-S

- Ryan discussed the allocation of \$5,000 for a review of the Uranium Mine and Mills ROR (Regulatory Oversight Report) and mentioned a potential written comment was awarded to Manitoba Metis Federation and wanted to let MN-S know so they were aware.
- Ryan noted the political complexities on both sides of the border, as well as sensitivities around projects in these border areas, and emphasized the importance of keeping affected Nations informed of pertinent project updates.
- Brent recalled a previous notification regarding the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Manitoba Métis Federation.
- Brent mentioned a letter to the Canadian Wildlife Service recognizing the Métis Nation's responsibilities in Saskatchewan.
- Ryan brought up that CNSC work in tandem with Crown-Indigenous Relation and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) as well as Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on any new developments with modern treaties, consultation agreements etc but also look directly to Indigenous organizations to provide updates and we do our best to engage with those who may be potentially impacted.
- Ryan and Brent discussed the dynamics of MN-S pulling out of Métis National Council (MNC) and the importance of maintaining good working relationships

- between the CNSC and MN-S moving forward.
- Ryan emphasized the need to keep everyone in the loop and mentioned meetings in CNL Whiteshell and the WR-1 is a project we are working on with MMF.
- Ryan suggested MN-S watching the UMM ROR and mentioned the Beaverlodge hearing will be taking place same time on Jan 29-30, 2024 in Saskatoon
- Ryan and Brent discussed the sensitivities around projects close to the border and the importance of keeping everyone informed.

## Update on Denison and MNS Engagement

- Ryan asked for an update on the work MN-S is doing with Denison and next steps
- Brent provided an update on the lack of progress with Denison, mentioning the end of the capacity funding agreement and the need for community buy-in. MN-S has asked Denison to engage in a parallel consent-based discussion, presenting an opportunity to meaningfully address our concerns
- Brent discussed the complications with Denison and the need for meaningful engagement – MN-S has two regions within the scope of this project. MN-S's legal team has been back and forth with Carolanne over several months on funding the consent-based process.
- Ryan and Brent discussed the importance of addressing concerns, as MN-S does not want to consent to the project without addressing concerns and acknowledgement of a need for accommodations and need funding for this.
- Denison believes process with Pinehouse is sufficient, and that they don't need to discuss the project with the rest of the communities, that the TLU shows insufficient impact. MN-S has been proceeding with more work on the TLU to collect additional land use information now that they know these communities.
- Brent indicated that MN-S are requesting the need for a negotiation protocol with Denison, and the continuous engagement will together make the process more relevant for Metis participants and do not want to hold up engagement.

## Addressing Concerns and Next Steps

- Ryan and Jes discussed the importance of validating the issues and concerns table and addressing outstanding issues.
- Jes emphasized the need for regular monthly meetings to discuss outstanding issues that MN-S has about impacts of the project (i.e. Information Requests) and in order to progress resolution on the topics.
- Brent mentioned the need for a refresher on the issues and concerns table. **Action:** CNSC to share the Issues and Concerns table again, for MN-S's review
- Ryan and Jes talked about the importance of having discussions on the issues and concerns table to help with the rights impact assessment and the regulatory process.

## Planning for Future Meetings and Engagement

- Ryan asked about the request from MN-S to have CNSC come present to NR-1 and 3, and suggested planning a meeting with CNSC staff to re-introduce them to MN-S and discuss the Denison project.
- Brent and Andrew discussed the logistics of hosting the meeting and the challenge / importance of including local presidents.
- Ryan and Andrew discussed the possibility of hosting the meeting in a neutral spot like Beauval. MNL (Metis Nation Leadership Retreat?) starts on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> in Regina, so that week could be a possibility and might be better to host in Saskatoon?

- Ryan and Andrew agreed to follow up on the meeting planning and discuss the timing and logistics; October 30<sup>th</sup> was proposed. **Action:** Andrew to reach out to local presidents and let CNSC know if this date would be possible in Saskatoon on their way to MNLA in Regina.

## Licensing and EA Decision Process

- Konrad provided an update that the early stage drafting of the commission member document (CMD) had started and the need to ensure alignment with requirements. Given the phase of the technical review, things are ramping up.
- Ryan and Konrad discussed the decision to combine the licensing and EA decision for a single hearing.
- Ryan and Konrad agreed to touch base monthly to provide updates and work on documents. Konrad will be taking 3 months parental leave, but someone else from Uranium Mines and Mills Division will be filling in during his absence.
- Ryan encourages MN-S to return to the-table with Denison to discuss a path forward on regulatory aspects of the project. CNSC Subject Matter Experts (SME) can support on environmental, health and rights impacts.

## SMRs and Regional Engagement

- Brent discussed the fast timeline requested by Sask Power for SMRs (Small Modular Reactor) and the pushback from MN-S.
- Brent mentioned the need for a capacity funding agreement and the importance of regional engagement.
- Ryan and Brent discussed the possibility of meeting with MN-S at a regional council meeting in November as CNSC will have staff in Saskatoon on the 27<sup>th</sup>, so the 26<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> could be a time to have these same people come discuss the SaskPower SMR with MN-S.
  - Ryan and Brent agreed to follow up on the meeting planning and discussed the timing and logistics.
- Ryan also reminded that there is a plan for a Rook I tour the week of Nov 18<sup>th</sup> and were hoping to have staff come visit Buffalo River and LaLoche. Andrew suggested meeting for a late lunch in LaLoche, and supper at Buffalo River on November 21.

## Staffing and Capacity Funding Challenges

- Andrew discussed the challenges of hiring staff due to the need for long-term funding.
- Ryan and Andrew discussed the importance of consistent funding to ensure long-term employment and effective project management.
- Andrew mentioned the difficulty of spending short-term funding and the need for long-term agreements.
- Discussion around the extent of the funding agreement for Hughie's position (second year, extended to third).
- Ryan and Andrew agreed to follow up on the funding and staffing challenges and discussed potential solutions.

## Actions:

- CNSC to share the Issues and Concerns table again, for MN-S's review – **Completed (attached)**
- Andrew to reach out to local presidents and let CNSC know if October 30<sup>th</sup> would work for a meeting in Saskatoon.

- Andrew to work with Ryan on submitting application to fund a supper and lunch and plan for meeting in La Loch and Buffalo Narrows on Nov 21, 2024.
- Brent and Andrew to see if there is interest in CNSC staff meeting with ER3 in late November (26 of 28) to meet and discuss SaskPower's SMR project.

**Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv, RBTech**

(he / him / il)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 581-306-3303

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); ['jenny.wolverine@erfn.net'](#);  
['nvp.mike@sasktel.net'](#); ['bнатомagan@kineepik.ca'](#);  
['glenmccallum@mns.work'](#); ['blaroque@mns.work'](#);  
['slandriecrossland@mns.work'](#); ['rsmith@mns.work'](#); ['sfladager@mns.work'](#);  
['aspriggs@mns.work'](#); ['mbrunet@mns.work'](#);  
['garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'](#); ['shea.shirley@yathinene.com'](#);  
['dana.kellett@yathinene.com'](#); ['bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com'](#);  
['kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'](#); ['b-tsannie@hotmail.com'](#);  
['csayazie@hotmail.com'](#); ['d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net'](#);  
['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#);  
['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca'](#);  
['trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
**Bcc:** ['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#);  
['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['patti@mccunn-miller.com'](#);  
['cbeatty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['skmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['cagnew@lgl.com'](#);  
['tcooksearson@lrib.ca'](#); ['ty.roberts@lrib.ca'](#); ['ashley.carlson@lrib.ca'](#);  
['gchristiansen@lrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#); ['rmcleod@pagc.net'](#);  
['mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com'](#); ['hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com'](#);  
['jswitzer@denisonmines.com'](#); ['cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com'](#);  
['scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com'](#); ['mirmirans@cna.ca'](#); ['Bruce Hanbidge'](#);  
['Dennis Sherratt'](#); ['jessielacosta2017@gmail.com'](#); ['Damien Georges'](#);  
[Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Takala, Torin](#);  
['Paul James'](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); ['Chani Campbell'](#);  
['Janna Switzer'](#); ['Brianne England'](#); ['Carolanne Inglis-McQuay'](#);  
['Executive Secretary'](#); ['Margaret Rosling'](#); ['alfred.dawatsare@erfn.net'](#);  
[Brianne England](#);

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Review of October 2024 EIS Package

**Sent:** 2024-11-04 3:27:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

We are reaching out to provide another update on the Wheeler River EIS technical review.

Following our previous update on October 11<sup>th</sup>, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted revised responses and supporting documentation for the proposed Wheeler River Project, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the EIS

Technical Review. More information can be found in the [October 25, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by CNSC Subject Matter Experts is underway, for completion by November 15th, 2024. The review includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(October 18, 2024\)](#).
- [Wheeler River Project: Appendix A to Denison's Responses to Information Request \(October 18, 2024\)](#).
- [Wheeler River Project: Advice to Proponent Table \(October 25, 2024\)](#).

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

## **MN-S & CNSC Meeting**

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Virtual

<b>CNSC Attendees</b>	<b>MN-S Attendees</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sydney Nickolet</li><li>• Jessica Way</li><li>• Rain Noakes</li><li>• Konrad Gorzkowski</li><li>• Brenda Duhaime</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brent Laroque</li><li>• Andrew Spriggs</li><li>• Hughie Hill</li><li>• Tammy Vallee (Tammy was attending due to being in the car with Brent while the meeting was happening)</li></ul>

### **Agenda**

- 1) Denison Project Updates
- 2) Beaverlodge and ROR Updates

### **Meeting Notes**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>Denison Project Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CNSC submitted responses to IR's with a handful outstanding to Denison back in November and Denison came back with follow up to those then CNSC was able to close out the IR's and Denison submitted the final EIS on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.</li><li>• There is now a 30-day completeness check on the final EIS before CNSC deems it acceptable with a deadline of Dec 21st. December 21 is a Saturday, as the review is in calendar days.</li><li>• Once the EIS is accepted then CNSC starts writing the EA report which will include inclusion for MN-S to review the Rights Impact Assessments (RIAs) which will be appended to the EA report.</li><li>• The licence application has been deemed sufficient and has been sent to Denison and we are now in preparations in planning a Commission hearing. Once the date for the Commission hearing is known, CNSC will let the Nations know including MN-S.</li><li>• Konrad will be off on parental leave starting December 16, 2024. Brenda Duhaime will be leading the licensing process on Denison until Konrad is back on March 10, 2025.</li><li>• Once the EIS is accepted, it will be posted on the CNSC external website. There will also be PFP and an opportunity to receive funding to review final documents and participate in the Commission hearing.</li><li>• Email on acceptance will be sent out the first week of January to the Nations including MN-S.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brent indicated that NR1 and NR3 will be disappointed with the Final EIS being accepted as the communication with Denison lately has been poor and they believe that more still needs to be done before a final EIS.</li> <li>• MN-S is working towards closing off some of the outstanding items with Denison and are making progress. Both parties are looking to re-establish the joint working group but still up in the air about how meaningful that will be. NR3 and NR1 are planning to meet with Denison on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> to continue that progress.</li> <li>• Commission hearing will most likely be around end of 2025 but ultimately falls with the Registry to schedule it.</li> <li>• It will most likely be a 2-Part hearing with Part 1 including Denison and CNSC staff presenting and then Part 2 will be for interventions from Indigenous Nations and the public. The documentation will be available prior to the hearing including the EA report and the CMD report for review.</li> <li>• Part 2 will likely be held in Saskatoon for in-person interventions.</li> <li>• There will be either 60 days or 90 days in between the Part 1 and 2 hearings.</li> </ul>
<b>Beaverlodge and ROR Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaverlodge and ROR written interventions are due on Tuesday Dec 10<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• MN-S indicated that they will be doing a written intervention for Beaverlodge but not for ROR. MN-S will be doing an oral presentation for both Beaverlodge and ROR.</li> <li>• The oral presentations are due Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to the Registry</li> </ul>

### Action Item Summary

Responsible Party	Action Item
MN-S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MN-S to submit a written intervention to CNSC on Beaverlodge by Dec 10<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
CNSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To find out the deadline for oral presentations for both Beaverlodge and the ROR and send to MN-S (complete)</li> </ul>
CNSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To schedule our next meeting in January (complete)</li> </ul>
MN-S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To submit oral presentations for Beaverlodge and ROR on Jan 15<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [alfred.dawatsare@erfn.net](#); [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [bнатомagan@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blaroque@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#); [aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#); [receptionist@mltc.net](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#); [skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#); [cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#); [mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Dennis Sherratt](#); [jessielacosta2017@gmail.com](#); [Damien Georges](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Takala, Torin](#); [Paul James](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Chani Campbell](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Brianna England](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Margaret Rosling](#); [alfred.dawatsare@erfn.net](#); [Brianna England](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River December 2024 EA Update - Accepted Final EIS

**Sent:** 2024-12-24 12:28:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

In our last update, we noted the completion of the technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS). This update had also indicated that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> Denison submitted a final EIS package.

Following a 30 day review, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has accepted the final EIS. This acceptance follows a comprehensive EIS technical review process by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT), including consultations with Indigenous Nations and communities and members of the public. CNSC staff will now proceed with the preparation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, which will be made available, along with a Commission Member Document, for review by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public prior to a public Commission hearing.

The following documents have now been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR) for this project:

- [Letter: CNSC to Denison - Wheeler Project - Acceptance of the Final EIS and Supporting Documents](#)
- [Final environmental Impact Statement](#)
- [Combined Final EIS Appendices](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 5 - Wheeler River Final EIS Submission](#)

With these conclusions, along with the sufficient licence application, CNSC staff will notify CNSC Commission Registrar of this acceptance, who will proceed with scheduling public hearing dates. Further details regarding how to participate will be provided once the Commission Secretariat has announced the hearing dates. In early January, notifications will be sent to Indigenous Nations and communities with detailed next steps in the consultation process.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Hughie Hill](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Duhaime, Brenda](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S - Wheeler - Jan 16 - Meeting Minutes - Call for Edits  
**Sent:** 2025-02-06 3:30:28 PM

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Hello all,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025. Do not hesitate to reach out with any edits or questions.

Cheers,

Rain

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CNSC/MN-S – Wheeler - Meeting **Notes**

**Title:** CNSC/MN-S – Wheeler - Meeting Notes

**Date:** January 16, 2025

**Participants:**

- CNSC: Jes Way, Brenda Duhaime, Sydney Boser,, Rain Noakes
  - Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S): Brent Laroque , Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill
- 

#### **Final EIS Submission and Review Process**

- Denison submitted the Final EIS in November, for a 30-day review. The review process involved validating incorporation of edits committed to by Denison.
- Denison submitted a few outstanding edits by December 24, and the Final EIS was accepted and posted before Christmas.
- CNSC staff will now focus on drafting the environmental assessment report (EA report), the commission member document (CMD) and the consultation report. . CNSC will be looking for support from MN-S when we begin writing the rights impact assessments (RIA) which will be appended to the EA report for the Commission to take into consideration.

#### **Drafting Environmental Assessment Report and Participant Funding**

- A letter to MN-S outlining the next steps in the process is being drafted, including involvement in the EA and consultation report. This has now been sent out to Brent via email on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>. We can discuss the next steps more in-depth at our next meeting. Status of the Process
- In the next meeting scheduled for the first week of February, CNSC hopes to provide more clarity on timelines and the scheduling of the hearing. It will be important that we plan for the work to come for any collaboration, as timelines will be tight for reviews.
- MNS-S asked about the acceptances of the Final EIS and the possibility of Denison making any more changes to the Final EIS.
  - It was explained that the EIS is final from CNSC perspective but may still be subject to changes by the province.

- Denison could theoretically make changes to the EIS, which could be considered supplemental to the CNSC's hearing process.
- The acceptance of the Final EIS does not stop the engagement process, and Denison will continue to work with MN-S and Indigenous communities.
- MN-S indicated that communication with Denison is mostly direct, aiming for collaborative work to achieve community consent, but they still have a number of outstanding concerns and are concerned that the final EIS has now been accepted
- CNSC Staff indicated that these meetings should be used to have discussions with MN-S on these outstanding concerns and asked that this information be shared. As the process is moving quickly, it's important that these discussions progress, which is why we have these reoccurring meetings.
- The technical assessment of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement is satisfactory, but work is now needed from CNSC for the rights impact assessment and environmental assessment report.

### **Planning for Interim Meeting and Addressing Outstanding Issues**

- An interim meeting was suggested before the next scheduled meeting in February that involves Hillary Peterson (MN-S, lawyer), with the beginning of the following week suggested for the interim meeting, to discuss MN-S's outstanding concerns.
- Dates were suggested for the interim meeting to avoid conflicts with upcoming hearings.
- A time for the interim meeting will be proposed by MN-S, and outstanding issues will continue to be discussed.

### **Other Topics**

- MN-S asked about the full agenda for the upcoming UMM ROR meeting and when it will be available.
  - CNSC noted that once the agenda is finalized and sent, the Registry will inform us about the meeting times.
- An inquiry was made about the timing of funding callouts and the impact of the upcoming federal elections.

### **Action Items / Next Steps**

- CNSC is drafting and will send a letter to MN-S outlining next steps and how CNSC will be working with MN-S for the remainder of the project. (complete)
- CNSC will announce participant funding soon (complete). PFP is now live and will be open until April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Agenda for the first week of February - discuss timelines and hearing schedules.
- MN-S to propose a time for the interim meeting and involve Hillary Peterson; CNSC to ensure Ryan's availability for the next meeting. Agenda to focus on outstanding concerns from MN-S
- CNSC to send the agenda for the UMM ROR meeting (complete).

### **Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv, RBTech**

(he / him / il)

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: (778) 687-1324

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Duhaime, Brenda](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Zenobj, Adam](#); [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Hughie Hill](#);  
**Subject:** Next Steps of Consultation with MN-S - Proposed Wheeler River Project  
**Sent:** 2025-01-22 6:54:50 PM

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Dear Brent,

I am sending the attached letter on behalf of the CNSC, outlining proposed next steps of the CNSC's consultation process with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan for the Wheeler River regulatory review process.

We look forward to hearing back from you and setting up a meeting to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



**January 22, 2025**

CIAR NO.: 80178

e-Doc: 7448317

Mr. Brent Laroque  
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)

**Subject: Proposed Next Steps of Consultation with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Mr. Laroque:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update and share a proposed consultation approach with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) on the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project).

### **Current Status of the Process of the federal Environmental Assessment**

On December 24, 2024, the federal review of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded, and the Final EIS was accepted by CNSC staff as it meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). As communicated in CNSC's December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 email to the project distribution list for the project, the documents can be found on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry \(the Registry\)](#).

CNSC staff have reviewed the responses Denison provided to comments that were received during the public comment period on the draft EIS in 2023, including those from MN-S. The comments and Denison's responses are now [available on the Registry](#). CNSC staff have also drafted responses to comments that were applicable to CNSC's oversight and responsibilities and look forward to further discussing these as part of our proposed next steps as described below. CNSC's responses to these comments can also be [found on the Registry](#).

### **Proposed Next Steps of Consultation**

Building on the ongoing consultation, relationship building, and engagement that began in 2019 between MN-S and CNSC in relation to the Project, CNSC staff provide the consultation approach as outlined in Appendix 1. Table 1 of this letter details the suggested consultation and collaboration activities for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Project.

The CNSC staff will be preparing the following reports and documents to support staff's recommendations to the Commission:

- **An EA Report** which provides information and analysis to assist the Commission in its determination on whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
- **A Consultation Report** which will include an assessment of the Project's potential impacts to the Rights and interests of select Indigenous Nations and communities as well as recommendations regarding the Duty to Consult and Accommodate.
- **A Commission Member Document (CMD)** which presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.

CNSC staff are interested in collaborating with MN-S to ensure that MN-S's perspectives, issues and concerns, Indigenous Knowledge and Land use information, potential impacts of the proposed Project on MN-S rights, and other topics of interest to MN-S are properly reflected in CNSC staff's reports and recommendations. This would involve CNSC staff developing the content as a first step based on information that MN-S has submitted and provided to date to the CNSC and Denison and then sharing the draft content with MN-S representatives for their review and comment. CNSC staff will be providing detailed timelines on the remainder of the regulatory process once a Commission hearing date has been identified by the Commission Registry.

The activities outlined in the proposed consultation approach are flexible, and CNSC staff would like to discuss these remaining steps of the regulatory review process with MN-S. Some potential topics for discussion include:

- review of, and input to the CNSC's assessment of the Project's potential impacts on MN-S rights and interests
- review of sections of CNSC's Consultation Report specifically related to information on MN-S community member perspectives, knowledge, land use, concerns, and rights
- awarding funding through the CNSC's PFP to support the review of CNSC's reports and consultation and engagement with the CNSC
- discussions and collaboration with the CNSC and Denison, as appropriate, regarding potential commitments, mitigations and accommodations to address potential impacts on MN-S's rights and interests
- participation in the Commission hearing process through interventions as well as collaboration on the inclusion of MN-S's cultural practices and protocols as part of the Commission hearing process, as appropriate
- discussions on the assessment and overall evaluation of Denison's engagement activities with MN-S as per REGDOC 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement
- discussion and collaboration with the CNSC on conclusions and recommendations related to topics of concern and interest to MN-S

CNSC staff are committed to continued collaboration with MN-S to ensure that the consultation for the Project is meaningful, addresses MN-S's concerns, protects your Nation's rights and interests,



and upholds the Honour of the Crown. To discuss any matters related to the regulatory review process of the Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Please review the proposed consultation process for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Wheeler River Project (Appendix 1) and **provide any feedback by February 17, 2025 or we would be happy to set up a meeting to discuss.**

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a long-term relationship with MN-S and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Yours sincerely,



Nana Kwamena  
Director  
Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



Justin McKeown  
A/ Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c. : CNSC: A. Levine, P. Burton, J. Way, R. Froess, B. Duhaime, K. Gorzkowski, R. Noakes, A. Zenobi  
MN-S: A. Spriggs, H. Hill

Enclosure: (1) Proposed consultation process with Métis Nation - Saskatchewan for the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project

#### References:

- [1] CNSC, Regulatory Guide, *REGDOC- 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement*, Version 1.2, February 2022, <https://www.cnscccsn.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/published/html/regdoc3-2-2-v1-2/>
- [2] CNSC, *Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement*, May 2016, <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>

## Appendix 1

### Proposed Consultation Process with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process of the Wheeler River Project

#### 1. Introduction

These proposed next steps in the consultation process, which started in 2019, are intended to guide federal Crown consultation activities (led by the CNSC) with Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MN-S) during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project (the Project). They communicate the federal CNSC's objectives for consultation, the proposed structure for integrating consultation into the regulatory review process, and the proposed activities in which the CNSC and MN-S can work together to address MN-S's concerns regarding the Project.

#### 2. CNSC's Consultation Objectives

- To continue the establishment of a positive and productive working relationship with MN-S during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process.
- To communicate with MN-S about the Project and developments during the regulatory review process in a timely manner.
- To establish how MN-S would like to be consulted during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process and establish a flexible and responsive consultation approach that is consistent with the consultation approach to date.
- To work with MN-S to continue to:
  1. identify any potential environmental effects of the Project, including those on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, health and socio-economic conditions, and heritage resources
  2. identify adverse impacts of the Project on your community's potential or established rights
  3. ensure options for avoiding, mitigating, or accommodating adverse impacts are considered
- To work with MN-S and the proponent to respond to specific questions and requests regarding issues raised related to the Project.
- To listen to and understand the concerns raised, and consider the feedback, perspectives, and issues raised by MN-S in order to inform decision-making.
- To collaborate with MN-S and the proponent to identify any potential commitments, mitigations, accommodations and conditions to address MN-S's concerns regarding any potential impacts on MN-S's rights and interests as a result of the proposed project.

### 3. Integrating Consultation into the Regulatory Review Process

Table 1 provides a description of the main remaining steps in the regulatory review process and a description of how the CNSC proposes to integrate consultation activities into those steps. This table describes what MN-S should receive, have access to, or expect from the CNSC, on behalf of the federal Crown, and what MN-S could share and provide to the regulatory review process.

**Table 1: Integrating Consultation into the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What MN-S should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information MN-S may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways MN-S may want to participate</b>
Project Description Review and Scoping Decision  (Completed in 2019-20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for MN-S to provide comments on the Project Description – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSC notification to MN-S of the project and project description review process – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• PFP offering – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Early information sharing and offers of consultation meetings – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments on the project description – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a template developed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) (CEAA references the BC First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group Toolkit Workshop as a basis for this document).

<sup>2</sup> Any updates to dates related to the regulatory review process will be communicated to MN-S.

<sup>3</sup> Denison's activities during this step of the regulatory review process are not specifically steps of the regulatory review process, but these are expectations of Denison, by CNSC staff.

Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What MN-S should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information MN-S may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways MN-S may want to participate
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Review  <i>(Initiated 2022 – complete as of December 24, 2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for MN-S to provide comments on draft EIS – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison to revise documentation to address comments and concerns raised by MN-S - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison expected to discuss with MN-S how their comments and concerns have been addressed. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to provide feedback to the Crown on adequacy of Denison's responses to MN-S's comments and concerns. - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Opportunity to participate in technical discussions with CNSC staff regarding MN-S's outstanding comments and concerns, as well as other discussions as necessary (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with Métis Regional Directors, community open houses). - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Opportunity to discuss how to integrate Traditional Knowledge and Land Use (TKLUS) information into the remaining steps of the regulatory review process. - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Opportunity for direct and continued discussions between MN-S and the CNSC. – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide MN-S's views on the accuracy of Denison's information about issues MN-S have raised and on any proposed ways of addressing those impacts. - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Provide feedback on the adequacy of Denison's responses to MN-S's comments and concerns. - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Participate in discussions with CNSC staff to address MN-S's outstanding comments and concerns. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>

Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What MN-S should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information MN-S may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways MN-S may want to participate
<p>Development of draft Consultation Report</p> <p><i>(Current phase – 2025)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The CNSC's Consultation Report also includes a summary of consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, potential impacts to potential or established rights of Indigenous Nations and communities, views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and the CNSC's response to those concerns, and including potential mitigation and accommodation measures, and commitments and conditions to address those concerns. The CNSC's goal is to work towards a consensus on the key issues and concerns in relation to the proposed project with MN-S.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to review and comment on sections of the draft Consultation Report specific to MN-S such as Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use information, potential impacts of the Project on MN-S's rights and interests, and concerns expressed.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNSC staff writing the draft sections and providing to MN-S for review and comment for consideration and/or inclusion.</li> <li>The objective is to obtain mutually agreed upon text, between CNSC staff and MN-S (as noted in the next step, where MN-S has diverging views with CNSC staff's analysis and findings, these will be reflected in the Consultation Report, and we also invite MN-S to capture this information in their written and/or oral intervention to the Commission).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide comment on sections of the draft Consultation Report specific to MN-S.</li> </ul>

<p>EA Report, Consultation Report and Licensing CMD Review</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Commission Public Hearings</p> <p><i>(Hearing date 2025 –2026 TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA Report presents the CNSC staff's evaluation on the findings of the EA, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the adverse environmental effects that are likely to result from the project, appropriate measures that would mitigate those effects, the significance of residual effects after implementation of the mitigation measures, as well as the components of the follow-up and monitoring program.</li> <li>• CNSC staff will submit and make publicly available, for review, the Final EA Report, Consultation Report, and licensing CMD in advance of public hearings (timing to be determined by CNSC Registry).</li> <li>• The licensing CMD presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.</li> <li>• The Commission will hold public hearings with opportunities for public and Indigenous Nations and communities to submit oral and/or written interventions. CNSC staff and the Registry are open to working with MN-S to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to review the Final EA Report, Consultation Report, and licensing CMD to inform oral and/or written interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present MN-S's views to the Commission by providing information orally and/or in writing.</li> <li>• It is recommended that any diverging views with CNSC staff's analysis and findings in the CNSC's reports be captured in MN-S's written and/or oral intervention to the Commission, if required.</li> </ul>
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Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What MN-S should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information MN-S may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways MN-S may want to participate
	ensure that the Commission hearings include and reflect MN-S's cultural protocols and processes.		
Commission's EA and Licensing Decisions  (Future phase - TBD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission considers the EA Report, Consultation Report, CMD and interventions from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities and determines whether, taking into account the mitigation measures, conditions, accommodations and commitments proposed, the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and if the duty to consult and accommodate was met.</li> <li>Should the Commission issue an EA decision statement allowing the Project to proceed, the Commission will also include legally binding conditions with which Denison must comply to implement appropriate mitigation measures and a follow-up and monitoring program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification and sharing of the Commission's Detailed Record of Decisions (EA and licensing).</li> <li>Meetings with MN-S to discuss the Commission's decision and next steps for ongoing engagement and collaboration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback on preferred approach to ongoing engagement, information sharing, oversight, monitoring, reporting and collaboration.</li> </ul>



**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Hughie Hill](#);  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S - Wheeler - Feb 10 - Meeting Minutes - Call for Edits  
**Attachments:** [E-DOCS-#7462434-v1-Wheeler\\_River\\_-\\_Rights\\_Impact\\_Assessment\\_Framework\\_Presentation\\_for\\_MN-S\\_-\\_Feb\\_2025.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-02-14 3:59:00 PM

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Hello all,

Please see below for the meeting minutes from February 10, 2025. The presentation that Sydney shared is attached, as discussed. Do not hesitate to reach out with any edits or questions.

Cheers,

Rain

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Denison – Wheeler River – MN-S – Meeting Minutes

**Title:** Denison Wheeler River Meeting with MN-S

**Date:** February 10, 2025

**Participants:**

Ø CNSC: Jes Way, Justin McKeown, Sydney Boser, Rain Noakes

Ø MN-S: Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill, Matt Hammer (external legal counsel from Cassels)

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#### **Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process**

- Denison submitted their draft EIS in 2022. After addressing information requests, the Final EIS was accepted on December 24, 2024, moving to the drafting of the environmental assessment (EA) report.
- Current focus is on drafting the EA report and a consultation report, which includes a rights impact assessment (RIA). The hearing will address both the EA acceptance and licensing which will be split up into two parts with part 1 focusing on CNSC and Denison's presentations then part 2 focusing on interventions including from Indigenous Nations and communities.
- Denison will continue engaging with MN-S even after the Final EIS acceptance. A positive EA decision and license decision does not end the process; conditions must be met before site actions can proceed and CNSC is around for the lifetime of the project, if approved and will continue to engage MN -S and address concerns, as applicable.

#### **Concerns and Letters to the Province**

- Letters to the province highlight issues with Indigenous engagement and impacts on Métis rights, including the consideration of new traditional land use data from 2025. The previous confidentiality form applying to these new documents.
- Three letters addressed to the Province of SK, along with an updated traditional land use map will be shared with the CNSC (complete).
- MN-S shared that their perspectives that the consultation completed by the Province and Denison are inadequate.

#### **Participant Funding Program (PFP) and Hearing Logistics**

- The PFP application should include all hearing-related expenses including document review and travel. Concerns about travel and accommodation budgets were raised by MN-S (possibility of Ottawa hearing).
- The strategy for the hearing goes into the registrar, and the timing and location will be announced shortly however, Part 2 of the hearing where interventions are required should be

in Saskatoon.

#### **Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) Process (Presentation by Sydney)**

- An overview of the RIA process was presented, including background, objectives, and the CNSC's framework. The RIA for the NexGen project will provide a similar framework.
- Indigenous representatives share perspectives, issues, and concerns, and provide documented information for the RIA process. The RIA process involves CNSC, MN-S, and may involve information from the proponent.

#### **Framework and Policy Development for Indigenous and Treaty Rights**

- Government of Canada priorities, policies, and directives drive the framework and policy development to ensure projects consider impacts on Indigenous and treaty rights.
- Criteria include triggering the duty to consult and active engagement of Indigenous nations. Examples of completed RIAs include the near surface disposal facility and the Darlington new nuclear project which can be found in the links included in the presentation.
- CNSC's RIA approach is qualitative, consolidating project information, issues, and concerns, and considering mitigations, commitments, and accommodations. Indigenous nations provide feedback on these aspects.

#### **Timelines and Reports**

- Timing on the drafting of the RIAs, which are appended to the consultation report, will be determined once the Registrar has set hearing dates. Once drafting dates of the RIAs has been determined, CNSC will endeavour to hold meetings with Indigenous Nations every three weeks for accuracy and input. The CMD, which includes the Consultation Report/RIAs will be posted a minimum of 30 days before the Part 1 hearing. CNSC will update MN-S with timelines as they become known.
- Initial meetings will review CNSC's written information, with potential timeline adjustments if the hearing is scheduled sooner. More frequent meetings may be needed for a meaningful review process.

#### **Planning for Future Meetings and Resource Allocation**

- Agendas for future meetings will be sent to help MN-S plan. Discussions on involving community leadership and potential leadership changes due to upcoming elections were noted.
- CNSC to share RIA presentation with MN-S (complete, please see attached)

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**Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv, RBTech**

(he / him / il)

Environmental Review Officer | Agent en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.ca) | Tel: (778) 687-1324

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Cc:** [Hammer, Matt](#)  
**Subject:** FW: MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER  
**Attachments:** [2025 2 10 - MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-02-10 8:46:35 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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I had sent both files, but it appears it was rejected due to file size constraints. Attached is the letter, I'll try the attachment again, it's the TLU map that makes it quite large.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Brent Laroque

**Sent:** February 10, 2025 7:24 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica ; Nickolet, Sydney

**Cc:** Laura Burnouf ; tex.mns@sasktel.net; Hoekstra, Arend J.A. ; Hammer, Matt ; Brandon Macleod ; Hilary Peterson ; Andrew Spriggs

**Subject:** MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER

Good Evening. Further to our discussion this afternoon, please see the attached letter with further context regarding MN-S's comments.

Maarsii

**Brent Laroque (he/him)**

Director of Environment

306-361-3189

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**

 **[Book time](#) to meet with me**



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---

**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Cc:** [Hammer, Matt](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER  
**Attachments:** [2025 2 10 - MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER - Appendix A - Part 2.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-02-10 9:24:33 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Part 2 of 2.  
**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment  
**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Brent Laroque  
**Sent:** February 10, 2025 8:23 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica ; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Cc:** Hammer, Matt  
**Subject:** FW: MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER  
Trying this again, it's been rejected a couple times. Part 1 of 2.  
**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment  
**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



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**From:** Brent Laroque  
**Sent:** February 10, 2025 7:47 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Hammer, Matt <[mhammer@cassels.com](mailto:mhammer@cassels.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER  
Trying to send the appendix again. It's 18mb so I think it should go.  
**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment  
**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Brent Laroque

<[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** MN-S Denison Comments on Final EIS and IER

Good Evening. Further to our discussion this afternoon, please see the attached letter with further context regarding MN-S's comments.

Maarsii

**Brent Laroque (he/him)**

Director of Environment

306-361-3189

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**

 **[Book time](#) to meet with me**



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December 20, 2024

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: MN-S Response to Notification of Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report**

This letter is being provided in response to your November 7, 2024 letter notifying the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”) of the continuation of the Ministry of Environment’s duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”).

This letter includes the following general sections:

1. The MN-S’s preliminary concerns regarding the Indigenous Engagement Report for the Project;
2. An outline of the MN-S’s initial review of Denison’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (“**EIS**”); and
3. An overview of the MN-S’s outstanding questions and concerns with respect to the Ministry’s review of the Project.

The specific concerns the MN-S raises in this letter include:

- **Consultation:** Consultation to date has not reflected the significant risk the Project poses to Métis rights, and the Indigenous Engagement Report does not accurately reflect the MN-S’s perspective on the engagement which occurred between the MN-S and Denison. In particular, the MN-S asserts that Denison has mischaracterized the MN-S’s interests in the process by reducing this interest to commercial negotiations. The MN-S has always been clear that it seeks consent and support arrangements in respect of the Project, which includes meaningful environmental, workforce and economic participation. Furthermore, while Denison has consistently indicated its openness to engaging in such consent-based

---

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East

Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7

306.343.8285 ext. 66726191.12

[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)





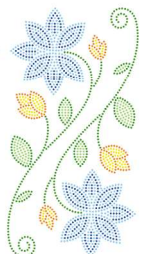
discussions, Denison has not participated in such discussions until recently. The MN-S requests the Ministry to meet so that the MN-S can provide additional context to the consultation record.

For greater clarity, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include: Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area as set out in the Métis Land Claim; the right for the Métis to freely access and use the Project area; the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water; the right to build and maintain a healthy connected Métis community; the right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations; the modern application of historic commercial rights; the right to harvest species for traditional purposes which include food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes; the right to rehabilitate caribou populations; the right to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake; and the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts.

- **Economic loss:** The MN-S requests that Saskatchewan consult specifically on the economic loss the Project will cause on Métis economic rights, given that the Project will occur in the area subject to the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim. It is incumbent on Saskatchewan to specifically consult on the adverse effects of economic loss in these lands subject to the Métis Aboriginal title claim.<sup>1</sup> The MN-S requests that Saskatchewan provide formal guarantees and assurances that it will fully compensate the Métis Nation for the loss of all minerals extracted from the Project at such time as the Métis claim for Aboriginal title is established. Additionally, the MN-S seeks appropriate accommodations through increased participation in development of the Project to help offset the lost socioeconomic opportunities that would be available to the MN-S if developing the Project independently. The MN-S is in the process of obtaining records from the University of Saskatchewan to support the Aboriginal title claim, and will share these records with the Ministry at the earliest opportunity.
- **No evidence of economic benefit to the Métis:** Denison has not demonstrated that the Project will reliably result in economic benefits to the Métis.
- **Insufficient understanding of effects of the Project on Métis land and resource use, and no meaningful incorporation of Preliminary Métis**

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<sup>1</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390; *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380; *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63.



**Knowledge Study into Final EIS:** The MN-S's consultant Two Worlds Consulting prepared a preliminary report on a Métis knowledge study in the Project area ("**Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study**"). Denison's Final EIS (a) does not meaningfully incorporate the knowledge shared in the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study, and (b) mischaracterizes the study as conclusive rather than preliminary and limited in scope. The MN-S seeks assurances from Saskatchewan that the MN-S will be given the opportunity, including time and resources, to complete a more fulsome study and that the results of such study will be meaningfully incorporated in the review of the Project. To that end, the MN-S notes that we are in the process of conducting activities to obtain Métis Traditional Knowledge data from the community of Île-à-la-Crosse which the MN-S can share with Saskatchewan as soon as it is available.

- **Denison's reliance on traditional knowledge and Project support of Kineepik Local #9:** The MN-S's position is that there is one Métis Nation within Saskatchewan. The Locals of Northern Region 1 ("**NR1**") and Northern Region 3 ("**NR3**") share Métis Aboriginal rights as a single connected community. The interconnection of the Métis Nation is based on generations of familial ties and shared economies. The Métis Traditional Knowledge held by Kineepik and shared with Denison is relevant to understanding the impacts of the Project on all Métis communities. Simply because Kineepik has expressed support for the Project, this does not mean the Métis Traditional Knowledge held by Kineepik should not be used to inform the assessment of potentially adverse effects of the Project on other Métis Locals.
- **Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability:** Denison's conclusions on the safety of the Project are based on an assumption that the basement rock below the orebody has low or no permeability. The knowledge of MN-S elders is that the basement rock may be permeable, and that mining fluids will permeate and flow into water systems. The MN-S asserts that ground freezing must extend below the orebody.
- **Groundwater:** The Final EIS recognizes that the Project will result in migration of dissolved constituents of concern into groundwater within hundreds of years, which the MN-S asserts is a significant adverse impact on groundwater especially as it relates to environmental and human health.
- **Surface water quality:** Surface water quality in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake will be adversely affected by the Project. This represents a significant adverse impact on Métis rights, due to impacts on fish health, human health, Métis traditional fishing practices including commercial fishing, and the cumulative



impacts of industrial development in the North such as those that have already been seen at Cluff Lake with Métis avoidance of a once thriving fishery.

- **Selenium:** Selenium will increase in fish tissues and human tissues as a result of the Project. The MN-S asks Saskatchewan to impose criteria that the Project cannot result in any increase in selenium. Any increase in selenium should be considered a significant adverse effect due to the myriad risks to fish and human health. Any adverse change to selenium also risks causing Métis to avoid Russel Lake for fishing for traditional purposes including commercial fishing activities, as has been seen at other uranium projects such as Cluff Lake.
- **Fish, fish habitat, and fish health:** The changes as a result of the Project to surface water quality and health of fish must be considered significant adverse effects, especially as they pertain to the MN-S's exercise of fishing rights in Russel Lake. The Project puts at risk the Métis commercial fishery at Russel Lake due to the real and perceived contamination of water and fish.
- **Woodland caribou:** The Project will cause significant adverse effects to woodland caribou, as well as to the Métis right to harvest and use this historically important species and to see caribou populations return to health in the Project area.
- **Human health:** The Project risks exposing Métis communities to high levels of industrial pollutants through migration of constituents in ground water, surface water, vegetation, and wildlife, in part because of a lack of understanding of how Métis communities use the land in the Project area.
- **Indigenous land and resource use:** While the effects are still not fully understood, the Project will likely have significant adverse effects on Métis land and resource use.
- **Heritage resources:** The MN-S asserts that the conclusion in the Final EIS that effects of the Project on Métis heritage resources will not be significant is unfounded.
- **Quality of life:** The cumulative effects of historic, existing, and proposed developments in the area has already impacted Métis quality of life with respect to the availability of country foods, community well-being, and infrastructure services, and the Project will only add to this burden.
- **Monitoring plans:** The MN-S seeks clarity and assurances on MN-S's inclusion in the development and implementation of all monitoring plans.



This letter further poses several questions to Saskatchewan, that are detailed below and that the MN-S seeks answers to as expeditiously as possible given the uncertain timeline for Saskatchewan completing the review of the Project.

With respect to the MN-S's review of the Indigenous Engagement Report and the Final EIS, the MN-S is concerned that the timeline for reviewing these documents is inadequate for the depth of review required, and caveats that the MN-S is providing preliminary comments only. With these constraints in mind, the MN-S requests an extension of the comment period to January 31, 2025. Please respond to this letter at your earliest convenience confirming that comments received from the MN-S up until January 31, 2025, will be considered in the Ministry's review of the Project.

**1. *The MN-S's preliminary concerns regarding the Indigenous Engagement Report for the Project***

As noted in your letter, the Ministry assessed the level of consultation required for the Project to be significant due to the potential loss of access to unoccupied Crown land and long-term disturbance to the land associated with the Project. However, consultation has been insufficient to-date.

As outlined below, the MN-S has grave concerns about the Project and its effects on the rights of the Métis Nation and the exercise of those rights by current and future Métis Citizens that have gone unaddressed through the consultation process to date.

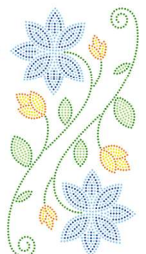
It is the position of the MN-S that consultation process regarding the Project has been insufficient, and that the Project should not proceed.

In particular, the consultation to date does not reflect the extraordinarily high stakes of permanently removing mineral wealth from the Project area that is subject to an Aboriginal title claim under the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim.

**a. *Consultation and Project review must reflect potential economic loss to the MN-S***

The Project area is subject to the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim, which is currently being resolved in the courts.

The MN-S has identified that the University of Saskatchewan has important information and documentation that is relevant to the Métis Aboriginal title claim. The MN-S is working to obtain these records as expeditiously as possible and will inform you promptly once they are obtained. Should there be any further delay in retrieving these documents, we





would invite a discussion with Saskatchewan to identify steps that can be taken cooperatively to encourage their release by the University of Saskatchewan.

If the MN-S succeeds in obtaining recognition of their Aboriginal title after the Project has been approved and developed, the MN-S will have lost out on the economic value of the Project resources. The MN-S will also have lost the opportunity to develop the Project independently, to unlock the Project's full potential to ensure that the Métis benefit at every level, and to advance the sovereignty of the Métis Nation.

The Project will remove significant mineral wealth from the Métis Homeland and Aboriginal title area – mineral wealth that could eventually support the development of Métis communities and institutions. This economic loss has been recognized as an adverse effect giving rise to the Crown's duty to consult.<sup>2</sup> Indigenous peoples have a constitutionally-grounded right to economic development within their communities.<sup>3</sup> Courts have recognized that economic harm may result to Indigenous rights-holders if they are deprived the opportunity to benefit economically from a resource (such as minerals or harvested wildlife) while a title claim is being resolved.<sup>4</sup>

The loss of mineral value to the Métis, before the Northwest Métis Land Claim has been resolved, has not been considered in the Final EIS or the Ministry's Technical Review. Nor has the speculative value provided to Denison by granting the environmental assessment been considered.

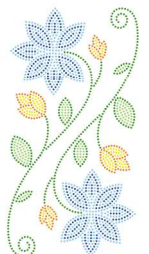
The MN-S invites the Ministry to engage in discussions specifically about the potential impact of the Project on the Métis title claim, and on the impacts of the Project that may adversely effect Métis rights pending the determination of that claim. The MN-S requests that these discussions include how the MN-S's concerns regarding the lost economic value can be incorporated into the approval, if issued, through Project conditions. For example, the lost opportunity to advance Métis sovereignty, community wellbeing and economic and social infrastructure through the eventual development of the Project by the Métis Nation may be partially accommodated through conditions which require deep engagement and participation of the Métis Nation in the development and operation of the Project, including in the form of workforce and supplier participation, and support for Métis social-economic infrastructure.

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<sup>2</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390.

<sup>3</sup> *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380.

<sup>4</sup> *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63; *Ross River Dena Council v Yukon (Government of)*, 2015 YKSC 45 at paras 54-58.



Further, the MN-S requests from the Government of Saskatchewan provide the Métis Nation with formal guarantees and assurances that it will fully compensate the Métis Nation for the loss of all minerals extracted from the Project at such time as the Métis claim for Aboriginal title is established.

***b. Indigenous Engagement Report does not reflect the MN-S experience***

In regard to the Indigenous Engagement Report, the MN-S has only been able to engage in a high-level review of the summary of engagement of the MN-S and in particular of Appendix A-9: Key Engagement with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. Appendix A-9 is more than 30 pages covering five years of engagement. Full review of Denison’s perspective on the Key Engagement activities was not possible in the time provided to the MN-S. This issue again demonstrates the inadequacy of the Province’s timeline for consultation.

Nonetheless, Appendix A-9 does not accurately reflect the MN-S’s perspective on the engagement which occurred between the MN-S and Denison. As one example, Denison describes an “impasse” which arose allegedly “as a result of MN-S’ [sic] insistence on commercial negotiations taking precedence.”<sup>5</sup> The MN-S has always been clear that it seeks a consent and support arrangement in respect of the Project, which includes meaningful environmental, workforce and economic participation, and asserts that reducing this interest to “commercial negotiations” is misleading. Further, Denison itself contributed to the understanding that consent and support-based discussions, (including economic participation) were core to Denison’s objectives with the Métis Nation and the engagement process. Moreover, economic participation discussions between MN-S and Denison were a natural result of MN-S’s Aboriginal title interest in the mineral rights underlying the Project as described above in this letter.

Additionally, the Indigenous Engagement Report demonstrates clearly many of the issues discussed below, particularly the lack of Denison’s response to the valid and specific concerns raised by MN-S. Again, as one example, Denison clearly recognized the connection between MN-S’s Aboriginal title and need for revenue sharing from “removal of the resources claimed by the Métis”.<sup>6</sup> In response to this concern however, Denison merely thanked “MN-S for the comment.”<sup>7</sup>

In addition to an extension of time to review the Indigenous Engagement Report, the MN-S invites the Ministry to meet so that the MN-S can provide additional context and present

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<sup>5</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 148 of 418.

<sup>6</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 66 of 418.

<sup>7</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 332 of 418.



further material supporting the positions that consultation to-date has been inadequate and that the Indigenous Engagement Report does not entirely reflect the MN-S's experience.

## **2. The MN-S has substantial outstanding concerns with the Final EIS**

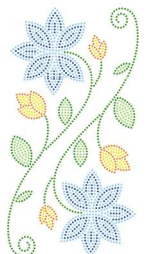
As noted at the outset of this letter, the MN-S is providing preliminary feedback on the Final EIS and requests an extension of time to provide comprehensive comments. At the draft EIS stage, the MN-S's consultants prepared a limited technical review of the draft EIS for submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Due to limited funding, this review did not include all sections of the draft EIS. To date, the MN-S has not been able to do a full review or address the gaps in the initial technical review.

Many of the MN-S's concerns relate to Denison not incorporating into the Final EIS the Métis knowledge shared through engagement and through the study report prepared by MN-S's consultant Two World Consulting with preliminary findings related to the Project ("**Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study**").

The MN-S shared both the technical review of the draft EIS and the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study with Denison. It is the MN-S's understanding that Denison has shared these documents with Saskatchewan, but the MN-S invites Saskatchewan to discuss any documents it may not have received pertaining to the Project.

By way of preliminary feedback, the MN-S challenges many of the statements and conclusions made in the Final EIS and the Ministry's Technical Review. In particular the MN-S disputes the following:

- (a) **Level of precaution in EIS:** The Final EIS states that the environmental assessment in the Final EIS is transparent and conservative. The MN-S's position is that the Final EIS cannot be conservative or precautionary because of how poorly understood the potential effects of the Project on Métis rights and interests are.
- (b) **Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability:** The Final EIS states that ground freezing technology is well-established and that a freeze wall will safely contain mining solution. The MN-S's position is that the combination of a freeze wall with *in situ* recovery has never been used before, and that therefore the effectiveness of the freeze wall in protecting groundwater and environmental/human health cannot be known. Further, Denison's conclusions on the safety of the ground freezing process are based on an assumption that the basement rock is impermeable or has very low



permeability. Métis elders have raised doubts that the basement rock is impermeable and believe the mining fluids will permeate based on their Indigenous knowledge and experiences in the North and of the flowing water systems. The MN-S submits that to address this concern, at a minimum, the ground freezing should extend below the orebody to prevent fluid transmission.

- (c) **Groundwater:** The Final EIS states that that residual effects of the Project on the Groundwater will not result in a significant adverse effect to surface water. The Final EIS finds that migration of dissolved constituent concentrations from the mining area into Whitefish Lake will occur within hundreds of years. This timeframe is relevant to Métis use of the area for traditional purposes including commercial fishing. The Final EIS states that concentrations will not pose an environmental risk, a finding that the MN-S challenges on the basis that it was not informed by Métis knowledge, including the knowledge of Métis elders that suggests mining fluid may permeate the basement rock if the freeze wall is not extended below the ore body. The MN-S's position is that any change to concentrations of dissolved constituents in groundwater will adversely impact Métis rights by leading to avoidance and alienation from the Project area.
- (d) **Surface water quality:** The MN-S challenges the conclusion that adverse effects to surface water quality will not be significant and that there will be no cumulative effects on surface water quality. The Final EIS acknowledges that baseline levels of certain constituents in surface water already exceed guidelines, and that surface water quality in Whitefish Lake will be adversely affected by mobilization of solids and effluent discharge. Any adverse change to surface water quality will have a significant effect on Métis rights, especially when these changes occur to a surface water body that already exceeds guidelines for certain substances. While Denison claims monitoring will ensure the effectiveness of mitigations, MN-S does not know how we will be involved in development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (e) **Selenium:** The Final EIS concludes that, as a result of the Project, selenium concentrations will be elevated in fish tissues and human tissues through consumption of fish caught at the inlet to Russel Lake. The Final EIS then unreasonably concludes that elevated selenium levels are not an adverse effect, because they may be within an acceptable range. The MN-S disagrees with this conclusion for several reasons. The Métis believe that any elevated selenium concentrations in fish that may be harvested for traditional, including food or commercial purposes, is unacceptable. The risks to Métis human health and fish health, and the associated stigma and avoidance of consuming fish from the Project area, must be mitigated. For instance, actual and perceived





selenium contamination will cause decline or complete avoidance of the commercial fishery at Russel Lake, due to market perception of the fish caught in contaminated waters and Métis concerns of health and values of responsibility to the wider community. As well, Denison's conclusion on selenium may not be accurate as it does not reflect Métis knowledge of the level of fish consumption in this area and the cumulative effects of consuming fish from multiple potentially contaminated water bodies. In its review of the Project the Ministry should apply a standard that no level of increased selenium concentration is acceptable. As well, the Ministry should ensure that monitoring plans for selenium are developed in cooperation with the MN-S to ensure that no selenium enters the environment over time.

- (f) **Fish and fish habitat:** The Final EIS states that the Project will not cause significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake. The Final EIS predicts effects to fish and fish habitat in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake through changes in water quality from discharge of treated effluent, as well as increased fishing due to increased access to the area. The MN-S submits that any residual effect on fish and fish habitat is significant and has the potential to adversely impact Métis rights such as traditional fishing rights which include commercial fishing rights. As well, the MN-S submits that the mitigations proposed for surface water quality and by extension fish and fish habitat are insufficient, and Denison has not provided sufficient information on how MN-S will be involved in the development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (g) **Fish health:** The Final EIS states that discharge of treated effluent from the Project or any other source of contamination in Whitefish Lake will not have a significant effect on fish health. Any adverse change to fish health is significant and has a significant effect on Métis rights. The Métis rely heavily on fish including in the Project area for traditional harvesting purposes including commercial fishing practices. Any real or perceived contamination of surface water and fish health creates a risk that Métis will no longer harvest or consume fish caught in the Project area, even after environmental remediation and with monitoring measures in place. The Final EIS claims that no cumulative effects are expected to fish health, yet the MN-S Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study describes how Métis already avoid consuming fish if it is perceived to be unhealthy, including in areas affected by historic mining and development activities. The Métis fishery at Cluff Lake was destroyed by the actual and perceived contamination of fish, and the MN-S asserts that the same will happen at the Project and Russel Lake. Further, Denison has not engaged the



MN-S on the development and implementation of monitoring plans for fish health and it is unclear whether or how they will do so.

- (h) **Vegetation:** The Final EIS states that the adverse effects and cumulative effects of the Project on plants will not be significant. The Final EIS predicts that vegetation, ecosystems, and wetlands will be adversely affected through changes in the extent of habitat types, changes in the constituent concentrations of potential concern in plant tissue, changes in the number of listed plants, and changes in the area of wetland ecosystems, and that these effects will overlap with effects of other developments in the region. The Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study includes information on Métis gathering and use of plants, mushrooms, wood and berries. Any negative change to plant species that the Métis gather and use is a significant adverse effect. While Denison states that monitoring may be used to understand and reduce effects, the MN-S has not been sufficiently engaged on the development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (i) **Woodland caribou:** The MN-S challenges the conclusion that Project construction and operation will not have significant adverse effects on woodland caribou. The Final EIS assessment predicted that the Project will cause adverse effects, including cumulative effects with existing projects and activities, on wildlife including woodland caribou through loss of habitat, sensory disturbance, vehicle collisions, and increased harvest or predation. The MN-S made several recommendations related to caribou to Denison in the MN-S's technical review of the draft EIS, that were not incorporated in the Final EIS. Without the benefit of MN-S knowledge the conclusion on the significance of effects on woodland caribou is not reliable. The MN-S disagrees with many of the assumptions related to caribou including the size of the area studied, the length of time caribou will take to return to the Project area after decommissioning, and the source of data for establishing baseline populations. As well, the MN-S submits that any adverse impact on woodland caribou, especially cumulative effects, are significant due to the precarious status of woodland caribou. The Final EIS conclusion that the effects on caribou are not significant is directly at odds with the finding in the EIS that woodland caribou populations will not be self-sustaining after the Project ends. As well, the MN-S requested to be engaged by Denison on the development and implementation of a woodland caribou management plan including monitoring measures, but this engagement has not materialized.
- (j) **Human health:** The Final EIS concludes that there will be no significant adverse impacts on human health, putting undue emphasis on the assertion



that there are no populated communities in proximity to the Project. The MN-S strongly disagrees with this conclusion, and also asserts that the Project risks exposing Indigenous communities to higher levels of industrial pollutants and worse health outcomes in part because of a lack of understanding of how Métis communities use the land. Denison claims that it will mitigate effects to human health through management plans for dust and water effluent. The MN-S submits that these mitigations are woefully inadequate to address the effects which include long-term transport of groundwater constituents to Whitefish Lake in future centuries that may affect human health far into the future. The MN-S asserts that the adverse impacts on human health are significant, unmitigated, and unjustified. The human health assessment was not conducted based on any Métis knowledge. The Final EIS also unreasonably concludes that there will be no cumulative effects on human health. This cannot be true given the significant historic and ongoing development in northern Saskatchewan, which the MN-S could have provided information on if consulted adequately and given sufficient time and resources to conduct a more fulsome knowledge study.

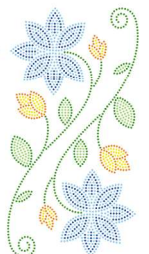
- (k) **Indigenous land and resource use for traditional purposes including recreational and commercial purposes:** The Final EIS acknowledges that the Project is expected to have an adverse effect on the perceived suitability of the lands and resources for some resource users in the area, and that there will be cumulative effects, but unreasonably concludes that these effects will not be significant. The MN-S disputes this conclusion, in part because it was formed without the benefit of a full understanding of Métis use in the Project area. Likewise, the proposed mitigation measures to decrease effects on Indigenous land and resource use are not specific to the Métis nor are they sensitive to Métis patterns of land use in the area. As well, Denison does not propose any additional monitoring measures for Indigenous land and resource use, simply relying on the monitoring measures for the biophysical environment and human health which are (a) deficient for monitoring the purported valued components due to a lack of understanding and consultation with the MN-S, and (b) not relevant to monitoring Indigenous land and resource use.
- (l) **Heritage resources:** Final EIS states that the Project includes sensitive areas with the potential to contain heritage resources. Denison has discovered two archaeological sites at the Project site and acknowledges that it is possible that additional archaeological sites may be identified during the life of the Project. The MN-S submits that the mitigation measure Denison proposes, a heritage resources management plan, was developed without the input of the MN-S and without an understanding of potential Métis heritage resources in the Project



area. The MN-S submits that any adverse impact on Métis heritage resources or archaeological sites would be highly significant. The EIS conclusion that adverse impacts are not significant is unreasonable and unfounded.

- (m) **Quality of life:** The Final EIS concludes that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on cultural expression including the availability of country foods, community well-being, and infrastructure and services. The MN-S disputes this finding and notes that there is a lack of understanding of how historic development in the area has already impacted Métis quality of life so that cumulative effects cannot be fully understood. The MN-S raises the example of the adverse change to the fishery at Cluff Lake, which was abandoned by Métis fishers, as a result of uranium mining.
- (n) **Economics:** Denison claims that the Project is expected to create employment and business opportunities and increase income for workers and businesses. However, Denison's responses were largely dismissive to the MN-S's questions and recommendations on the assessment of economic effects on the Métis. In particular Denison states that communities of interest will be given priority for employment opportunities, but did not respond to the MN-S's questions and recommendations about supporting Métis Citizens to achieve the education level necessary to be qualified for employment opportunities that include opportunities for advancement. The MN-S submits that there is not adequate information available to understand how the Project will economically impact the Métis, and that Denison cannot claim without basis that the Project will provide economic benefits to all communities in the Project area. Denison erroneously claims that the Project will not affect traditional economies, in part because land and resource use activities near existing uranium operations have persisted in proximity to these sites. The MN-S submits that on the contrary, traditional economies of Métis communities, including commercial fishing economies, have been decimated by uranium projects, for example the fishery at Cluff Lake. In addition to these concerns, the MN-S reiterates the concern expressed above that there is a risk of economic loss to the Métis if the Project proceeds before the Northwest Métis Land Claim is resolved in court. If the Métis are found to hold Aboriginal title to the Project area, the mineral wealth from the Project resources should flow to the Métis.

Based on the above, the MN-S submits that it is unreasonable to conclude that there will not be significant, long-term impacts of the Project on the environment and on Métis rights.





**3. The MN-S has many unaddressed questions and concerns pertaining to the Ministry's review of the Project**

In response to your letter, the MN-S seeks clarity from the Ministry on the following matters regarding the Project:

*i. Why was only Patuanak Métis Local #82 expressly mentioned in your letter?*

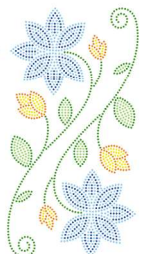
Your letter described the process by which Patuanak was initially notified of the Project and delegated its consultation in respect of the Project to the MN-S. However, the MN-S was also delegated consultation on the Project by A La Baie Métis Local 21, Sipishik Métis Local 37 (Île-à-la-Crosse), and Métis Local 67 (Dore Lake and Sled Lake). Additionally, through the signing of One-Voice Agreements, the MN-S is now engaging in respect of each of the Locals of NR1 and NR3, with the exception of the Kineepik Local #9 (Pinehouse). Since 2020, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has acknowledged that it will consult the MN-S on its own part and on behalf of Northern Regions 1, 2 and 3. If Saskatchewan takes a narrower view of the appropriate Métis parties requiring consultation, we ask for an opportunity to understand how Saskatchewan selected the participating Métis parties and for an opportunity to engage with Saskatchewan to collect/share information and help inform Saskatchewan of the appropriate communities that the MN-S asserts should be included.

To that end, the MN-S notes that we are in the process of conducting activities to obtain Métis Traditional Knowledge data from the community of Île-à-la-Crosse which the MN-S will share with Saskatchewan as soon as it is available.

*ii. Why have the Ministry and Denison not consulted at the deep end of the Haida Nation spectrum?*

Your letter states that the Ministry assessed the level of consultation required to be significant due to the potential loss of access to unoccupied Crown land and long-term disturbance to the land associated with the Project. Significant impacts to asserted Aboriginal rights require deep consultation, which the MN-S takes the position has not occurred. Deep consultation requires working towards mutually satisfactory solutions, seeking consent, and may require mediation, yet Denison and the Ministry have largely ignored the MN-S's submissions on key issues related to the Project. The MN-S has not been made aware of accommodations for impacts to its rights.

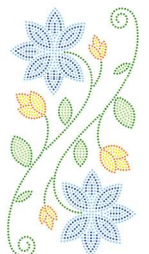
At this late stage in the process, where the Final EIS has already been posted for public comments, the MN-S is concerned that their rights cannot be adequately addressed through changes to the Project or to the effects assessment because the technical aspects of the Project have been finalized. The MN-S also does not know how the Ministry intends



to involve the MN-S in the final environmental assessment and decision process, or how the MN-S can be consulted on terms and conditions for Project approval.

For greater certainty, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include:

- (a) the right of Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area, including as set out in the 1994 Métis Land Claim which Canada has committed to resolve. This right includes the right to use these lands in the future without disturbance or interruption, the right to the lands' mineral wealth – which is the inheritance of the Métis – and to obtain these lands without the blemish of industrial development or the legacy of toxic waste;
- (b) the right for Métis to freely access and use the Project area as they have in previous generations, without interruption, and without individual and community anxiety regarding the health of plants, animals, and fish around and within the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake;
- (c) the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water throughout NR1 and NR3;
- (d) the right to build and maintain a healthy and connected Métis community, to recover from the legacy of the residential school system, and to recover from the history of colonization and exploitation;
- (e) a right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations, including through undisturbed land use in and around the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake;
- (f) a right to transit over our lands to exercise our rights, including the modern application of our historic commercial rights;
- (g) the right to harvest species, including hunting, fishing and trapping, for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes;
- (h) the right to rehabilitate caribou habitat and reduce environmental stresses on caribou, in order to restore traditional Métis connections to caribou harvesting and use that has been substantially diminished within NR1 and NR3 as a result of environmental pressures from industry and development on caribou;



- (i) the right for current and future generations of Métis to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake; and
- (j) the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts and Métis burial and other culturally significant sites, and to prevent the desecration of these sites.

*Disclaimer Regarding Aboriginal Title and Commercial Harvesting Rights*

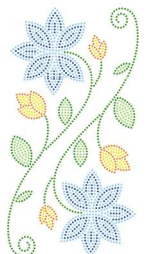
Please note that the MN-S understands that it is the position of Saskatchewan that it will not consult in respect of Aboriginal title or commercial harvest rights. We assert that this position is unconstitutional. We do not acquiesce to this view and reserve all rights to challenge any Crown decision made which is in any way based or reliant on this unconstitutional approach to Métis rights. Furthermore, before the Supreme Court of Canada in November, Saskatchewan suggested that its refusal to discuss Aboriginal title (and presumably commercial harvesting rights) was tied to a lack of information about these claims. The MN-S invites a discussion with Saskatchewan regarding the information it requests, and believes that the information currently held by the University of Saskatchewan is relevant to these discussions and to Saskatchewan's assessment of the Métis Aboriginal title claim.

*iii. What is the proposed timeline for the Ministry's environmental assessment and reaching a decision?*

The MN-S is concerned that the environmental assessment and decision will proceed on too short of a timeline for MN-S concerns to be adequately addressed. The Final EIS is already finalized, and this public review period is too short for meaningful participation from the MN-S. An expedited decision approving the Project will almost certainly fail to meaningfully address the impacts of the Project on Métis rights.

*iv. Will the Ministry meet with the MN-S on a nation-to-nation basis to discuss Métis concerns and the appropriateness of accommodation?*

The Ministry has informed us that it has delegated procedural aspects of the duty to consult to Denison. However, the Ministry is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the duty to consult and accommodate is fulfilled. The MN-S requests direct meetings with the Ministry to discuss the MN-S's concerns regarding the Project, the impact of the Project on Métis rights, and the adequacy of accommodation measures for addressing those impacts to rights. Accommodation measures that the MN-S wishes to discuss may include terms and conditions to the Project approval, if granted.



v. *How will a final MN-S Traditional Knowledge Study be facilitated and incorporated into the review of the Project?*

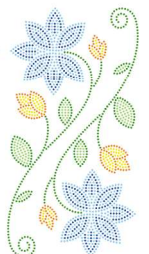
In October 2023, the MN-S's consultant Two World Consulting completed the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study. The Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study consolidates historical and contemporary community knowledge on land use, economies, social systems, and culture from a distinctly Métis perspective. This was the first study of Métis traditional use by Métis Locals, other than Kineepik Local #9, of the Project area.

As the first, high level preliminary study of Métis knowledge, the Métis knowledge study is important for demonstrating the existence of Métis use of land in and around the Project area. However, the capacity funding provided by Denison and the timeframe for conducting the study were not adequate to fully define traditional areas of use, including in the Project area. Further study is needed to define traditional use including in the Project area.

Denison has mischaracterized the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study as a definitive and comprehensive source of Métis knowledge for the purposes of the Final EIS. Even if this were the case, the Final EIS does not sufficiently incorporate Métis knowledge into the effects assessment. The changes to the EIS following Denison's receipt of the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study are descriptive only, and the Final EIS does not analyse potential effects to Métis land use base on the study or incorporate the data in the study into any technical sections of the EIS.

The MN-S requires further time to complete a final or updated knowledge study. The MN-S is concerned that the Final EIS, which purports to incorporate findings from the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study, has been finalized without the benefit of a fulsome understanding of Métis use of the Project Area. The MN-S requests clarity on how the Ministry will meaningfully incorporate an updated knowledge study into the Ministry's review of the Project.

In addition, the MN-S notes that the Métis of Northern Saskatchewan are one people. Their communities have always been highly interconnected, including through marriage, culture, and economy. This interconnectedness has been demonstrated through important decisions such as *R. v. Morin and Daigneault* and *R. v. Laviolette*, 2005 SKPC 70, and Saskatchewan's previous efforts to reject the unified Métis view of rights was rejected by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in *R v Boyer*, 2022 SKCA 62. The MN-S is aware that Kineepik Métis Local #9 is in control and possession of certain Métis knowledge that is relevant to understanding the impact of the Project to the Northern Métis community. This traditional knowledge was collected and developed through funding provided to that specific Métis Local over more than a decade from existing mines. While the MN-S acknowledges that Kineepik Métis Local #9 may have provided their support for the





Project through support and consent-based negotiations with Denison, the knowledge and potential impact is relevant to all Métis of Northern Saskatchewan, and should not be discounted or ignored simply because the Métis Local in possession of those documents and records has individually supported the Project.

*vi. How will the Ministry ensure that the Project benefits the Métis?*

As set out above, it is incumbent on the Ministry to protect the lands, water, and mineral resources pending a determination of Métis Aboriginal title in the Project area, to ensure that the Métis are not deprived of the opportunity to benefit from the economic value of the Project. Denison has not provided satisfactory assurance that the Project will meaningfully benefit the Métis.

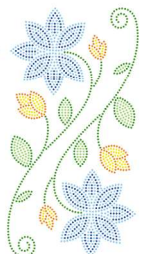
Denison's Indigenous Engagement Report states that the Project will provide maximal benefits to potentially affected communities, and that Denison is committed to sharing economic benefits with Métis peoples and communities. However, the position of the MN-S is that the information in the Final EIS on potential benefits of the Project is too vague to give the Métis any assurance that they will benefit from the Project. The MN-S's own assessment is that the Project will provide marginal benefits at best, which do not outweigh the risks of the Project.

For example, the MN-S asked Denison how it will support Métis communities by helping Citizens achieve a Grade 12 education, which is a pre-requisite for all jobs on the Project site. Denison did not meaningfully respond to this question. Without support in achieving the necessary prerequisites to work on the Project, Métis communities cannot benefit from the potential employment the Project will bring. As the governing body responsible for provision of education, the Ministry must support Métis communities and individuals in achieving secondary education.

Denison and the MN-S have proposed to form a Joint Working Group for the Project. However, the MN-S's position is that a Joint Working Group with the proponent cannot offset a failure of the Ministry to ensure that the duty to consult is fulfilled prior to the approval of the Project.

*vii. How will the Ministry's review and decision incorporate the principle of free, prior, and informed consent?*

The MN-S asked Denison how Denison will incorporate the principle of free, prior, and informed consent, given the reference Denison makes to this principle in its Indigenous Peoples Policy. Denison did not respond, stating only that the policy is aspirational and will be implemented in a project-specific manner.



The MN-S cannot consent to the Project in its present form. How will the Ministry take the MN-S's consent or lack of consent into account in reaching a decision?

*viii. How will the MN-S's concerns be incorporated into the final Project and effects assessment following this public review period?*

The Ministry's Technical Review of the Final EIS states that the reviewers are satisfied with Denison's engagement activities. The MN-S strongly disagrees with this finding. The Technical Review further states that the public review period provides an opportunity for communities to identify any outstanding issues and any potential adverse impacts to rights and traditional uses that were not previously addressed.

With the public review period lasting only 6 weeks, and the Final EIS and Project design already finalized, the MN-S struggles to see how any comments it submits during this review period will be meaningfully incorporated. How will the MN-S's submissions inform the environmental assessment and the Ministry's decision on the Project?

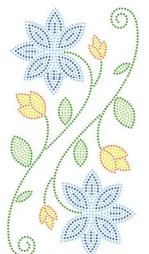
*ix. How were the MN-S's concerns incorporated into the biophysical impacts assessment?*

The Indigenous Engagement Report shows that no Métis knowledge was incorporated into the environmental technical sections of the Final EIS. The MN-S raised several concerns about the terrestrial environment at the draft EIS stage, which Denison failed to meaningfully respond to or incorporate into the Final EIS.

The concerns raised by the MN-S about the terrestrial environment at the draft EIS stage include: regeneration of the altered landscape and the effects on woodland caribou, including decommissioning plans for roads and transmission lines built for the Project; adequacy of moose harvest data; cumulative effects of the Project on vegetation; the size of the regional study area for assessing impacts of the Project on caribou; the inclusion of the MN-S in the development of a woodland caribou management plan; the potential presence of other large terrestrial mammals in the study area; and the timeframes used to characterize trends in wildlife harvesting.

The MN-S expressly raised the concern that the draft EIS does not incorporate Métis knowledge into the Project's terrestrial ecosystem effects assessment. Denison responded to this comment by stating that Métis knowledge from Kineepik was included. The MN-S's position is that this is untenable, as Kineepik does not represent the collective rights of the Métis within Saskatchewan and NR1 and NR3.

Since the effects of the Project on Métis rights flow from the permanent alteration of the biophysical environment, it is critical that the environmental effects assessment include



Métis knowledge and concerns related to the same. Without the MN-S knowledge and concerns incorporated into the Final EIS, the Ministry cannot understand or assess how the Project may affect MN-S rights.

- x. *How will the MN-S be involved in the development of a caribou mitigation and offsetting plan?*

The Ministry's Technical Review states that Denison will be required to prepare a caribou mitigation and offsetting plan, in collaboration with the Province, if the Project is approved. The MN-S has repeatedly asked to be involved in the development and implementation of measures to monitor and manage woodland caribou. How will the Ministry ensure that the MN-S is engaged and meaningfully involved in the development of management, mitigation, and monitoring plans for caribou? Furthermore, how will the Ministry ensure that Métis ambitions for the eventual rehabilitation of northern caribou will be still possible if the Project proceeds?

- xi. *How will the MN-S be informed of monitoring results for fish and fish habitat and surface water quality?*

The Final EIS and the Ministry's Technical Review find that the Project will cause residual effects to fish and fish habitat and surface water quality in Whitefish Lake, and that therefore monitoring may be required. The Métis require full access to monitoring results in order to determine the risks that exist to their traditional rights including commercial fishing activities in the Project area.

The Final EIS provides that mitigations for human health impacts of the Project include environmental monitoring of the safety and sustainability of country foods. How will the MN-S be involved in the development and implementation of these monitoring plans? How will the results be shared?

- xii. *Why has the Technical Review not included an assessment of decommissioning plans for radioactive waste stored at the Project?*

The decommissioning and reclamation objectives for the Project include a landscape that is capable of supporting a functioning, self-sustaining ecosystem that is safe for human use, and that allows access for unrestricted traditional use.

This is inconsistent with the management of low-level radioactive waste at the Project, which requires containment and isolation for up to a few hundred years. The Technical Review of the Final EIS has not assessed any decommissioning plans with respect to radioactive waste disposal.



*xiii. How will the Ministry's assessment of the Project address the many unresolved concerns and unaddressed impacts to rights raised in the MN-S review of the draft EIS?*

In the Indigenous Engagement Report, many concerns raised by the MN-S related to the draft EIS remain unaddressed in the Final EIS.

The Indigenous Engagement Report claims that Denison has incorporated the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS (Table 2-1, page 2-77). Denison has not included any Métis knowledge on environmental and technical matters in the Final EIS. Denison has not included Métis knowledge in the characterization of the environment or effects assessment for groundwater, the terrestrial environment, aquatic environment, human health, the ecological risk assessment, heritage resources, infrastructure and services, or the accidents and malfunctions sections of the Final EIS. The MN-S made comments on some or all of these topics in its review of the draft EIS, and the Final EIS does not address the MN-S's concerns.

In March 2023, our consultant, Two Worlds Consulting, prepared a Technical Review Report of the draft EIS which concluded that engagement and consultation on the Project are deficient. Denison's failure to address our technical concerns, concerns about the limited economic benefits of the Project, and concerns about deficiencies in the Project effects assessment, monitoring and environmental management plans and mitigation measures has carried through into the Final EIS.

Denison states that it has incorporated the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS. However, the MN-S still has concerns that the EIS does not fully represent Métis knowledge and traditional land use, in part because of the preliminary nature of the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study. As well, the updates to the EIS undertaken after the Two Worlds Technical Review are generally descriptive, and do not add any new analysis that could allow Denison or the MN-S to conclude that effects of the Project on Métis rights have been adequately considered and mitigated.

The MN-S has identified the following non-exhaustive categories of concerns to-date that are not addressed in the Final EIS or in the Indigenous Engagement Report:

- (a) Incorporation of Métis knowledge into the Final EIS;
- (b) Impacts of the Project to traditional use;
- (c) Impacts of the Project to Métis Aboriginal title as articulated in the 1994 Claim;
- (d) MN-S's technical concerns, so that the Final EIS meaningfully incorporates MN-S's concerns and knowledge;



- (e) MN-S's concerns regarding waste storage, which must be undertaken in accordance with Article 29(2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (f) Cumulative effects of development, specifically cumulative effects on the environment and on Métis use and rights;
- (g) MN-S's concerns regarding effects of the Project on caribou, a historically important resource for the Métis; and
- (h) impacts of the Project on Métis commercial hunting, trapping and fishing.

The MN-S asserts that these concerns need to be addressed in a revised Final EIS, or through terms and conditions applied to the Project by the Ministry if the Project is approved.

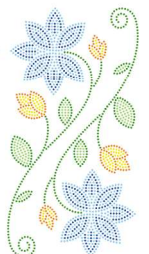
#### **4. Conclusion**

The Métis Nation has suffered from decades of development within the Homeland, which has harmed our Citizens and our lands, alienated our Citizens from their historic land use, created anxiety amongst our Citizens about their lands and the health of the species that they have traditionally trapped and consumed, and has adversely impacted the inter-generational perpetuation of Métis languages, culture and traditional knowledge rooted in land use activities. Our communities have also suffered the effects of residential and day-schools which suppressed our traditions and instilled inter-generational trauma that our communities are currently struggling through.

The MN-S has been straining its capacity to review multiple uranium extraction projects in its Homeland including NexGen Energy Ltd.'s Rook 1 Project and Fission Uranium Corp.'s Patterson Lake South Project, including during the challenging years where COVID-19 disrupted our communities.

The cumulative effects of the substantial historical and existing development in NR1 and NR3 on Métis rights are still not understood. There is a lack of historic data on the mines in the area, and a lack of understanding of how these historic mines have impacted Métis rights. Adding the Project to this landscape of historic development will exacerbate existing impacts. Without understanding the context of the current development, consultation cannot be adequate.

The Métis Nation cannot consent to the Project in its current form or under the current insufficient consultation process. Our lands and communities are already taxed to their





limits. The addition of the Project will tax our Citizens and lands to the breaking point. The honour of the Crown requires that Saskatchewan recognize the significant cumulative effects that the Project will have on our Citizens and lands, and to recognize that our fragile communities, still struggling with the inter-generational trauma of historic development and residential and day schools, cannot sustain unbridled development in Saskatchewan's North.

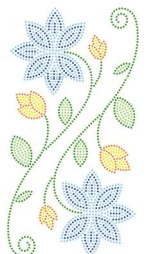
Based on the foregoing, the MN-S urgently requests that the Ministry engage in, and direct Denison to engage in, deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project. In particular, the MN-S requests discussions of the potential economic loss the Project would result in, which will have future ramifications for the Aboriginal title that the Métis asserts across Northern Saskatchewan and including the Project area.

Yours truly,



Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP



## Appendix "A"



December 20, 2024

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: MN-S Response to Notification of Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report**

This letter is being provided in response to your November 7, 2024 letter notifying the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”) of the continuation of the Ministry of Environment’s duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”).

This letter includes the following general sections:

1. The MN-S’s preliminary concerns regarding the Indigenous Engagement Report for the Project;
2. An outline of the MN-S’s initial review of Denison’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (“**EIS**”); and
3. An overview of the MN-S’s outstanding questions and concerns with respect to the Ministry’s review of the Project.

The specific concerns the MN-S raises in this letter include:

- **Consultation:** Consultation to date has not reflected the significant risk the Project poses to Métis rights, and the Indigenous Engagement Report does not accurately reflect the MN-S’s perspective on the engagement which occurred between the MN-S and Denison. In particular, the MN-S asserts that Denison has mischaracterized the MN-S’s interests in the process by reducing this interest to commercial negotiations. The MN-S has always been clear that it seeks consent and support arrangements in respect of the Project, which includes meaningful environmental, workforce and economic participation. Furthermore, while Denison has consistently indicated its openness to engaging in such consent-based

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**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East

Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7

306.343.8285 ext. 66726191.12

[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)





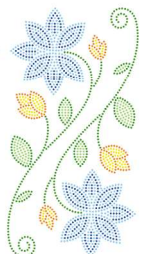
discussions, Denison has not participated in such discussions until recently. The MN-S requests the Ministry to meet so that the MN-S can provide additional context to the consultation record.

For greater clarity, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include: Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area as set out in the Métis Land Claim; the right for the Métis to freely access and use the Project area; the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water; the right to build and maintain a healthy connected Métis community; the right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations; the modern application of historic commercial rights; the right to harvest species for traditional purposes which include food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes; the right to rehabilitate caribou populations; the right to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake; and the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts.

- **Economic loss:** The MN-S requests that Saskatchewan consult specifically on the economic loss the Project will cause on Métis economic rights, given that the Project will occur in the area subject to the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim. It is incumbent on Saskatchewan to specifically consult on the adverse effects of economic loss in these lands subject to the Métis Aboriginal title claim.<sup>1</sup> The MN-S requests that Saskatchewan provide formal guarantees and assurances that it will fully compensate the Métis Nation for the loss of all minerals extracted from the Project at such time as the Métis claim for Aboriginal title is established. Additionally, the MN-S seeks appropriate accommodations through increased participation in development of the Project to help offset the lost socioeconomic opportunities that would be available to the MN-S if developing the Project independently. The MN-S is in the process of obtaining records from the University of Saskatchewan to support the Aboriginal title claim, and will share these records with the Ministry at the earliest opportunity.
- **No evidence of economic benefit to the Métis:** Denison has not demonstrated that the Project will reliably result in economic benefits to the Métis.
- **Insufficient understanding of effects of the Project on Métis land and resource use, and no meaningful incorporation of Preliminary Métis**

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<sup>1</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390; *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380; *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63.



**Knowledge Study into Final EIS:** The MN-S's consultant Two Worlds Consulting prepared a preliminary report on a Métis knowledge study in the Project area ("**Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study**"). Denison's Final EIS (a) does not meaningfully incorporate the knowledge shared in the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study, and (b) mischaracterizes the study as conclusive rather than preliminary and limited in scope. The MN-S seeks assurances from Saskatchewan that the MN-S will be given the opportunity, including time and resources, to complete a more fulsome study and that the results of such study will be meaningfully incorporated in the review of the Project. To that end, the MN-S notes that we are in the process of conducting activities to obtain Métis Traditional Knowledge data from the community of Île-à-la-Crosse which the MN-S can share with Saskatchewan as soon as it is available.

- **Denison's reliance on traditional knowledge and Project support of Kineepik Local #9:** The MN-S's position is that there is one Métis Nation within Saskatchewan. The Locals of Northern Region 1 ("**NR1**") and Northern Region 3 ("**NR3**") share Métis Aboriginal rights as a single connected community. The interconnection of the Métis Nation is based on generations of familial ties and shared economies. The Métis Traditional Knowledge held by Kineepik and shared with Denison is relevant to understanding the impacts of the Project on all Métis communities. Simply because Kineepik has expressed support for the Project, this does not mean the Métis Traditional Knowledge held by Kineepik should not be used to inform the assessment of potentially adverse effects of the Project on other Métis Locals.
- **Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability:** Denison's conclusions on the safety of the Project are based on an assumption that the basement rock below the orebody has low or no permeability. The knowledge of MN-S elders is that the basement rock may be permeable, and that mining fluids will permeate and flow into water systems. The MN-S asserts that ground freezing must extend below the orebody.
- **Groundwater:** The Final EIS recognizes that the Project will result in migration of dissolved constituents of concern into groundwater within hundreds of years, which the MN-S asserts is a significant adverse impact on groundwater especially as it relates to environmental and human health.
- **Surface water quality:** Surface water quality in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake will be adversely affected by the Project. This represents a significant adverse impact on Métis rights, due to impacts on fish health, human health, Métis traditional fishing practices including commercial fishing, and the cumulative



impacts of industrial development in the North such as those that have already been seen at Cluff Lake with Métis avoidance of a once thriving fishery.

- **Selenium:** Selenium will increase in fish tissues and human tissues as a result of the Project. The MN-S asks Saskatchewan to impose criteria that the Project cannot result in any increase in selenium. Any increase in selenium should be considered a significant adverse effect due to the myriad risks to fish and human health. Any adverse change to selenium also risks causing Métis to avoid Russel Lake for fishing for traditional purposes including commercial fishing activities, as has been seen at other uranium projects such as Cluff Lake.
- **Fish, fish habitat, and fish health:** The changes as a result of the Project to surface water quality and health of fish must be considered significant adverse effects, especially as they pertain to the MN-S's exercise of fishing rights in Russel Lake. The Project puts at risk the Métis commercial fishery at Russel Lake due to the real and perceived contamination of water and fish.
- **Woodland caribou:** The Project will cause significant adverse effects to woodland caribou, as well as to the Métis right to harvest and use this historically important species and to see caribou populations return to health in the Project area.
- **Human health:** The Project risks exposing Métis communities to high levels of industrial pollutants through migration of constituents in ground water, surface water, vegetation, and wildlife, in part because of a lack of understanding of how Métis communities use the land in the Project area.
- **Indigenous land and resource use:** While the effects are still not fully understood, the Project will likely have significant adverse effects on Métis land and resource use.
- **Heritage resources:** The MN-S asserts that the conclusion in the Final EIS that effects of the Project on Métis heritage resources will not be significant is unfounded.
- **Quality of life:** The cumulative effects of historic, existing, and proposed developments in the area has already impacted Métis quality of life with respect to the availability of country foods, community well-being, and infrastructure services, and the Project will only add to this burden.
- **Monitoring plans:** The MN-S seeks clarity and assurances on MN-S's inclusion in the development and implementation of all monitoring plans.



This letter further poses several questions to Saskatchewan, that are detailed below and that the MN-S seeks answers to as expeditiously as possible given the uncertain timeline for Saskatchewan completing the review of the Project.

With respect to the MN-S's review of the Indigenous Engagement Report and the Final EIS, the MN-S is concerned that the timeline for reviewing these documents is inadequate for the depth of review required, and caveats that the MN-S is providing preliminary comments only. With these constraints in mind, the MN-S requests an extension of the comment period to January 31, 2025. Please respond to this letter at your earliest convenience confirming that comments received from the MN-S up until January 31, 2025, will be considered in the Ministry's review of the Project.

**1. *The MN-S's preliminary concerns regarding the Indigenous Engagement Report for the Project***

As noted in your letter, the Ministry assessed the level of consultation required for the Project to be significant due to the potential loss of access to unoccupied Crown land and long-term disturbance to the land associated with the Project. However, consultation has been insufficient to-date.

As outlined below, the MN-S has grave concerns about the Project and its effects on the rights of the Métis Nation and the exercise of those rights by current and future Métis Citizens that have gone unaddressed through the consultation process to date.

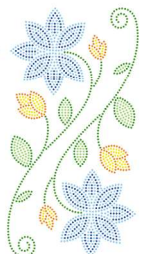
It is the position of the MN-S that consultation process regarding the Project has been insufficient, and that the Project should not proceed.

In particular, the consultation to date does not reflect the extraordinarily high stakes of permanently removing mineral wealth from the Project area that is subject to an Aboriginal title claim under the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim.

**a. *Consultation and Project review must reflect potential economic loss to the MN-S***

The Project area is subject to the Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim, which is currently being resolved in the courts.

The MN-S has identified that the University of Saskatchewan has important information and documentation that is relevant to the Métis Aboriginal title claim. The MN-S is working to obtain these records as expeditiously as possible and will inform you promptly once they are obtained. Should there be any further delay in retrieving these documents, we





would invite a discussion with Saskatchewan to identify steps that can be taken cooperatively to encourage their release by the University of Saskatchewan.

If the MN-S succeeds in obtaining recognition of their Aboriginal title after the Project has been approved and developed, the MN-S will have lost out on the economic value of the Project resources. The MN-S will also have lost the opportunity to develop the Project independently, to unlock the Project's full potential to ensure that the Métis benefit at every level, and to advance the sovereignty of the Métis Nation.

The Project will remove significant mineral wealth from the Métis Homeland and Aboriginal title area – mineral wealth that could eventually support the development of Métis communities and institutions. This economic loss has been recognized as an adverse effect giving rise to the Crown's duty to consult.<sup>2</sup> Indigenous peoples have a constitutionally-grounded right to economic development within their communities.<sup>3</sup> Courts have recognized that economic harm may result to Indigenous rights-holders if they are deprived the opportunity to benefit economically from a resource (such as minerals or harvested wildlife) while a title claim is being resolved.<sup>4</sup>

The loss of mineral value to the Métis, before the Northwest Métis Land Claim has been resolved, has not been considered in the Final EIS or the Ministry's Technical Review. Nor has the speculative value provided to Denison by granting the environmental assessment been considered.

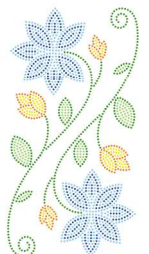
The MN-S invites the Ministry to engage in discussions specifically about the potential impact of the Project on the Métis title claim, and on the impacts of the Project that may adversely effect Métis rights pending the determination of that claim. The MN-S requests that these discussions include how the MN-S's concerns regarding the lost economic value can be incorporated into the approval, if issued, through Project conditions. For example, the lost opportunity to advance Métis sovereignty, community wellbeing and economic and social infrastructure through the eventual development of the Project by the Métis Nation may be partially accommodated through conditions which require deep engagement and participation of the Métis Nation in the development and operation of the Project, including in the form of workforce and supplier participation, and support for Métis social-economic infrastructure.

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<sup>2</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390.

<sup>3</sup> *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380.

<sup>4</sup> *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63; *Ross River Dena Council v Yukon (Government of)*, 2015 YKSC 45 at paras 54-58.



Further, the MN-S requests from the Government of Saskatchewan provide the Métis Nation with formal guarantees and assurances that it will fully compensate the Métis Nation for the loss of all minerals extracted from the Project at such time as the Métis claim for Aboriginal title is established.

***b. Indigenous Engagement Report does not reflect the MN-S experience***

In regard to the Indigenous Engagement Report, the MN-S has only been able to engage in a high-level review of the summary of engagement of the MN-S and in particular of Appendix A-9: Key Engagement with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. Appendix A-9 is more than 30 pages covering five years of engagement. Full review of Denison’s perspective on the Key Engagement activities was not possible in the time provided to the MN-S. This issue again demonstrates the inadequacy of the Province’s timeline for consultation.

Nonetheless, Appendix A-9 does not accurately reflect the MN-S’s perspective on the engagement which occurred between the MN-S and Denison. As one example, Denison describes an “impasse” which arose allegedly “as a result of MN-S’ [sic] insistence on commercial negotiations taking precedence.”<sup>5</sup> The MN-S has always been clear that it seeks a consent and support arrangement in respect of the Project, which includes meaningful environmental, workforce and economic participation, and asserts that reducing this interest to “commercial negotiations” is misleading. Further, Denison itself contributed to the understanding that consent and support-based discussions, (including economic participation) were core to Denison’s objectives with the Métis Nation and the engagement process. Moreover, economic participation discussions between MN-S and Denison were a natural result of MN-S’s Aboriginal title interest in the mineral rights underlying the Project as described above in this letter.

Additionally, the Indigenous Engagement Report demonstrates clearly many of the issues discussed below, particularly the lack of Denison’s response to the valid and specific concerns raised by MN-S. Again, as one example, Denison clearly recognized the connection between MN-S’s Aboriginal title and need for revenue sharing from “removal of the resources claimed by the Métis”.<sup>6</sup> In response to this concern however, Denison merely thanked “MN-S for the comment.”<sup>7</sup>

In addition to an extension of time to review the Indigenous Engagement Report, the MN-S invites the Ministry to meet so that the MN-S can provide additional context and present

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<sup>5</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 148 of 418.

<sup>6</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 66 of 418.

<sup>7</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, PDF 332 of 418.



further material supporting the positions that consultation to-date has been inadequate and that the Indigenous Engagement Report does not entirely reflect the MN-S's experience.

## **2. The MN-S has substantial outstanding concerns with the Final EIS**

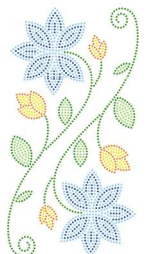
As noted at the outset of this letter, the MN-S is providing preliminary feedback on the Final EIS and requests an extension of time to provide comprehensive comments. At the draft EIS stage, the MN-S's consultants prepared a limited technical review of the draft EIS for submission to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. Due to limited funding, this review did not include all sections of the draft EIS. To date, the MN-S has not been able to do a full review or address the gaps in the initial technical review.

Many of the MN-S's concerns relate to Denison not incorporating into the Final EIS the Métis knowledge shared through engagement and through the study report prepared by MN-S's consultant Two World Consulting with preliminary findings related to the Project ("**Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study**").

The MN-S shared both the technical review of the draft EIS and the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study with Denison. It is the MN-S's understanding that Denison has shared these documents with Saskatchewan, but the MN-S invites Saskatchewan to discuss any documents it may not have received pertaining to the Project.

By way of preliminary feedback, the MN-S challenges many of the statements and conclusions made in the Final EIS and the Ministry's Technical Review. In particular the MN-S disputes the following:

- (a) **Level of precaution in EIS:** The Final EIS states that the environmental assessment in the Final EIS is transparent and conservative. The MN-S's position is that the Final EIS cannot be conservative or precautionary because of how poorly understood the potential effects of the Project on Métis rights and interests are.
- (b) **Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability:** The Final EIS states that ground freezing technology is well-established and that a freeze wall will safely contain mining solution. The MN-S's position is that the combination of a freeze wall with *in situ* recovery has never been used before, and that therefore the effectiveness of the freeze wall in protecting groundwater and environmental/human health cannot be known. Further, Denison's conclusions on the safety of the ground freezing process are based on an assumption that the basement rock is impermeable or has very low



permeability. Métis elders have raised doubts that the basement rock is impermeable and believe the mining fluids will permeate based on their Indigenous knowledge and experiences in the North and of the flowing water systems. The MN-S submits that to address this concern, at a minimum, the ground freezing should extend below the orebody to prevent fluid transmission.

- (c) **Groundwater:** The Final EIS states that that residual effects of the Project on the Groundwater will not result in a significant adverse effect to surface water. The Final EIS finds that migration of dissolved constituent concentrations from the mining area into Whitefish Lake will occur within hundreds of years. This timeframe is relevant to Métis use of the area for traditional purposes including commercial fishing. The Final EIS states that concentrations will not pose an environmental risk, a finding that the MN-S challenges on the basis that it was not informed by Métis knowledge, including the knowledge of Métis elders that suggests mining fluid may permeate the basement rock if the freeze wall is not extended below the ore body. The MN-S's position is that any change to concentrations of dissolved constituents in groundwater will adversely impact Métis rights by leading to avoidance and alienation from the Project area.
- (d) **Surface water quality:** The MN-S challenges the conclusion that adverse effects to surface water quality will not be significant and that there will be no cumulative effects on surface water quality. The Final EIS acknowledges that baseline levels of certain constituents in surface water already exceed guidelines, and that surface water quality in Whitefish Lake will be adversely affected by mobilization of solids and effluent discharge. Any adverse change to surface water quality will have a significant effect on Métis rights, especially when these changes occur to a surface water body that already exceeds guidelines for certain substances. While Denison claims monitoring will ensure the effectiveness of mitigations, MN-S does not know how we will be involved in development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (e) **Selenium:** The Final EIS concludes that, as a result of the Project, selenium concentrations will be elevated in fish tissues and human tissues through consumption of fish caught at the inlet to Russel Lake. The Final EIS then unreasonably concludes that elevated selenium levels are not an adverse effect, because they may be within an acceptable range. The MN-S disagrees with this conclusion for several reasons. The Métis believe that any elevated selenium concentrations in fish that may be harvested for traditional, including food or commercial purposes, is unacceptable. The risks to Métis human health and fish health, and the associated stigma and avoidance of consuming fish from the Project area, must be mitigated. For instance, actual and perceived





selenium contamination will cause decline or complete avoidance of the commercial fishery at Russel Lake, due to market perception of the fish caught in contaminated waters and Métis concerns of health and values of responsibility to the wider community. As well, Denison's conclusion on selenium may not be accurate as it does not reflect Métis knowledge of the level of fish consumption in this area and the cumulative effects of consuming fish from multiple potentially contaminated water bodies. In its review of the Project the Ministry should apply a standard that no level of increased selenium concentration is acceptable. As well, the Ministry should ensure that monitoring plans for selenium are developed in cooperation with the MN-S to ensure that no selenium enters the environment over time.

- (f) **Fish and fish habitat:** The Final EIS states that the Project will not cause significant adverse effects to fish and fish habitat in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake. The Final EIS predicts effects to fish and fish habitat in Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake through changes in water quality from discharge of treated effluent, as well as increased fishing due to increased access to the area. The MN-S submits that any residual effect on fish and fish habitat is significant and has the potential to adversely impact Métis rights such as traditional fishing rights which include commercial fishing rights. As well, the MN-S submits that the mitigations proposed for surface water quality and by extension fish and fish habitat are insufficient, and Denison has not provided sufficient information on how MN-S will be involved in the development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (g) **Fish health:** The Final EIS states that discharge of treated effluent from the Project or any other source of contamination in Whitefish Lake will not have a significant effect on fish health. Any adverse change to fish health is significant and has a significant effect on Métis rights. The Métis rely heavily on fish including in the Project area for traditional harvesting purposes including commercial fishing practices. Any real or perceived contamination of surface water and fish health creates a risk that Métis will no longer harvest or consume fish caught in the Project area, even after environmental remediation and with monitoring measures in place. The Final EIS claims that no cumulative effects are expected to fish health, yet the MN-S Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study describes how Métis already avoid consuming fish if it is perceived to be unhealthy, including in areas affected by historic mining and development activities. The Métis fishery at Cluff Lake was destroyed by the actual and perceived contamination of fish, and the MN-S asserts that the same will happen at the Project and Russel Lake. Further, Denison has not engaged the



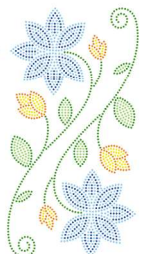
MN-S on the development and implementation of monitoring plans for fish health and it is unclear whether or how they will do so.

- (h) **Vegetation:** The Final EIS states that the adverse effects and cumulative effects of the Project on plants will not be significant. The Final EIS predicts that vegetation, ecosystems, and wetlands will be adversely affected through changes in the extent of habitat types, changes in the constituent concentrations of potential concern in plant tissue, changes in the number of listed plants, and changes in the area of wetland ecosystems, and that these effects will overlap with effects of other developments in the region. The Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study includes information on Métis gathering and use of plants, mushrooms, wood and berries. Any negative change to plant species that the Métis gather and use is a significant adverse effect. While Denison states that monitoring may be used to understand and reduce effects, the MN-S has not been sufficiently engaged on the development and implementation of monitoring plans.
- (i) **Woodland caribou:** The MN-S challenges the conclusion that Project construction and operation will not have significant adverse effects on woodland caribou. The Final EIS assessment predicted that the Project will cause adverse effects, including cumulative effects with existing projects and activities, on wildlife including woodland caribou through loss of habitat, sensory disturbance, vehicle collisions, and increased harvest or predation. The MN-S made several recommendations related to caribou to Denison in the MN-S's technical review of the draft EIS, that were not incorporated in the Final EIS. Without the benefit of MN-S knowledge the conclusion on the significance of effects on woodland caribou is not reliable. The MN-S disagrees with many of the assumptions related to caribou including the size of the area studied, the length of time caribou will take to return to the Project area after decommissioning, and the source of data for establishing baseline populations. As well, the MN-S submits that any adverse impact on woodland caribou, especially cumulative effects, are significant due to the precarious status of woodland caribou. The Final EIS conclusion that the effects on caribou are not significant is directly at odds with the finding in the EIS that woodland caribou populations will not be self-sustaining after the Project ends. As well, the MN-S requested to be engaged by Denison on the development and implementation of a woodland caribou management plan including monitoring measures, but this engagement has not materialized.
- (j) **Human health:** The Final EIS concludes that there will be no significant adverse impacts on human health, putting undue emphasis on the assertion



that there are no populated communities in proximity to the Project. The MN-S strongly disagrees with this conclusion, and also asserts that the Project risks exposing Indigenous communities to higher levels of industrial pollutants and worse health outcomes in part because of a lack of understanding of how Métis communities use the land. Denison claims that it will mitigate effects to human health through management plans for dust and water effluent. The MN-S submits that these mitigations are woefully inadequate to address the effects which include long-term transport of groundwater constituents to Whitefish Lake in future centuries that may affect human health far into the future. The MN-S asserts that the adverse impacts on human health are significant, unmitigated, and unjustified. The human health assessment was not conducted based on any Métis knowledge. The Final EIS also unreasonably concludes that there will be no cumulative effects on human health. This cannot be true given the significant historic and ongoing development in northern Saskatchewan, which the MN-S could have provided information on if consulted adequately and given sufficient time and resources to conduct a more fulsome knowledge study.

- (k) **Indigenous land and resource use for traditional purposes including recreational and commercial purposes:** The Final EIS acknowledges that the Project is expected to have an adverse effect on the perceived suitability of the lands and resources for some resource users in the area, and that there will be cumulative effects, but unreasonably concludes that these effects will not be significant. The MN-S disputes this conclusion, in part because it was formed without the benefit of a full understanding of Métis use in the Project area. Likewise, the proposed mitigation measures to decrease effects on Indigenous land and resource use are not specific to the Métis nor are they sensitive to Métis patterns of land use in the area. As well, Denison does not propose any additional monitoring measures for Indigenous land and resource use, simply relying on the monitoring measures for the biophysical environment and human health which are (a) deficient for monitoring the purported valued components due to a lack of understanding and consultation with the MN-S, and (b) not relevant to monitoring Indigenous land and resource use.
- (l) **Heritage resources:** Final EIS states that the Project includes sensitive areas with the potential to contain heritage resources. Denison has discovered two archaeological sites at the Project site and acknowledges that it is possible that additional archaeological sites may be identified during the life of the Project. The MN-S submits that the mitigation measure Denison proposes, a heritage resources management plan, was developed without the input of the MN-S and without an understanding of potential Métis heritage resources in the Project

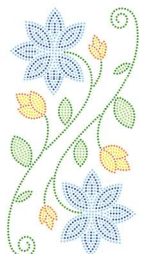


area. The MN-S submits that any adverse impact on Métis heritage resources or archaeological sites would be highly significant. The EIS conclusion that adverse impacts are not significant is unreasonable and unfounded.

(m) **Quality of life:** The Final EIS concludes that the Project will not have a significant adverse effect on cultural expression including the availability of country foods, community well-being, and infrastructure and services. The MN-S disputes this finding and notes that there is a lack of understanding of how historic development in the area has already impacted Métis quality of life so that cumulative effects cannot be fully understood. The MN-S raises the example of the adverse change to the fishery at Cluff Lake, which was abandoned by Métis fishers, as a result of uranium mining.

(n) **Economics:** Denison claims that the Project is expected to create employment and business opportunities and increase income for workers and businesses. However, Denison's responses were largely dismissive to the MN-S's questions and recommendations on the assessment of economic effects on the Métis. In particular Denison states that communities of interest will be given priority for employment opportunities, but did not respond to the MN-S's questions and recommendations about supporting Métis Citizens to achieve the education level necessary to be qualified for employment opportunities that include opportunities for advancement. The MN-S submits that there is not adequate information available to understand how the Project will economically impact the Métis, and that Denison cannot claim without basis that the Project will provide economic benefits to all communities in the Project area. Denison erroneously claims that the Project will not affect traditional economies, in part because land and resource use activities near existing uranium operations have persisted in proximity to these sites. The MN-S submits that on the contrary, traditional economies of Métis communities, including commercial fishing economies, have been decimated by uranium projects, for example the fishery at Cluff Lake. In addition to these concerns, the MN-S reiterates the concern expressed above that there is a risk of economic loss to the Métis if the Project proceeds before the Northwest Métis Land Claim is resolved in court. If the Métis are found to hold Aboriginal title to the Project area, the mineral wealth from the Project resources should flow to the Métis.

Based on the above, the MN-S submits that it is unreasonable to conclude that there will not be significant, long-term impacts of the Project on the environment and on Métis rights.





**3. The MN-S has many unaddressed questions and concerns pertaining to the Ministry's review of the Project**

In response to your letter, the MN-S seeks clarity from the Ministry on the following matters regarding the Project:

*i. Why was only Patuanak Métis Local #82 expressly mentioned in your letter?*

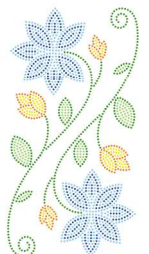
Your letter described the process by which Patuanak was initially notified of the Project and delegated its consultation in respect of the Project to the MN-S. However, the MN-S was also delegated consultation on the Project by A La Baie Métis Local 21, Sipishik Métis Local 37 (Île-à-la-Crosse), and Métis Local 67 (Dore Lake and Sled Lake). Additionally, through the signing of One-Voice Agreements, the MN-S is now engaging in respect of each of the Locals of NR1 and NR3, with the exception of the Kineepik Local #9 (Pinehouse). Since 2020, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission has acknowledged that it will consult the MN-S on its own part and on behalf of Northern Regions 1, 2 and 3. If Saskatchewan takes a narrower view of the appropriate Métis parties requiring consultation, we ask for an opportunity to understand how Saskatchewan selected the participating Métis parties and for an opportunity to engage with Saskatchewan to collect/share information and help inform Saskatchewan of the appropriate communities that the MN-S asserts should be included.

To that end, the MN-S notes that we are in the process of conducting activities to obtain Métis Traditional Knowledge data from the community of Île-à-la-Crosse which the MN-S will share with Saskatchewan as soon as it is available.

*ii. Why have the Ministry and Denison not consulted at the deep end of the Haida Nation spectrum?*

Your letter states that the Ministry assessed the level of consultation required to be significant due to the potential loss of access to unoccupied Crown land and long-term disturbance to the land associated with the Project. Significant impacts to asserted Aboriginal rights require deep consultation, which the MN-S takes the position has not occurred. Deep consultation requires working towards mutually satisfactory solutions, seeking consent, and may require mediation, yet Denison and the Ministry have largely ignored the MN-S's submissions on key issues related to the Project. The MN-S has not been made aware of accommodations for impacts to its rights.

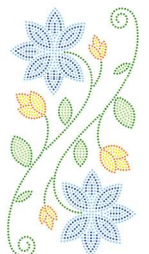
At this late stage in the process, where the Final EIS has already been posted for public comments, the MN-S is concerned that their rights cannot be adequately addressed through changes to the Project or to the effects assessment because the technical aspects of the Project have been finalized. The MN-S also does not know how the Ministry intends



to involve the MN-S in the final environmental assessment and decision process, or how the MN-S can be consulted on terms and conditions for Project approval.

For greater certainty, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include:

- (a) the right of Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area, including as set out in the 1994 Métis Land Claim which Canada has committed to resolve. This right includes the right to use these lands in the future without disturbance or interruption, the right to the lands' mineral wealth – which is the inheritance of the Métis – and to obtain these lands without the blemish of industrial development or the legacy of toxic waste;
- (b) the right for Métis to freely access and use the Project area as they have in previous generations, without interruption, and without individual and community anxiety regarding the health of plants, animals, and fish around and within the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake;
- (c) the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water throughout NR1 and NR3;
- (d) the right to build and maintain a healthy and connected Métis community, to recover from the legacy of the residential school system, and to recover from the history of colonization and exploitation;
- (e) a right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations, including through undisturbed land use in and around the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake;
- (f) a right to transit over our lands to exercise our rights, including the modern application of our historic commercial rights;
- (g) the right to harvest species, including hunting, fishing and trapping, for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes;
- (h) the right to rehabilitate caribou habitat and reduce environmental stresses on caribou, in order to restore traditional Métis connections to caribou harvesting and use that has been substantially diminished within NR1 and NR3 as a result of environmental pressures from industry and development on caribou;



- (i) the right for current and future generations of Métis to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake; and
- (j) the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts and Métis burial and other culturally significant sites, and to prevent the desecration of these sites.

*Disclaimer Regarding Aboriginal Title and Commercial Harvesting Rights*

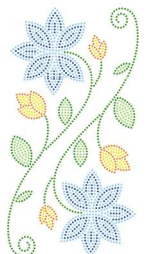
Please note that the MN-S understands that it is the position of Saskatchewan that it will not consult in respect of Aboriginal title or commercial harvest rights. We assert that this position is unconstitutional. We do not acquiesce to this view and reserve all rights to challenge any Crown decision made which is in any way based or reliant on this unconstitutional approach to Métis rights. Furthermore, before the Supreme Court of Canada in November, Saskatchewan suggested that its refusal to discuss Aboriginal title (and presumably commercial harvesting rights) was tied to a lack of information about these claims. The MN-S invites a discussion with Saskatchewan regarding the information it requests, and believes that the information currently held by the University of Saskatchewan is relevant to these discussions and to Saskatchewan's assessment of the Métis Aboriginal title claim.

*iii. What is the proposed timeline for the Ministry's environmental assessment and reaching a decision?*

The MN-S is concerned that the environmental assessment and decision will proceed on too short of a timeline for MN-S concerns to be adequately addressed. The Final EIS is already finalized, and this public review period is too short for meaningful participation from the MN-S. An expedited decision approving the Project will almost certainly fail to meaningfully address the impacts of the Project on Métis rights.

*iv. Will the Ministry meet with the MN-S on a nation-to-nation basis to discuss Métis concerns and the appropriateness of accommodation?*

The Ministry has informed us that it has delegated procedural aspects of the duty to consult to Denison. However, the Ministry is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the duty to consult and accommodate is fulfilled. The MN-S requests direct meetings with the Ministry to discuss the MN-S's concerns regarding the Project, the impact of the Project on Métis rights, and the adequacy of accommodation measures for addressing those impacts to rights. Accommodation measures that the MN-S wishes to discuss may include terms and conditions to the Project approval, if granted.



v. *How will a final MN-S Traditional Knowledge Study be facilitated and incorporated into the review of the Project?*

In October 2023, the MN-S's consultant Two World Consulting completed the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study. The Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study consolidates historical and contemporary community knowledge on land use, economies, social systems, and culture from a distinctly Métis perspective. This was the first study of Métis traditional use by Métis Locals, other than Kineepik Local #9, of the Project area.

As the first, high level preliminary study of Métis knowledge, the Métis knowledge study is important for demonstrating the existence of Métis use of land in and around the Project area. However, the capacity funding provided by Denison and the timeframe for conducting the study were not adequate to fully define traditional areas of use, including in the Project area. Further study is needed to define traditional use including in the Project area.

Denison has mischaracterized the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study as a definitive and comprehensive source of Métis knowledge for the purposes of the Final EIS. Even if this were the case, the Final EIS does not sufficiently incorporate Métis knowledge into the effects assessment. The changes to the EIS following Denison's receipt of the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study are descriptive only, and the Final EIS does not analyse potential effects to Métis land use base on the study or incorporate the data in the study into any technical sections of the EIS.

The MN-S requires further time to complete a final or updated knowledge study. The MN-S is concerned that the Final EIS, which purports to incorporate findings from the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study, has been finalized without the benefit of a fulsome understanding of Métis use of the Project Area. The MN-S requests clarity on how the Ministry will meaningfully incorporate an updated knowledge study into the Ministry's review of the Project.

In addition, the MN-S notes that the Métis of Northern Saskatchewan are one people. Their communities have always been highly interconnected, including through marriage, culture, and economy. This interconnectedness has been demonstrated through important decisions such as *R. v. Morin and Daigneault* and *R. v. Laviolette*, 2005 SKPC 70, and Saskatchewan's previous efforts to reject the unified Métis view of rights was rejected by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in *R v Boyer*, 2022 SKCA 62. The MN-S is aware that Kineepik Métis Local #9 is in control and possession of certain Métis knowledge that is relevant to understanding the impact of the Project to the Northern Métis community. This traditional knowledge was collected and developed through funding provided to that specific Métis Local over more than a decade from existing mines. While the MN-S acknowledges that Kineepik Métis Local #9 may have provided their support for the





Project through support and consent-based negotiations with Denison, the knowledge and potential impact is relevant to all Métis of Northern Saskatchewan, and should not be discounted or ignored simply because the Métis Local in possession of those documents and records has individually supported the Project.

*vi. How will the Ministry ensure that the Project benefits the Métis?*

As set out above, it is incumbent on the Ministry to protect the lands, water, and mineral resources pending a determination of Métis Aboriginal title in the Project area, to ensure that the Métis are not deprived of the opportunity to benefit from the economic value of the Project. Denison has not provided satisfactory assurance that the Project will meaningfully benefit the Métis.

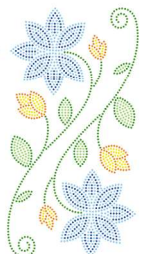
Denison's Indigenous Engagement Report states that the Project will provide maximal benefits to potentially affected communities, and that Denison is committed to sharing economic benefits with Métis peoples and communities. However, the position of the MN-S is that the information in the Final EIS on potential benefits of the Project is too vague to give the Métis any assurance that they will benefit from the Project. The MN-S's own assessment is that the Project will provide marginal benefits at best, which do not outweigh the risks of the Project.

For example, the MN-S asked Denison how it will support Métis communities by helping Citizens achieve a Grade 12 education, which is a pre-requisite for all jobs on the Project site. Denison did not meaningfully respond to this question. Without support in achieving the necessary prerequisites to work on the Project, Métis communities cannot benefit from the potential employment the Project will bring. As the governing body responsible for provision of education, the Ministry must support Métis communities and individuals in achieving secondary education.

Denison and the MN-S have proposed to form a Joint Working Group for the Project. However, the MN-S's position is that a Joint Working Group with the proponent cannot offset a failure of the Ministry to ensure that the duty to consult is fulfilled prior to the approval of the Project.

*vii. How will the Ministry's review and decision incorporate the principle of free, prior, and informed consent?*

The MN-S asked Denison how Denison will incorporate the principle of free, prior, and informed consent, given the reference Denison makes to this principle in its Indigenous Peoples Policy. Denison did not respond, stating only that the policy is aspirational and will be implemented in a project-specific manner.



The MN-S cannot consent to the Project in its present form. How will the Ministry take the MN-S's consent or lack of consent into account in reaching a decision?

*viii. How will the MN-S's concerns be incorporated into the final Project and effects assessment following this public review period?*

The Ministry's Technical Review of the Final EIS states that the reviewers are satisfied with Denison's engagement activities. The MN-S strongly disagrees with this finding. The Technical Review further states that the public review period provides an opportunity for communities to identify any outstanding issues and any potential adverse impacts to rights and traditional uses that were not previously addressed.

With the public review period lasting only 6 weeks, and the Final EIS and Project design already finalized, the MN-S struggles to see how any comments it submits during this review period will be meaningfully incorporated. How will the MN-S's submissions inform the environmental assessment and the Ministry's decision on the Project?

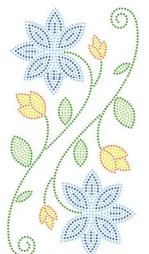
*ix. How were the MN-S's concerns incorporated into the biophysical impacts assessment?*

The Indigenous Engagement Report shows that no Métis knowledge was incorporated into the environmental technical sections of the Final EIS. The MN-S raised several concerns about the terrestrial environment at the draft EIS stage, which Denison failed to meaningfully respond to or incorporate into the Final EIS.

The concerns raised by the MN-S about the terrestrial environment at the draft EIS stage include: regeneration of the altered landscape and the effects on woodland caribou, including decommissioning plans for roads and transmission lines built for the Project; adequacy of moose harvest data; cumulative effects of the Project on vegetation; the size of the regional study area for assessing impacts of the Project on caribou; the inclusion of the MN-S in the development of a woodland caribou management plan; the potential presence of other large terrestrial mammals in the study area; and the timeframes used to characterize trends in wildlife harvesting.

The MN-S expressly raised the concern that the draft EIS does not incorporate Métis knowledge into the Project's terrestrial ecosystem effects assessment. Denison responded to this comment by stating that Métis knowledge from Kineepik was included. The MN-S's position is that this is untenable, as Kineepik does not represent the collective rights of the Métis within Saskatchewan and NR1 and NR3.

Since the effects of the Project on Métis rights flow from the permanent alteration of the biophysical environment, it is critical that the environmental effects assessment include



Métis knowledge and concerns related to the same. Without the MN-S knowledge and concerns incorporated into the Final EIS, the Ministry cannot understand or assess how the Project may affect MN-S rights.

- x. *How will the MN-S be involved in the development of a caribou mitigation and offsetting plan?*

The Ministry's Technical Review states that Denison will be required to prepare a caribou mitigation and offsetting plan, in collaboration with the Province, if the Project is approved. The MN-S has repeatedly asked to be involved in the development and implementation of measures to monitor and manage woodland caribou. How will the Ministry ensure that the MN-S is engaged and meaningfully involved in the development of management, mitigation, and monitoring plans for caribou? Furthermore, how will the Ministry ensure that Métis ambitions for the eventual rehabilitation of northern caribou will be still possible if the Project proceeds?

- xi. *How will the MN-S be informed of monitoring results for fish and fish habitat and surface water quality?*

The Final EIS and the Ministry's Technical Review find that the Project will cause residual effects to fish and fish habitat and surface water quality in Whitefish Lake, and that therefore monitoring may be required. The Métis require full access to monitoring results in order to determine the risks that exist to their traditional rights including commercial fishing activities in the Project area.

The Final EIS provides that mitigations for human health impacts of the Project include environmental monitoring of the safety and sustainability of country foods. How will the MN-S be involved in the development and implementation of these monitoring plans? How will the results be shared?

- xii. *Why has the Technical Review not included an assessment of decommissioning plans for radioactive waste stored at the Project?*

The decommissioning and reclamation objectives for the Project include a landscape that is capable of supporting a functioning, self-sustaining ecosystem that is safe for human use, and that allows access for unrestricted traditional use.

This is inconsistent with the management of low-level radioactive waste at the Project, which requires containment and isolation for up to a few hundred years. The Technical Review of the Final EIS has not assessed any decommissioning plans with respect to radioactive waste disposal.



*xiii. How will the Ministry's assessment of the Project address the many unresolved concerns and unaddressed impacts to rights raised in the MN-S review of the draft EIS?*

In the Indigenous Engagement Report, many concerns raised by the MN-S related to the draft EIS remain unaddressed in the Final EIS.

The Indigenous Engagement Report claims that Denison has incorporated the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS (Table 2-1, page 2-77). Denison has not included any Métis knowledge on environmental and technical matters in the Final EIS. Denison has not included Métis knowledge in the characterization of the environment or effects assessment for groundwater, the terrestrial environment, aquatic environment, human health, the ecological risk assessment, heritage resources, infrastructure and services, or the accidents and malfunctions sections of the Final EIS. The MN-S made comments on some or all of these topics in its review of the draft EIS, and the Final EIS does not address the MN-S's concerns.

In March 2023, our consultant, Two Worlds Consulting, prepared a Technical Review Report of the draft EIS which concluded that engagement and consultation on the Project are deficient. Denison's failure to address our technical concerns, concerns about the limited economic benefits of the Project, and concerns about deficiencies in the Project effects assessment, monitoring and environmental management plans and mitigation measures has carried through into the Final EIS.

Denison states that it has incorporated the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS. However, the MN-S still has concerns that the EIS does not fully represent Métis knowledge and traditional land use, in part because of the preliminary nature of the Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study. As well, the updates to the EIS undertaken after the Two Worlds Technical Review are generally descriptive, and do not add any new analysis that could allow Denison or the MN-S to conclude that effects of the Project on Métis rights have been adequately considered and mitigated.

The MN-S has identified the following non-exhaustive categories of concerns to-date that are not addressed in the Final EIS or in the Indigenous Engagement Report:

- (a) Incorporation of Métis knowledge into the Final EIS;
- (b) Impacts of the Project to traditional use;
- (c) Impacts of the Project to Métis Aboriginal title as articulated in the 1994 Claim;
- (d) MN-S's technical concerns, so that the Final EIS meaningfully incorporates MN-S's concerns and knowledge;



- (e) MN-S's concerns regarding waste storage, which must be undertaken in accordance with Article 29(2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (f) Cumulative effects of development, specifically cumulative effects on the environment and on Métis use and rights;
- (g) MN-S's concerns regarding effects of the Project on caribou, a historically important resource for the Métis; and
- (h) impacts of the Project on Métis commercial hunting, trapping and fishing.

The MN-S asserts that these concerns need to be addressed in a revised Final EIS, or through terms and conditions applied to the Project by the Ministry if the Project is approved.

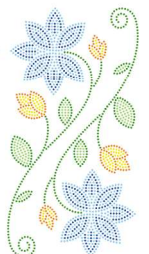
#### **4. Conclusion**

The Métis Nation has suffered from decades of development within the Homeland, which has harmed our Citizens and our lands, alienated our Citizens from their historic land use, created anxiety amongst our Citizens about their lands and the health of the species that they have traditionally trapped and consumed, and has adversely impacted the inter-generational perpetuation of Métis languages, culture and traditional knowledge rooted in land use activities. Our communities have also suffered the effects of residential and day-schools which suppressed our traditions and instilled inter-generational trauma that our communities are currently struggling through.

The MN-S has been straining its capacity to review multiple uranium extraction projects in its Homeland including NexGen Energy Ltd.'s Rook 1 Project and Fission Uranium Corp.'s Patterson Lake South Project, including during the challenging years where COVID-19 disrupted our communities.

The cumulative effects of the substantial historical and existing development in NR1 and NR3 on Métis rights are still not understood. There is a lack of historic data on the mines in the area, and a lack of understanding of how these historic mines have impacted Métis rights. Adding the Project to this landscape of historic development will exacerbate existing impacts. Without understanding the context of the current development, consultation cannot be adequate.

The Métis Nation cannot consent to the Project in its current form or under the current insufficient consultation process. Our lands and communities are already taxed to their





limits. The addition of the Project will tax our Citizens and lands to the breaking point. The honour of the Crown requires that Saskatchewan recognize the significant cumulative effects that the Project will have on our Citizens and lands, and to recognize that our fragile communities, still struggling with the inter-generational trauma of historic development and residential and day schools, cannot sustain unbridled development in Saskatchewan's North.

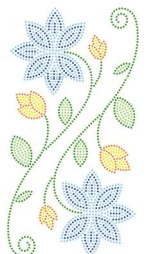
Based on the foregoing, the MN-S urgently requests that the Ministry engage in, and direct Denison to engage in, deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project. In particular, the MN-S requests discussions of the potential economic loss the Project would result in, which will have future ramifications for the Aboriginal title that the Métis asserts across Northern Saskatchewan and including the Project area.

Yours truly,



Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP





February 5, 2024

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: MN-S Response to Notification of Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report**

This letter is being provided further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Ministry of Environment's duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project ("**Project**"). On November 7, 2024, you sent a letter notifying the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "**MN-S**") of the continuation of that consultation process and provided the MN-S until December 22, 2024 to provide comments ("**Ministry November 7 Letter**"). On December 20, 2024, MN-S provided its initial comments at a high level, noting that the time provided was insufficient and requesting an extension of the comment period to January 31, 2025 as well as an opportunity to meet ("**MN-S Initial Comments**"). This letter builds on but does not duplicate the MN-S Initial Comments as follows:

1. Providing a detailed comparison of the Indigenous Engagement Report ("**IER**") for the Project prepared by Denison to MN-S's experiences, notes and records to correct the overall picture that Denison has provided that MN-S has stalled or delayed engagement unreasonably;
2. Additional traditional land use mapping information which further evidences the unity of the Métis Nation and the importance of the Project area to all Métis; and
3. A discussion of the importance of the 3915 pages and 24,111 records obtained from the University of Alberta and associated with the 1994 Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim provided to Saskatchewan on January 27, 2025.

To provide context for the more detailed review below, MN-S provides a summary of the concerns with the current state of the Project and its development to date identified in the MN-S Initial Comments. Overall, we do not believe that adverse impacts to the Métis have

**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)



been appropriately reflected in the Project assessment, nor have they been appropriately considered or accommodated. In this context, the MN-S does not consent to this Project, and asserts that the Saskatchewan has not satisfied the Crown's duty to consult. For greater certainty, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include:

- (a) the right of Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area, including as set out in the 1994 Métis Land Claim which Canada has committed to resolve and in respect of which the MN-S provided thousands of pages of documentation on January 27, 2025. The rights that make-up Aboriginal title include the right to use these lands in the future without disturbance or interruption, the right to the lands' mineral wealth (both in terms of the value of the minerals and the potential socio-economic potential associated with the development of such resources) – which is the inheritance of the Métis – and the right to obtain these lands without diminution, the blemish of industrial development or the legacy of toxic contaminants;
- (b) the right for Métis to freely access and use the Project area as they have in previous generations, without interruption, and without individual and community anxiety regarding the health and safety of plants, animals, and fish around and within the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake, including as such are or could in the future be used for food, cultural, and commercial purposes;
- (c) the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water throughout NR1 and NR3, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (d) the right to build and maintain a healthy and connected Métis community, to recover from the legacy of the residential school system, and to recover from the history of colonization and exploitation;
- (e) a right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations, including through undisturbed land use in and around the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (f) a right to transit over our lands to exercise our rights, including the modern application of our historic commercial rights;





- (g) the right to harvest species, including hunting, fishing and trapping, for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (h) the right to rehabilitate caribou habitat and reduce environmental stresses on caribou, in order to restore traditional Métis connections to caribou harvesting and use that has been substantially diminished within NR1 and NR3 as a result of environmental pressures from industry and development;
- (i) the right for current and future generations of Métis to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake and fish; and
- (j) the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts and Métis burial and other culturally significant sites, and to prevent the desecration of these sites, including by the fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants.

Consultation to-date has been inadequate as it has not addressed the significant risk of the Project to these rights and interests and, in particular (and unique to the Métis Nation), consultation has not addressed the irreparable socio-economic loss to the Métis should the Project proceed. Moreover, the Ministry has failed to provide the basic elements of consultation including:

- Properly identifying the community affected. The Ministry has suggested that its duty to consult may be limited to Patuanak Métis Local #82. This denies the unitary nature of the Métis Nation and its Homeland. We note, in particular, that the 1994 Land Claim was brought by the MN-S, including the Métis of Northern Saskatchewan. This unified nature of the Métis Nation is also evidenced by the shared ongoing use of these lands by Métis from across Saskatchewan's north. The Ministry must confirm whether it intends to consult in respect of the impact to the Métis Nation, including Northern Region I and III. Should it take a narrower view of the Métis rightsholders impacted, the Ministry must engage in good faith discussions with MN-S to articulate the basis of its assessment and identify whether there are any steps that can be taken by MN-S to support the MN-S's assertion that the impacts of the Project affect more than just those Métis citizens who are members of Patuanak Métis Local #82.
- Properly identifying the rights asserted. The Ministry has yet to respond to the MN-S list of asserted affected rights or indicate its view on MN-S' affected rights.
- Properly identifying the Crown's view of the strength of the Métis claim to each asserted right. The MN-S has to date seen no strength of claim analysis or even an



assertion of the Crown's position on Métis strength of claim. Knowing the Crown's assessment of strength of claim is an important first step to facilitate the MN-S, through dialogue, helping to inform this assessment.

- No meaningful dialogue with the MN-S. To-date, Saskatchewan has not participated in the act of "talking together for mutual understanding"<sup>1</sup> at the heart of the Crown's duty consult.

These elements are essential to even beginning a conversation on the impacts which need to be consulted on.

The procedural aspects of the duty to consult delegated to Denison have also not been carried out sufficiently. Denison's IER selectively portrays the engagement between Denison and MN-S in a way that is incomplete, with the result that MN-S is portrayed as taking unreasonable positions that frustrated and delayed the process of engagement. To the contrary, the MN-S has acted diligently and in good faith at every turn, in light of the expectations created by Denison and the subsequent challenges when it was determined that Denison had been acting in a misleading manner.

In reading the IER, the Ministry should give particular consideration to how Denison's behaviour created challenges for the MN-S, as the MN-S sought to collaborate with Locals and Denison. The MN-S and Locals were, from the beginning, informed by Denison that Denison would negotiate an impact benefit agreement as part of Denison's engagement. It was reasonable for the MN-S and Locals to accept these assertions on their face, given the fact that such agreements are a common method of addressing Indigenous concerns and seeking consent, and because an impact benefits agreement was the clearest method of addressing the fact that the development of the Project would deprive the Métis of the socio-economic potential of their land claim. While Denison now repeatedly refers to such discussions as "commercial negotiations" – that characterization is disingenuous.

Delays in Denison providing clarity on how and when it would begin negotiating an impact benefit agreement created challenges for MN-S, including in its relationships with Locals, who were concerned when such consent-based discussions were not proceeding.

Consultation has not met the standard required by the fact that the Ministry itself has noted that there is significant consultation required due to the level of impacts.

This lack of sufficient consultation has resulted in a project which does not adequately protect Métis rights and interests. The EIS shows insufficient understanding of effects of the Project on Métis land and resource use, and no meaningful incorporation of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73 at para 43.



Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS. Moreover, the EIS provides no consideration of impacts to Métis title such as loss of land use and the denuding of the wealth and attributed socio-economic potential of the Métis title lands. Further specific technical areas where the MN-S has concerns, all as detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments, are:

- Level of precaution in EIS
- Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability.
- Groundwater.
- Surface water quality.
- Selenium.
- Fish and fish habitat.
- Fish health.
- Vegetation.
- Woodland caribou.
- Human health.
- Indigenous land and resource use for traditional purposes including recreational and commercial purposes.
- Heritage resources.
- Quality of life.
- Economics.
- Denison's reliance on traditional knowledge and Project support of Kineepik Local #9.
- Monitoring plans.

These significant unresolved issues have left the MN-S with unanswered questions detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments regarding why the Ministry has taken the approach it has to date, what the timeline and process for the Ministry's decisions are on a go forward basis, and how mis-steps to date will be rectified to incorporate Métis concerns



and protect Métis rights and interests. This specific experience in relation to Denison has also highlighted the absence of a meaningful consultation process in Saskatchewan which is aimed at addressing Métis concerns<sup>2</sup> and obtaining Métis consent.<sup>3</sup>

### **1. Review of Indigenous Engagement Report**

The IER reflects, incompletely, certain individual events which occurred in the course of engagement between Denison and the MN-S. However, context and clarification is required to address Denison's portrayal that the MN-S has been inappropriately and unreasonably focused on "commercial concerns", and that this focus delayed engagement.

The MN-S has always been focused on Métis rights and interests, including the certainty that the Project will deprive the Métis of the socio-economic potential of their Métis title. The MN-S' approach, affirmed by Denison as discussed below, has always been to address Métis concerns collaboratively, including through the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement to address and help accommodate impacts to the exercise of rights, impacts to the environment, and impacts to the Métis title. Denison's actions created the reasonable impression with the MN-S and Locals that this was an acceptable pathway to address Métis concerns.

Métis rights affected by the project include not only access to land and wildlife for traditional land use and other socioeconomic impacts, but also rights to the mineral wealth in the Métis Homeland. The economic loss from the removal of mineral wealth has been recognized as an adverse effect giving rise to the Crown's duty to consult.<sup>4</sup> Indigenous peoples have a constitutionally-grounded right to economic development within their communities.<sup>5</sup> Courts have recognized that the rights of Indigenous peoples are harmed if they are deprived the opportunity to benefit from their resources (such as minerals or harvested wildlife) while a title claim is being resolved.<sup>6</sup> Consultation protects Aboriginal rights so that when rights are finally proved, Aboriginal peoples do not "find their land and resources changed and denuded."<sup>7</sup> Impact benefit agreements meanwhile are a

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<sup>2</sup> *Haida Nation* at para 49

<sup>3</sup> *Tsilhqot'in Nation* at para 87

<sup>4</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390.

<sup>5</sup> *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380.

<sup>6</sup> *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63; *Ross River Dena Council v Yukon (Government of)*, 2015 YKSC 45 at paras 54-58.

<sup>7</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73 at para 33.





commonplace method of accommodating adverse impacts to Indigenous peoples<sup>8</sup> and are consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's promotion of reconciliation, dialogue and respect.<sup>9</sup>

The MN-S has been clear since the beginning of engagement with Denison that the Project is located within the Métis Homeland and subject to the 1994 Title Claim. The MN-S has also indicated its willingness to engage in good faith discussions focused on accommodating Métis concerns with the Project and securing their consent. In response, since the earliest dates of the process, Denison has repeatedly indicated that it intended to seek the consent of the Métis through the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement. This was affirmed in written communications on November 15 and November 27, 2019, and in a meeting in person on December 10, 2019. This was also a message Denison affirmed informally throughout the early portions of engagement.

In response to these express and even written commitments, and the expectations of the Locals that MN-S would advance these discussions with Denison, MN-S reasonably sought to advance and participate in such discussions in tandem with the broader project engagement. MN-S has always sought to be transparent on these measures.

It was Denison who then repeatedly suggested that this consent based process be deferred in favour first of Denison's own capacity building. Then, after seeking in good faith to advance the two processes in parallel, consistent with the expectations that Denison knowingly created, MN-S collaboratively advanced the capacity funding alone, on the updated understanding that Denison would commence impact benefit agreement negotiations as soon as the engagement funding was in place. As one example, on August 19, 2022, counsel for Denison stated that it would "be preferable to resolve those [capacity funding and exploration agreement] matters first, hopefully in the next few weeks, before commencing IBA negotiations". Promptly after resolving the agreements that Denison had been seeking from MN-S, Denison's counsel, by email dated November 30, 2022, retracted its offer to commence the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement (again, pushing its commitment to negotiate to a future date "in due course"), giving rise to serious concerns about good faith and about Denison's previous and repeated commitments to engage in good faith consent-based discussions, and causing distrust from Locals.

In summary, any delay or confusion has been the reasonable result of Denison providing inconsistent and misleading messaging, which has created challenges for MN-S as it sought to communicate with and collaborate effectively with Locals. This relationship with

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<sup>8</sup> *Ermineskin Cree Nation v. Canada (Environment and Climate Change)*, 2021 FC 758, at para 105.

<sup>9</sup> *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*, 2014 SCC 44, at para 76.



the Locals is of particular importance. Denison's changes in position and failure to follow through on negotiations all undermined the Local's trust in the MN-S and therefore the possibility of effective engagement.

In short, Denison's inconsistent approach resulted in unnecessary delays, friction and frustration, during a period in which MN-S sought to engage in all matters transparently and in good faith.

Additional specific clarifications to the IER are as follows. First, there are several important communications which are completely absent from Appendix A-9: Key Engagement with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan in the IER, the most important of which are (many of these are also referred to elsewhere in this letter):

- September 27, 2019 – Denison sent a letter requesting to delay both conversations on the integration of Indigenous knowledge and impact benefit agreement discussions until Denison had a better understanding of best practices for these activities.
- November 1, 2019 – Denison's counsel by email requested a map of the boundaries of the MN-S region boundaries or a list of the Locals in NR-2 and NR-3 to better understand MN-S governance and potentially affected communities.
- January 11, 2021 – Denison and the MN-S connected on working on the draft for the workplan for the Métis Knowledge Study.
- March 1, 2021 – MN-S counsel reached out by email to Denison's counsel to continue moving forward discussions with Denison, with process discussions by email on March 9.
- September 28, 2021 – MN-S counsel emailed Denison counsel and provided a revised draft of the capacity funding agreement.
- November 2, 2021 – MN-S requested by email that work on the capacity funding agreement and exploration agreement continue to progress and Denison indicated by email it would continue to work with MN-S counsel to do so.
- November 30, 2022 – Counsel for Denison indicated by email that it would delay impact benefit negotiations further.

Second, the statements made by Denison in the IER need to be clarified and placed in context as follows:



Section of Indigenous Engagement Report	MN-S Clarification or Context
The Project is located within Métis Region 1; however, there are Métis Locals in the general area of interest from Northern Region 3. <b>Section 2 Figure 2-1</b> , below, illustrates where these Métis Locals and Regions are in relation to the Project. <sup>10</sup>	Denison's understanding of MN-S Regions is a result of MN-S' years spent educating Denison on MN-S' structure.
Since Denison's initial connection with the MN-S about the Project in June 2019, the main focus of the activities between the parties has been on the development of appropriate processes, deliverables, and budgets desired by MN-S to support its meaningful participation in the environmental assessment process, including the representation of those Métis Locals who have delegated the Duty to Consult to MN-S. <sup>11</sup>	Denison's own summary notes "numerous" substantive concerns with the Project and technical questions raised by MN-S leadership and representatives across the three meetings highlighted by Denison, let alone in the ongoing engagement over the past more than five years, including MN-S' technical comments on the EIS on both the Project as a whole and Denison's exploration and preparation activities. <sup>12</sup> To suggest that MN-S has been focused solely on process and not substantive impacts to Métis title, rights and interests is inaccurate.
In recognition of the MN-S' potential interests in the Project <sup>13</sup>	Denison uses this phrasing throughout the IER. Métis rights and interests in the Project area are not potential. They are real and require consultation and accommodation, with a view towards reaching a mutually-satisfactory resolution, as discussed extensively in the Métis Initial Comments.
Denison received the Métis Knowledge Study from the MN-S on October 24, 2023,	MN-S disagrees that Denison has integrated the Métis Knowledge Study in a

<sup>10</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1, p 1-54, PDF 63 of 418

<sup>11</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-54, PDF 63 of 418.

<sup>12</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, pp 1-55 – 1-57, PDF 64-66 of 418.

<sup>13</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.



<p>and has integrated relevant information from the Study into the EIS.<sup>14</sup></p>	<p>way that is meaningful. Meaningful integration would result in a Project design which protects and preserves Métis rights and addresses the numerous substantive issues with the EIS which are detailed in the Métis Initial Comments. Moreover, from the very beginning of engagement, the MN-S has been clear that the Project is located in the Métis Homeland, an area where the Métis claim title, commercial harvesting rights and other Aboriginal rights. This fact is not reflected in the EIS. For instance Section 5.7.1 of the Executive Summary states only that “The Project is within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne of ERFN, the traditional territory of Kineepik Métis Local #9, and the Nuhenéné of the Athabasca Denesūliné communities.”</p>
<p>Following further discussions between Denison and the MN-S, during August, 2024 MN-S outlined an additional process that MN-S desired take place between Denison and the MN-S, to occur in parallel to the earlier discussed mutually agreeable engagement process.<sup>15</sup></p>	<p>This assertion lacks sufficient clarity to be fully understood and responded to. However, it appears to be emblematic of the overall impression left by the IER that the MN-S has imposed additional, commercial focused processes throughout engagement which have slowed engagement. That impression, if it is Denison’s intent, is inaccurate as discussed above. To the extent MN-S can be sure of what Denison is referring to, the process outlined in detail by the MN-S in August of 2024 was not additional to the “mutually agreeable engagement process”. MN-S believes that this “additional” process to which Denison refers is consent based negotiations including a discussion of Métis consent and accommodation in</p>

<sup>14</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.

<sup>15</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.





	<p>the form of an impact benefit agreement. The intent of this consent-based process was not newly proposed in August 2024 but core to the MN-S Denison engagement as discussed above. Most immediately, it evolved directly from discussions which took place from March, 2024 onward regarding terms of reference for a joint working group that expressly contemplated impact benefit agreement negotiations (as stated by Denison by email April 19, 2024 “the second meeting and onwards to include negotiations and environmental matters”), as well as high level leadership conversations which occurred in July. Concerns over the effectiveness of the processes to date led the MN-S to, in July and August, propose changes to the details of activities but not fundamentally to the principles of socio-economic accommodation to which Denison had always agreed.</p>
<p>These key engagement activities were supported by ongoing engagement methods including, but not limited to, those outlined in <b>Section 1.3</b>, above.<sup>16</sup></p>	<p>No more informal engagement activities with Métis occurred than those that are recorded in the engagement record. Denison’s public engagement efforts were not engagement with the Métis, as Denison itself repeatedly emphasized.</p>
<p>Specific questions were raised by the MN-S representatives in relation to: confirmation that Denison was following the engagement protocols and direction set out by the MN-S in relation to the Regions and the Locals<sup>17</sup></p>	<p>This concern, raised by MN-S representatives at the initial meeting with Denison, was borne out by subsequent engagement. It quickly became clear that more engagement with Denison was required to help Denison understand Métis governance structures, and Denison</p>

<sup>16</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.

<sup>17</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-56, PDF 65 of 418.



	consistently had to be reminded of those structures.
Dec. 7, 2016, Community Meeting, Denison hosted a community meeting in Île-à-la-Crosse to introduce the company and introduce the Project. <sup>18</sup>	As Denison documents in its Project Description, at this meeting Denison directly raised the expectation among Métis Locals (including specifically Ile a la Crosse) that Denison would seek to negotiate agreements in respect of impacts and benefits from the Project. <sup>19</sup> This was a consistent expectation Denison created and reinforced repeatedly.
<p>Meeting – November 5, 2019: ... The focus was to provide an overview of the Project and discuss Métis interests in the Project.</p> <p>The MN-S noted that they are focused on supporting the Locals, and finding capacity within the organization to support efforts going forward with Denison.</p> <p>The MN-S noted that they provided direction to legal counsel to seek an exploration agreement with Denison.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The MN-S identified that the land in which the Project is located is subject to a land claim, the resources within the land claim area are claimed by the Métis, and removal of the resources claimed by the Métis must result in a portion of the revenue going back to the Métis. The MN-</p>	<p>The MN-S agrees with Denison that this initial meeting was positive but disagrees with the characterization that only the MN-S raised matters related to economic opportunities at this meeting. The MN-S' contemporaneous meeting notes noted for instance that <u>Denison</u> described how the mining method for the Project would result in significantly fewer employment and business opportunities than other projects.</p> <p>Moreover, this interrelationship of socio-economic accommodation issues with broader engagement goes back further and was affirmed at that early stage by Denison, as discussed above. Specifically in relation to the November 5, 2019 meeting, Denison stated by email October 23, 2019 that it understood that the planned November meeting would address both impact benefit agreement negotiations and the duty to consult (of course this interrelationship is logical and</p>

<sup>18</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-8: Key Engagement with A la Baie Métis Local 21, p 7-129, PDF 138 of 418.

<sup>19</sup> Denison Mines, Wheeler River Project – Provincial Technical Proposal & Federal Project Description, May 2019/December 2020, Table 8.3, p 139, PDF 175 of 187.



<p>S has a desire to create a legacy and generate wealth for its people.<sup>20</sup></p>	<p>natural). On another email on October 24, 2019, Denison stated it wanted a partnership “that fully respect the rights and interests of the MN-S <u>and maximizes the benefits to the MN-S and associated local Métis communities</u>” [emphasis added].</p>
<p>As outlined in the IPP, Denison recognizes the important role of Canadian business in the reconciliation process. Denison is committed to sharing the economic benefits of Denison’s business activities with Métis people and communities.<sup>21</sup></p>	<p>Despite this assertion resurfacing in the IER, Denison has not been consistent in its commitment to sharing economic benefits as discussed above. This inconsistency has contributed to some of the alleged delays in engagement, to some of the supposed “impasse” that Denison elsewhere suggests arose, and to generally creating confusion in the process, as discussed above.</p>
<p>Denison, MN-S representatives, and the Métis Local Presidents met to discuss process for engagement.<sup>22</sup></p>	<p>As occurs elsewhere in the IER, this description again erroneously suggests that the MN-S has consistently and only focused on process. The description does not address the substantive matters raised at this meeting as even identified in Denison’s longer discussion of the meeting in the summary of MN-S engagement.</p>
<p>Métis Nation - Saskatchewan provided Denison a draft exploration agreement which includes a request to fund an additional TLU study in respect of the Project. ... Denison described the TLU data already collected by the Métis Locals and noted it will need to consider the extent and appropriateness of further TLU studies and</p>	<p>The TLU study for which MN-S sought and was eventually granted funding was never additional, it was vital but preliminary. Prior to the Métis Knowledge Study no comprehensive study of Métis knowledge had been conducted in relation to the Project.</p>

<sup>20</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-56 – 1-57, PDF 65-66 of 418.

<sup>21</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 3.11, p 3-91, PDF 100 of 418.

<sup>22</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-132, PDF 141 of 418.



their fit within the context of the draft exploration agreement. <sup>23</sup>	
<p>Nov. 15, 2019 Letter ... requesting MN-S provide direction related to rescheduling the community workshops</p> <p>...</p> <p>Nov. 27, 2019 ... the rescheduling of the community visits into 2020</p> <p>Dec. 10, 2019 ... Denison sought, and MN-S committed to providing, guidance regarding the rescheduling of community meetings.</p> <p>Feb. 20, 2020 ...</p> <p>The letter outlined Denison's repeated requests for direction to reschedule community meetings<sup>24</sup></p>	<p>This consistent focus by Denison on its attempt to reschedule community workshops before an appropriate framework was in place is emblematic of the early and ongoing challenges with Denison's failure to recognize the unified One Voice approach of the MN-S following the relevant Métis Locals' delegation of the duty to consult, all of which had done so and which the MN-S had accepted by September 25, 2019. The confusion Denison contributed to in this regard throughout the engagement process added to delay in the engagement processes. The MN-S throughout this period struggled with coordinating community activities as a result of distrust and suspicion that was created when Denison failed to come to the table, as discussed further above.</p>
Denison provided information to MN-S regarding a student opportunity for a Métis Citizen to participate as part of the Denison Future Mining Leaders Program. <sup>25</sup>	It is unclear to the MN-S how this communication relates to engagement on Project impacts to Métis title and rights and resulting accommodations. In any event, Denison does not note that MN-S committed to, as appropriate given its role in the Nation, share this opportunity with communities in Métis NR-1.

<sup>23</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-133, PDF 142 of 418.

<sup>24</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, pp 7-133, 7-134 and 7-136, PDF 142, 143 and 145 of 418.

<sup>25</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-134, PDF 143 of 418.





Feb. 12, 2020 ... Legal counsel for MN-S provided Denison's comments on the initial MOU Denison shared on January 2020. <sup>26</sup>	This description fails to recognize the substantive discussion on the various terms of the MOU which occurred informally in the weeks leading up to February 12, 2020.
<p>Mar. 13, 2020, Email, The Province of Saskatchewan notified Denison that MN-S indicated they would meet with Denison, the Province, and potentially the CNSC. Due to Denison's postponement of the EA the meeting would also need to be postponed.</p> <p>Mar. 19, 2020, Letter, Denison advised MN-S of the temporary suspension of the Project's EA due to COVID-19 disruptions and challenges.</p> <p>Mar. 26, 2020, Email, Denison and the MN-S President exchanged emails regarding status of COVID-19 and protection of Métis citizens and Denison employees.</p> <p>Apr. 9, 2020, Email, Ongoing process discussions between MN-S and Denison</p> <p>Aug. 7, 2020, Conference Call, Ongoing process discussions between Denison and MN-S.<sup>27</sup></p>	The suspension of the Project had serious impacts on the course of engagement between Denison and the MN-S. This suspension period was severely destructive to the energies that MN-S had invested early-on, and to the relationship between MN-S and the Locals who had anticipated that MN-S would be advancing consent-based discussions with Denison, including in respect of their communities. This contributed heavily to the overall issues with confusion and delay discussed above.
Feb. 9, 2021, Phone Call, Through their legal counsel to Denison's legal counsel, MN-S expressed concern with Denison conducting municipal meetings with the Communities of Interest of Beauval, Île-à-la-Crosse and Pinehouse Lake, owing to the residency of many Métis Citizens	Denison fails to note that the majority of the attendees of these community meetings were Métis, that the sessions were opened by and involved Métis elders and leadership, and that the sessions involved discussion of traditional knowledge, all of which served to

<sup>26</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p, 7-135, PDF 144 of 418.

<sup>27</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p, 7-136, PDF 145 of 418.



<p>within these communities. Denison had worked in advance to clarify the meetings were intended as public meetings, not Métis-specific engagement, and introduced the meetings as such when occurring. The CNSC and the Province of Saskatchewan concurred with Denison these meetings represented public meetings, required for each of their regulatory processes.</p> <p>Feb. 23, 2021, Letter, Denison sent a letter following up on feedback and concerns expressed by MN-S legal counsel and Minister Tex Bouvier (who had been in attendance during the Beauval municipal meeting) regarding the northern municipality meetings. The letter was sent to MN-S legal counsel as per the direction received from MN-S.<sup>28</sup></p>	<p>undermine MN-S' role in facilitating consultation processes.</p>
<p>Mar. 22, 2021, Virtual Meeting, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and Denison met to discuss the municipal meetings. Denison articulated the necessity of engagement activities occurring in parallel with commercial negotiations. MN-S indicated that engagement activities could not proceed absent a commercial agreement regarding Denison's exploration activities. Denison advised that the parties may be at a potential "impasse" as a result of MN-S' insistence on commercial negotiations taking precedence.<sup>29</sup></p>	<p>This entry first fails to note that this meeting, and the subsequent progress it provided, as noted below, only occurred as a result of insistence by the MN-S on a meeting to move engagement forward. More importantly, the "impasse" described was not demonstrated by the work MN-S was already engaged in in retaining and working with a consultant and which the MN-S continued immediately following the March 22, 2021 meeting. In this time period, the MN-S was actively engaged in retaining and working with a consultant regarding establishing appropriate protocols for engagement. MN-S was also making this important progress despite the heavy stresses it and its Locals were</p>

<sup>28</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, pp 7-138 – 7-139, PDF 147-148 of 418.

<sup>29</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-139, PDF 148 of 418.



	under due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and despite the stresses imposed by Denison due its suspension of the Project.
Apr. 23, 2021, Letter, Denison provided a response to the April 9, 2021, MN-S Engagement Plan approach with a detailed workplan and supporting budget, and an offer to immediately fund TLU work as directed by MN-S. <sup>30</sup>	Denison's commitment to "immediately fund" work on the Métis Knowledge Study does not reflect the reality of Indigenous engagement, reflected in the following months of trading of drafts and work plans between Denison and MN-S, that scope and nature of a TLU study are subject to the agreement of the funding and Indigenous party and so require work to reach concord. Funding was only "immediately" available to the extent MN-S was in complete agreement with Denison's proposed work plan. The engagement record for the remainder of 2021 and 2022 demonstrates many instances in which Denison had concerns with the budget and workplan for the Métis Knowledge Study which delayed the Study's commencement. In particular, the MN-S provided a revised copy of the Capacity Funding Agreement for the Métis Knowledge Study to Denison on September 28, 2021, and no revised draft was received back from Denison until April 14, 2022 (note that Denison ascribes this correspondence to April 12, 2022), when Denison suggested a simpler, from its perspective, agreement might be appropriate. This was despite MN-S reaching out directly on this issue on November 2, 2021 and receiving an acknowledge of that outreach.

<sup>30</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-139, PDF 148 of 418.



<p>Feb. 5, 2021, Phone Call, Denison's legal counsel had a call with MN-S' legal counsel regarding the revisions shared by MN-S to the MOU on January 13, 2021. Commitment was made by MN-S' legal counsel to provide new revisions to the drafts in the following week.</p> <p>Jun. 25, 2021, Email, Immediately following a meeting between MN-S, Denison, and the CNSC on June 25, 2021, counsel for Denison and for MN-S set up a meeting to discuss the draft MOU, in existence since January 2020<sup>31</sup></p>	<p>MN-S' notes of the February 5, 2021 phone call indicate that it was Denison's legal counsel who committed to providing revised drafts of the MOU the following week. Accordingly, calling out the delay on the progress on the MOU actually highlights an area where the MN-S waited for a considerable length of time to receive a response from Denison.</p>
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As the above clarifications demonstrate, the MN-S has not added additional processes over time but instead has attempted to work collaboratively with Denison to address substantial Métis concerns over adverse Project impacts to Métis rights and interests and has acted in line with the reasonable expectations that Denison has repeatedly created. This collaborative work is designed to allow for Métis to consent to an appropriate Project. MN-S has been focused on the best ways to address those concerns through the democratic MN-S governance structure and agreements that will result in real protections and Métis consent. To be clear, during this period MN-S repeatedly sought a consent-based *discussion* – i.e., a discussion to explore how Métis rights and interests could be accommodated in a manner mutually agreeable to both parties. While Denison repeatedly created the impression that such discussions would be forthcoming and represent a core element of its collaboration with the MN-S and the development of the Project, at no point did Denison actually engage in such discussions during the period covered by the IER.

The MN-S has made substantial efforts to educate Denison on Métis Nation structure, rights and interests. The MN-S is committed to further engagement to protect Métis rights and interests, within *appropriate and effective* processes and structures that will actually achieve the necessary ends: understanding Métis concerns, including how the Project will adversely affect the Métis, and seeking to appropriately accommodate such concerns.

## **2. Additional Métis Knowledge**

<sup>31</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-140, PDF 149 of 418.





Consistent with its intent to engage meaningfully in an understanding of the impacts of the Project on Métis rights and title, the MN-S has continued to engage in research efforts on Métis land use in the Project area. Most recently, the MN-S was able to engage with several additional Métis traditional knowledge holders in early 2025, who were able to discuss how they and their families have used the lands around the Project. The knowledge shared by these individuals is compiled in the map shown in Attachment “A”, which also contains the traditional land use map from the 2023 Métis Knowledge Study for comparison. To be clear, these maps each present distinct data-sets, and must be considered together. The MN-S would welcome an opportunity to discuss this new map, and to understand whether additional interviews would be helpful to the Ministry in assessing the Project.

The new information in Attachment “A” clearly shows extensive land use by Métis from various communities in direct proximity to the Project. This information demonstrates the position that the MN-S has always held: the Métis Homeland is unified as are the rights held by the Métis, and that Homeland covers, and those rights are exercised within, the Project area.

This new traditional land use information is consistent with prior case law which recognizes Métis rights in the project area, including commercial rights. In *R. v. Morin and Daigneault*,<sup>32</sup> the Saskatchewan Provincial Court (affirmed by the Saskatchewan Court of Kings Bench) found that Métis rights to fish covered an area “loosely known as Treaty 10 or perhaps a little larger” – an area that includes the Project area.<sup>33</sup> While the court in *R v. Morin and Daigneault* explicitly made no finding on a commercial right to fish, the accused were clearly engaged in commercial fishing activities.<sup>34</sup>

The unified nature of the Métis Homeland and the involvement of many locals further supports the need for the Ministry to consult clearly with MN-S. Such consultation must begin by identifying the Ministry’s understanding of the community to which consultation is owed, the rights of that community, and strength of claim. It must then go on to clearly consider and accommodate Métis rights, interests and title, including economic losses and commercial harvesting.

### 3. Significance of Research Material

On January 27, 2025, the MN-S provided to the Government of Saskatchewan, through its counsel, 3915 pages of research material (the “**Research Documents**”) and 24,111 records produced in relation to Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench File SK Q.B. No. 619

<sup>32</sup> 1996 CanLII 12081 (SK PC).

<sup>33</sup> *R v. Morin and Daigneault* at para 20.

<sup>34</sup> *R. v. Morin*, [1998] 2 W.W.R. 18, 159 Sask. R. 161 (SKKB), pp 10-15.



of 1994 (the “**Land Claim**”). We assume that the Ministry has access to the Research Documents but if not, please inform us and the MN-S would be pleased to provide such access.

The Research Documents are focused on the “the historical use and occupancy of Northwest Saskatchewan by the Métis”.<sup>35</sup> The Research Documents also describe and document the scrip process, a process which was unilaterally and fraudulently imposed on Métis (as compared to treaties with First Nations which involved at least some negotiation).

The MN-S’ review and integration of the Research Documents are ongoing but the MN-S wanted to highlight the importance of these Documents in relation to the duty to consult. Most importantly, the Research Documents provide additional evidence in relation to Métis title in the Land Claim area, including the Project area and areas that will be subject to adverse impacts from the Project. The Research Documents also clearly show the historic importance of commercial harvesting to a large Métis population which was mobile over a large area:

- “There was also a considerable flow of servants between Isle a la Crosse, Portage la Loche, Carlton, Buffalo Lake, Rapid River and Athabasca.”<sup>36</sup>
- “Post journals provide dear evidence of a growing Métis population in Northwest Saskatchewan with heavy involvement in commercial production and exchange.”<sup>37</sup>
- “The HBC journals highlight the importance of commercial production and exchange. Métis and other Aboriginal men (and sometimes women) played the role of independent producers and traders of furs and provisions to Company posts.”<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> For instance, Matrix: Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative, Anne Ste. Croix Rothney, Report No. 3, An Analysis of Early Hudson’s Bay Company Records for the English River District, 1821-1870, October 23, 2004, p ii, PDF 2 of 265 (“**Report No. 3**”); Matrix: Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative, Leanna Parker and Frank Tough, Report No. 4, Population Estimates and Censuses of Northwest Saskatchewan, 1823-1901, Volume 1, November 28, 2005, p ii, PDF 2 of 385 (“**Report No. 4**”).

<sup>36</sup> Report No. 3, p 14, PDF 23 of 265.

<sup>37</sup> Report No. 3, p 135, PDF 144 of 265.

<sup>38</sup> Report No. 3, p 135, PDF 144 of 265.



- “The maintenance of multiple fisheries in the later period of the monopoly required several dedicated, specialized fishermen.”<sup>39</sup>
- “Further, Métis and other Aboriginal people were called on to act as temporary guides, interpreters and couriers of letters and supplies between different HBC posts. From the time of their initial establishment, the posts at Isle a la Crosse and Green Lake were closely linked, and Company servants traveled between the two neighbouring posts regularly. There was also a considerable flow of servants between Isle a la Crosse, Portage la Loche, Carlton House, Buffalo Lake, Rapid River and Athabasca. Over the course of the 19th century, Aboriginal workers assumed a very formalized role in accompanying the brigades in and out of the country.”<sup>40</sup>
- In the area subject to the Land Claim, which includes the Project area, “the Canadian government recognized a large number of Métis individuals in the Census of 1901” and also underestimated the Métis population by as much as 17%.<sup>41</sup>

The Research Documents support the MN-S’ consistent insistence that Saskatchewan consult and Denison engage on economic losses related to Métis title and impacts to commercial harvest.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The above demonstrates, in addition to the concerns in the Métis comments, that while the MN-S has invested substantial effort in engagement on the Project, engagement and therefore consultation to date has been insufficient. This is true particularly as pertains to title and commercial harvesting matters, but also across the board in terms of substantive Métis concerns raised from the beginning of engagement with the MN-S. Accordingly, the Métis Nation cannot presently consent to the Project in its current form or under the current insufficient consultation process which fails to meaningfully address Métis title, rights and concerns. As discussed in the Métis Initial Comments, the addition of the Project to the already immense burdens on the Métis will tax our Citizens and lands to the breaking point. The honour of the Crown requires that Saskatchewan recognize the significant cumulative effects that the Project will have on our Citizens and lands, and to recognize that our fragile communities, still struggling with the inter-generational trauma of

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<sup>39</sup> Report No. 3, p 136, PDF 145 of 265.

<sup>40</sup> Report No. 3, p 136, PDF 145 of 265.

<sup>41</sup> Report No. 4, p 310, PDF 343 of 385





historic development and residential and day schools, cannot sustain unbridled development in Saskatchewan's North.

Based on the foregoing, the MN-S reiterates its urgent request that the Ministry engage in, and direct Denison to engage in, deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project. In particular, as the MN-S has from the beginning and based on the additional evidence of the Research Documents, the MN-S requests discussions of the potential economic loss which would result from the Project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brent Laroque".

Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP





January 24, 2025

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: MN-S Response to Outreach dated January 16, 2025**

This letter is being provided in response to your January 16, 2025 email requesting meeting dates to discuss with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”) regarding the continuation of the Ministry of Environment’s duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). This correspondence all follows our December 20, 2024 letter detailing, in the high-level way possible given time constraints imposed by the Ministry’s consultation process, the MN-S’ ongoing concerns with the Project.

We appreciate the Ministry’s outreach but note that you have not responded to any part of the December 20 letter except for our request for a meeting. In particular, you have not responded to our request for an extension of the period for the MN-S’ comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Indigenous Engagement Report for the Project. You also have not responded to any of the substantive and deeply important issues raised in the December 20 letter.

In that context, we nonetheless appreciate your follow-up and would be pleased to meet with the Ministry at the MN-S’ office in Saskatoon to discuss the MN-S’ extensive and serious concerns and the need for deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project.

The MN-S’ team’s earliest availability is before 11:00 am on the January 29<sup>th</sup>. However, as the Ministry had not responded to the December 20 letter, MN-S has not yet had the opportunity to conduct a detailed compilation of the MN-S’ concerns with the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Indigenous Engagement Report. Accordingly, the MN-S team is alternatively available February 11<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon or February 13 at which time we will seek to have substantially advanced the review of materials we described in our letter of December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)







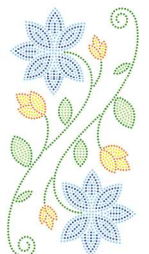
We look forward to engaging with the Ministry to ensure Métis rights in respect of the project are respected.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Brent Laroque".

Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP





February 5, 2024

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: MN-S Response to Notification of Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report**

This letter is being provided further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Ministry of Environment's duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project ("**Project**"). On November 7, 2024, you sent a letter notifying the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "**MN-S**") of the continuation of that consultation process and provided the MN-S until December 22, 2024 to provide comments ("**Ministry November 7 Letter**"). On December 20, 2024, MN-S provided its initial comments at a high level, noting that the time provided was insufficient and requesting an extension of the comment period to January 31, 2025 as well as an opportunity to meet ("**MN-S Initial Comments**"). This letter builds on but does not duplicate the MN-S Initial Comments as follows:

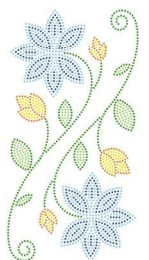
1. Providing a detailed comparison of the Indigenous Engagement Report ("**IER**") for the Project prepared by Denison to MN-S's experiences, notes and records to correct the overall picture that Denison has provided that MN-S has stalled or delayed engagement unreasonably;
2. Additional traditional land use mapping information which further evidences the unity of the Métis Nation and the importance of the Project area to all Métis; and
3. A discussion of the importance of the 3915 pages and 24,111 records obtained from the University of Alberta and associated with the 1994 Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim provided to Saskatchewan on January 27, 2025.

To provide context for the more detailed review below, MN-S provides a summary of the concerns with the current state of the Project and its development to date identified in the MN-S Initial Comments. Overall, we do not believe that adverse impacts to the Métis have

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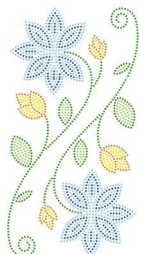
**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)



been appropriately reflected in the Project assessment, nor have they been appropriately considered or accommodated. In this context, the MN-S does not consent to this Project, and asserts that the Saskatchewan has not satisfied the Crown's duty to consult. For greater certainty, the MN-S asserts that the Métis rights and interests that will be adversely affected by the Project include:

- (a) the right of Aboriginal title to the lands and resources around the Project area, including as set out in the 1994 Métis Land Claim which Canada has committed to resolve and in respect of which the MN-S provided thousands of pages of documentation on January 27, 2025. The rights that make-up Aboriginal title include the right to use these lands in the future without disturbance or interruption, the right to the lands' mineral wealth (both in terms of the value of the minerals and the potential socio-economic potential associated with the development of such resources) – which is the inheritance of the Métis – and the right to obtain these lands without diminution, the blemish of industrial development or the legacy of toxic contaminants;
- (b) the right for Métis to freely access and use the Project area as they have in previous generations, without interruption, and without individual and community anxiety regarding the health and safety of plants, animals, and fish around and within the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake, including as such are or could in the future be used for food, cultural, and commercial purposes;
- (c) the right to continued access to safe and clean drinking water throughout NR1 and NR3, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (d) the right to build and maintain a healthy and connected Métis community, to recover from the legacy of the residential school system, and to recover from the history of colonization and exploitation;
- (e) a right to pass on Métis teachings, Métis traditional knowledge, and Métis ways of life to future generations, including through undisturbed land use in and around the Project area including Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (f) a right to transit over our lands to exercise our rights, including the modern application of our historic commercial rights;

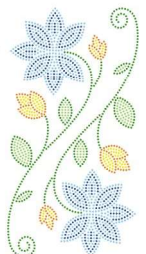




- (g) the right to harvest species, including hunting, fishing and trapping, for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes, including without fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants;
- (h) the right to rehabilitate caribou habitat and reduce environmental stresses on caribou, in order to restore traditional Métis connections to caribou harvesting and use that has been substantially diminished within NR1 and NR3 as a result of environmental pressures from industry and development;
- (i) the right for current and future generations of Métis to commercially harvest fish from Russel Lake, including without the market stigma associated with contamination of the lake and fish; and
- (j) the right to protect and preserve cultural assets and artefacts and Métis burial and other culturally significant sites, and to prevent the desecration of these sites, including by the fear and stigma of potential toxic contaminants.

Consultation to-date has been inadequate as it has not addressed the significant risk of the Project to these rights and interests and, in particular (and unique to the Métis Nation), consultation has not addressed the irreparable socio-economic loss to the Métis should the Project proceed. Moreover, the Ministry has failed to provide the basic elements of consultation including:

- Properly identifying the community affected. The Ministry has suggested that its duty to consult may be limited to Patuanak Métis Local #82. This denies the unitary nature of the Métis Nation and its Homeland. We note, in particular, that the 1994 Land Claim was brought by the MN-S, including the Métis of Northern Saskatchewan. This unified nature of the Métis Nation is also evidenced by the shared ongoing use of these lands by Métis from across Saskatchewan's north. The Ministry must confirm whether it intends to consult in respect of the impact to the Métis Nation, including Northern Region I and III. Should it take a narrower view of the Métis rightsholders impacted, the Ministry must engage in good faith discussions with MN-S to articulate the basis of its assessment and identify whether there are any steps that can be taken by MN-S to support the MN-S's assertion that the impacts of the Project affect more than just those Métis citizens who are members of Patuanak Métis Local #82.
- Properly identifying the rights asserted. The Ministry has yet to respond to the MN-S list of asserted affected rights or indicate its view on MN-S' affected rights.
- Properly identifying the Crown's view of the strength of the Métis claim to each asserted right. The MN-S has to date seen no strength of claim analysis or even an



assertion of the Crown's position on Métis strength of claim. Knowing the Crown's assessment of strength of claim is an important first step to facilitate the MN-S, through dialogue, helping to inform this assessment.

- No meaningful dialogue with the MN-S. To-date, Saskatchewan has not participated in the act of "talking together for mutual understanding"<sup>1</sup> at the heart of the Crown's duty consult.

These elements are essential to even beginning a conversation on the impacts which need to be consulted on.

The procedural aspects of the duty to consult delegated to Denison have also not been carried out sufficiently. Denison's IER selectively portrays the engagement between Denison and MN-S in a way that is incomplete, with the result that MN-S is portrayed as taking unreasonable positions that frustrated and delayed the process of engagement. To the contrary, the MN-S has acted diligently and in good faith at every turn, in light of the expectations created by Denison and the subsequent challenges when it was determined that Denison had been acting in a misleading manner.

In reading the IER, the Ministry should give particular consideration to how Denison's behaviour created challenges for the MN-S, as the MN-S sought to collaborate with Locals and Denison. The MN-S and Locals were, from the beginning, informed by Denison that Denison would negotiate an impact benefit agreement as part of Denison's engagement. It was reasonable for the MN-S and Locals to accept these assertions on their face, given the fact that such agreements are a common method of addressing Indigenous concerns and seeking consent, and because an impact benefits agreement was the clearest method of addressing the fact that the development of the Project would deprive the Métis of the socio-economic potential of their land claim. While Denison now repeatedly refers to such discussions as "commercial negotiations" – that characterization is disingenuous.

Delays in Denison providing clarity on how and when it would begin negotiating an impact benefit agreement created challenges for MN-S, including in its relationships with Locals, who were concerned when such consent-based discussions were not proceeding.

Consultation has not met the standard required by the fact that the Ministry itself has noted that there is significant consultation required due to the level of impacts.

This lack of sufficient consultation has resulted in a project which does not adequately protect Métis rights and interests. The EIS shows insufficient understanding of effects of the Project on Métis land and resource use, and no meaningful incorporation of the

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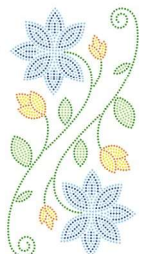
<sup>1</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73 at para 43.



Preliminary Métis Knowledge Study into the Final EIS. Moreover, the EIS provides no consideration of impacts to Métis title such as loss of land use and the denuding of the wealth and attributed socio-economic potential of the Métis title lands. Further specific technical areas where the MN-S has concerns, all as detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments, are:

- Level of precaution in EIS
- Safety of Project with respect to basement rock permeability.
- Groundwater.
- Surface water quality.
- Selenium.
- Fish and fish habitat.
- Fish health.
- Vegetation.
- Woodland caribou.
- Human health.
- Indigenous land and resource use for traditional purposes including recreational and commercial purposes.
- Heritage resources.
- Quality of life.
- Economics.
- Denison's reliance on traditional knowledge and Project support of Kineepik Local #9.
- Monitoring plans.

These significant unresolved issues have left the MN-S with unanswered questions detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments regarding why the Ministry has taken the approach it has to date, what the timeline and process for the Ministry's decisions are on a go forward basis, and how mis-steps to date will be rectified to incorporate Métis concerns



and protect Métis rights and interests. This specific experience in relation to Denison has also highlighted the absence of a meaningful consultation process in Saskatchewan which is aimed at addressing Métis concerns<sup>2</sup> and obtaining Métis consent.<sup>3</sup>

### **1. Review of Indigenous Engagement Report**

The IER reflects, incompletely, certain individual events which occurred in the course of engagement between Denison and the MN-S. However, context and clarification is required to address Denison's portrayal that the MN-S has been inappropriately and unreasonably focused on "commercial concerns", and that this focus delayed engagement.

The MN-S has always been focused on Métis rights and interests, including the certainty that the Project will deprive the Métis of the socio-economic potential of their Métis title. The MN-S' approach, affirmed by Denison as discussed below, has always been to address Métis concerns collaboratively, including through the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement to address and help accommodate impacts to the exercise of rights, impacts to the environment, and impacts to the Métis title. Denison's actions created the reasonable impression with the MN-S and Locals that this was an acceptable pathway to address Métis concerns.

Métis rights affected by the project include not only access to land and wildlife for traditional land use and other socioeconomic impacts, but also rights to the mineral wealth in the Métis Homeland. The economic loss from the removal of mineral wealth has been recognized as an adverse effect giving rise to the Crown's duty to consult.<sup>4</sup> Indigenous peoples have a constitutionally-grounded right to economic development within their communities.<sup>5</sup> Courts have recognized that the rights of Indigenous peoples are harmed if they are deprived the opportunity to benefit from their resources (such as minerals or harvested wildlife) while a title claim is being resolved.<sup>6</sup> Consultation protects Aboriginal rights so that when rights are finally proved, Aboriginal peoples do not "find their land and resources changed and denuded."<sup>7</sup> Impact benefit agreements meanwhile are a

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<sup>2</sup> *Haida Nation* at para 49

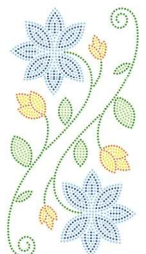
<sup>3</sup> *Tsilhqot'in Nation* at para 87

<sup>4</sup> *Gitxaala v British Columbia (Chief Gold Commissioner)*, 2023 BCSC 1680 at para 390.

<sup>5</sup> *R c Montour*, 2023 QCCS 4154 at paras 1375 & 1380.

<sup>6</sup> *Mitchikanibikok Inik First Nation (Algonquins of Barriere Lake) v Attorney General of Quebec*, 2024 QCCS 4007 at para 63; *Ross River Dena Council v Yukon (Government of)*, 2015 YKSC 45 at paras 54-58.

<sup>7</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73 at para 33.



commonplace method of accommodating adverse impacts to Indigenous peoples<sup>8</sup> and are consistent with the Supreme Court of Canada's promotion of reconciliation, dialogue and respect.<sup>9</sup>

The MN-S has been clear since the beginning of engagement with Denison that the Project is located within the Métis Homeland and subject to the 1994 Title Claim. The MN-S has also indicated its willingness to engage in good faith discussions focused on accommodating Métis concerns with the Project and securing their consent. In response, since the earliest dates of the process, Denison has repeatedly indicated that it intended to seek the consent of the Métis through the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement. This was affirmed in written communications on November 15 and November 27, 2019, and in a meeting in person on December 10, 2019. This was also a message Denison affirmed informally throughout the early portions of engagement.

In response to these express and even written commitments, and the expectations of the Locals that MN-S would advance these discussions with Denison, MN-S reasonably sought to advance and participate in such discussions in tandem with the broader project engagement. MN-S has always sought to be transparent on these measures.

It was Denison who then repeatedly suggested that this consent based process be deferred in favour first of Denison's own capacity building. Then, after seeking in good faith to advance the two processes in parallel, consistent with the expectations that Denison knowingly created, MN-S collaboratively advanced the capacity funding alone, on the updated understanding that Denison would commence impact benefit agreement negotiations as soon as the engagement funding was in place. As one example, on August 19, 2022, counsel for Denison stated that it would "be preferable to resolve those [capacity funding and exploration agreement] matters first, hopefully in the next few weeks, before commencing IBA negotiations". Promptly after resolving the agreements that Denison had been seeking from MN-S, Denison's counsel, by email dated November 30, 2022, retracted its offer to commence the negotiation of an impact benefit agreement (again, pushing its commitment to negotiate to a future date "in due course"), giving rise to serious concerns about good faith and about Denison's previous and repeated commitments to engage in good faith consent-based discussions, and causing distrust from Locals.

In summary, any delay or confusion has been the reasonable result of Denison providing inconsistent and misleading messaging, which has created challenges for MN-S as it sought to communicate with and collaborate effectively with Locals. This relationship with

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<sup>8</sup> *Ermineskin Cree Nation v. Canada (Environment and Climate Change)*, 2021 FC 758, at para 105.

<sup>9</sup> *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*, 2014 SCC 44, at para 76.





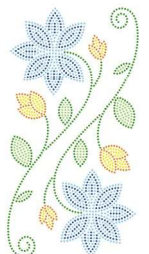
the Locals is of particular importance. Denison's changes in position and failure to follow through on negotiations all undermined the Local's trust in the MN-S and therefore the possibility of effective engagement.

In short, Denison's inconsistent approach resulted in unnecessary delays, friction and frustration, during a period in which MN-S sought to engage in all matters transparently and in good faith.

Additional specific clarifications to the IER are as follows. First, there are several important communications which are completely absent from Appendix A-9: Key Engagement with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan in the IER, the most important of which are (many of these are also referred to elsewhere in this letter):

- September 27, 2019 – Denison sent a letter requesting to delay both conversations on the integration of Indigenous knowledge and impact benefit agreement discussions until Denison had a better understanding of best practices for these activities.
- November 1, 2019 – Denison's counsel by email requested a map of the boundaries of the MN-S region boundaries or a list of the Locals in NR-2 and NR-3 to better understand MN-S governance and potentially affected communities.
- January 11, 2021 – Denison and the MN-S connected on working on the draft for the workplan for the Métis Knowledge Study.
- March 1, 2021 – MN-S counsel reached out by email to Denison's counsel to continue moving forward discussions with Denison, with process discussions by email on March 9.
- September 28, 2021 – MN-S counsel emailed Denison counsel and provided a revised draft of the capacity funding agreement.
- November 2, 2021 – MN-S requested by email that work on the capacity funding agreement and exploration agreement continue to progress and Denison indicated by email it would continue to work with MN-S counsel to do so.
- November 30, 2022 – Counsel for Denison indicated by email that it would delay impact benefit negotiations further.

Second, the statements made by Denison in the IER need to be clarified and placed in context as follows:



Section of Indigenous Engagement Report	MN-S Clarification or Context
The Project is located within Métis Region 1; however, there are Métis Locals in the general area of interest from Northern Region 3. <b>Section 2 Figure 2-1</b> , below, illustrates where these Métis Locals and Regions are in relation to the Project. <sup>10</sup>	Denison's understanding of MN-S Regions is a result of MN-S' years spent educating Denison on MN-S' structure.
Since Denison's initial connection with the MN-S about the Project in June 2019, the main focus of the activities between the parties has been on the development of appropriate processes, deliverables, and budgets desired by MN-S to support its meaningful participation in the environmental assessment process, including the representation of those Métis Locals who have delegated the Duty to Consult to MN-S. <sup>11</sup>	Denison's own summary notes "numerous" substantive concerns with the Project and technical questions raised by MN-S leadership and representatives across the three meetings highlighted by Denison, let alone in the ongoing engagement over the past more than five years, including MN-S' technical comments on the EIS on both the Project as a whole and Denison's exploration and preparation activities. <sup>12</sup> To suggest that MN-S has been focused solely on process and not substantive impacts to Métis title, rights and interests is inaccurate.
In recognition of the MN-S' potential interests in the Project <sup>13</sup>	Denison uses this phrasing throughout the IER. Métis rights and interests in the Project area are not potential. They are real and require consultation and accommodation, with a view towards reaching a mutually-satisfactory resolution, as discussed extensively in the Métis Initial Comments.
Denison received the Métis Knowledge Study from the MN-S on October 24, 2023,	MN-S disagrees that Denison has integrated the Métis Knowledge Study in a

<sup>10</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1, p 1-54, PDF 63 of 418

<sup>11</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-54, PDF 63 of 418.

<sup>12</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, pp 1-55 – 1-57, PDF 64-66 of 418.

<sup>13</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.



<p>and has integrated relevant information from the Study into the EIS.<sup>14</sup></p>	<p>way that is meaningful. Meaningful integration would result in a Project design which protects and preserves Métis rights and addresses the numerous substantive issues with the EIS which are detailed in the Métis Initial Comments. Moreover, from the very beginning of engagement, the MN-S has been clear that the Project is located in the Métis Homeland, an area where the Métis claim title, commercial harvesting rights and other Aboriginal rights. This fact is not reflected in the EIS. For instance Section 5.7.1 of the Executive Summary states only that “The Project is within the Nuhtsiye-kwi Benéne of ERFN, the traditional territory of Kineepik Métis Local #9, and the Nuhenéné of the Athabasca Denesūliné communities.”</p>
<p>Following further discussions between Denison and the MN-S, during August, 2024 MN-S outlined an additional process that MN-S desired take place between Denison and the MN-S, to occur in parallel to the earlier discussed mutually agreeable engagement process.<sup>15</sup></p>	<p>This assertion lacks sufficient clarity to be fully understood and responded to. However, it appears to be emblematic of the overall impression left by the IER that the MN-S has imposed additional, commercial focused processes throughout engagement which have slowed engagement. That impression, if it is Denison’s intent, is inaccurate as discussed above. To the extent MN-S can be sure of what Denison is referring to, the process outlined in detail by the MN-S in August of 2024 was not additional to the “mutually agreeable engagement process”. MN-S believes that this “additional” process to which Denison refers is consent based negotiations including a discussion of Métis consent and accommodation in</p>

<sup>14</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.

<sup>15</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.1, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.





	<p>the form of an impact benefit agreement. The intent of this consent-based process was not newly proposed in August 2024 but core to the MN-S Denison engagement as discussed above. Most immediately, it evolved directly from discussions which took place from March, 2024 onward regarding terms of reference for a joint working group that expressly contemplated impact benefit agreement negotiations (as stated by Denison by email April 19, 2024 “the second meeting and onwards to include negotiations and environmental matters”), as well as high level leadership conversations which occurred in July. Concerns over the effectiveness of the processes to date led the MN-S to, in July and August, propose changes to the details of activities but not fundamentally to the principles of socio-economic accommodation to which Denison had always agreed.</p>
<p>These key engagement activities were supported by ongoing engagement methods including, but not limited to, those outlined in <b>Section 1.3</b>, above.<sup>16</sup></p>	<p>No more informal engagement activities with Métis occurred than those that are recorded in the engagement record. Denison’s public engagement efforts were not engagement with the Métis, as Denison itself repeatedly emphasized.</p>
<p>Specific questions were raised by the MN-S representatives in relation to: confirmation that Denison was following the engagement protocols and direction set out by the MN-S in relation to the Regions and the Locals<sup>17</sup></p>	<p>This concern, raised by MN-S representatives at the initial meeting with Denison, was borne out by subsequent engagement. It quickly became clear that more engagement with Denison was required to help Denison understand Métis governance structures, and Denison</p>

<sup>16</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-55, PDF 64 of 418.

<sup>17</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-56, PDF 65 of 418.



	consistently had to be reminded of those structures.
Dec. 7, 2016, Community Meeting, Denison hosted a community meeting in Île-à-la-Crosse to introduce the company and introduce the Project. <sup>18</sup>	As Denison documents in its Project Description, at this meeting Denison directly raised the expectation among Métis Locals (including specifically Ile a la Crosse) that Denison would seek to negotiate agreements in respect of impacts and benefits from the Project. <sup>19</sup> This was a consistent expectation Denison created and reinforced repeatedly.
<p>Meeting – November 5, 2019: ... The focus was to provide an overview of the Project and discuss Métis interests in the Project.</p> <p>The MN-S noted that they are focused on supporting the Locals, and finding capacity within the organization to support efforts going forward with Denison.</p> <p>The MN-S noted that they provided direction to legal counsel to seek an exploration agreement with Denison.</p> <p>...</p> <p>The MN-S identified that the land in which the Project is located is subject to a land claim, the resources within the land claim area are claimed by the Métis, and removal of the resources claimed by the Métis must result in a portion of the revenue going back to the Métis. The MN-</p>	<p>The MN-S agrees with Denison that this initial meeting was positive but disagrees with the characterization that only the MN-S raised matters related to economic opportunities at this meeting. The MN-S' contemporaneous meeting notes noted for instance that <u>Denison</u> described how the mining method for the Project would result in significantly fewer employment and business opportunities than other projects.</p> <p>Moreover, this interrelationship of socio-economic accommodation issues with broader engagement goes back further and was affirmed at that early stage by Denison, as discussed above. Specifically in relation to the November 5, 2019 meeting, Denison stated by email October 23, 2019 that it understood that the planned November meeting would address both impact benefit agreement negotiations and the duty to consult (of course this interrelationship is logical and</p>

<sup>18</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-8: Key Engagement with A la Baie Métis Local 21, p 7-129, PDF 138 of 418.

<sup>19</sup> Denison Mines, Wheeler River Project – Provincial Technical Proposal & Federal Project Description, May 2019/December 2020, Table 8.3, p 139, PDF 175 of 187.



<p>S has a desire to create a legacy and generate wealth for its people.<sup>20</sup></p>	<p>natural). On another email on October 24, 2019, Denison stated it wanted a partnership “that fully respect the rights and interests of the MN-S <u>and maximizes the benefits to the MN-S and associated local Métis communities</u>” [emphasis added].</p>
<p>As outlined in the IPP, Denison recognizes the important role of Canadian business in the reconciliation process. Denison is committed to sharing the economic benefits of Denison’s business activities with Métis people and communities.<sup>21</sup></p>	<p>Despite this assertion resurfacing in the IER, Denison has not been consistent in its commitment to sharing economic benefits as discussed above. This inconsistency has contributed to some of the alleged delays in engagement, to some of the supposed “impasse” that Denison elsewhere suggests arose, and to generally creating confusion in the process, as discussed above.</p>
<p>Denison, MN-S representatives, and the Métis Local Presidents met to discuss process for engagement.<sup>22</sup></p>	<p>As occurs elsewhere in the IER, this description again erroneously suggests that the MN-S has consistently and only focused on process. The description does not address the substantive matters raised at this meeting as even identified in Denison’s longer discussion of the meeting in the summary of MN-S engagement.</p>
<p>Métis Nation - Saskatchewan provided Denison a draft exploration agreement which includes a request to fund an additional TLU study in respect of the Project. ... Denison described the TLU data already collected by the Métis Locals and noted it will need to consider the extent and appropriateness of further TLU studies and</p>	<p>The TLU study for which MN-S sought and was eventually granted funding was never additional, it was vital but preliminary. Prior to the Métis Knowledge Study no comprehensive study of Métis knowledge had been conducted in relation to the Project.</p>

<sup>20</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 1.8.1.3, p 1-56 – 1-57, PDF 65-66 of 418.

<sup>21</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, s. 3.11, p 3-91, PDF 100 of 418.

<sup>22</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-132, PDF 141 of 418.



their fit within the context of the draft exploration agreement. <sup>23</sup>	
<p>Nov. 15, 2019 Letter ... requesting MN-S provide direction related to rescheduling the community workshops</p> <p>...</p> <p>Nov. 27, 2019 ... the rescheduling of the community visits into 2020</p> <p>Dec. 10, 2019 ... Denison sought, and MN-S committed to providing, guidance regarding the rescheduling of community meetings.</p> <p>Feb. 20, 2020 ...</p> <p>The letter outlined Denison's repeated requests for direction to reschedule community meetings<sup>24</sup></p>	<p>This consistent focus by Denison on its attempt to reschedule community workshops before an appropriate framework was in place is emblematic of the early and ongoing challenges with Denison's failure to recognize the unified One Voice approach of the MN-S following the relevant Métis Locals' delegation of the duty to consult, all of which had done so and which the MN-S had accepted by September 25, 2019. The confusion Denison contributed to in this regard throughout the engagement process added to delay in the engagement processes. The MN-S throughout this period struggled with coordinating community activities as a result of distrust and suspicion that was created when Denison failed to come to the table, as discussed further above.</p>
Denison provided information to MN-S regarding a student opportunity for a Métis Citizen to participate as part of the Denison Future Mining Leaders Program. <sup>25</sup>	It is unclear to the MN-S how this communication relates to engagement on Project impacts to Métis title and rights and resulting accommodations. In any event, Denison does not note that MN-S committed to, as appropriate given its role in the Nation, share this opportunity with communities in Métis NR-1.

<sup>23</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-133, PDF 142 of 418.

<sup>24</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, pp 7-133, 7-134 and 7-136, PDF 142, 143 and 145 of 418.

<sup>25</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-134, PDF 143 of 418.



Feb. 12, 2020 ... Legal counsel for MN-S provided Denison's comments on the initial MOU Denison shared on January 2020. <sup>26</sup>	This description fails to recognize the substantive discussion on the various terms of the MOU which occurred informally in the weeks leading up to February 12, 2020.
<p>Mar. 13, 2020, Email, The Province of Saskatchewan notified Denison that MN-S indicated they would meet with Denison, the Province, and potentially the CNSC. Due to Denison's postponement of the EA the meeting would also need to be postponed.</p> <p>Mar. 19, 2020, Letter, Denison advised MN-S of the temporary suspension of the Project's EA due to COVID-19 disruptions and challenges.</p> <p>Mar. 26, 2020, Email, Denison and the MN-S President exchanged emails regarding status of COVID-19 and protection of Métis citizens and Denison employees.</p> <p>Apr. 9, 2020, Email, Ongoing process discussions between MN-S and Denison</p> <p>Aug. 7, 2020, Conference Call, Ongoing process discussions between Denison and MN-S.<sup>27</sup></p>	The suspension of the Project had serious impacts on the course of engagement between Denison and the MN-S. This suspension period was severely destructive to the energies that MN-S had invested early-on, and to the relationship between MN-S and the Locals who had anticipated that MN-S would be advancing consent-based discussions with Denison, including in respect of their communities. This contributed heavily to the overall issues with confusion and delay discussed above.
Feb. 9, 2021, Phone Call, Through their legal counsel to Denison's legal counsel, MN-S expressed concern with Denison conducting municipal meetings with the Communities of Interest of Beauval, Île-à-la-Crosse and Pinehouse Lake, owing to the residency of many Métis Citizens	Denison fails to note that the majority of the attendees of these community meetings were Métis, that the sessions were opened by and involved Métis elders and leadership, and that the sessions involved discussion of traditional knowledge, all of which served to

<sup>26</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p, 7-135, PDF 144 of 418.

<sup>27</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p, 7-136, PDF 145 of 418.





<p>within these communities. Denison had worked in advance to clarify the meetings were intended as public meetings, not Métis-specific engagement, and introduced the meetings as such when occurring. The CNSC and the Province of Saskatchewan concurred with Denison these meetings represented public meetings, required for each of their regulatory processes.</p> <p>Feb. 23, 2021, Letter, Denison sent a letter following up on feedback and concerns expressed by MN-S legal counsel and Minister Tex Bouvier (who had been in attendance during the Beauval municipal meeting) regarding the northern municipality meetings. The letter was sent to MN-S legal counsel as per the direction received from MN-S.<sup>28</sup></p>	<p>undermine MN-S' role in facilitating consultation processes.</p>
<p>Mar. 22, 2021, Virtual Meeting, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and Denison met to discuss the municipal meetings. Denison articulated the necessity of engagement activities occurring in parallel with commercial negotiations. MN-S indicated that engagement activities could not proceed absent a commercial agreement regarding Denison's exploration activities. Denison advised that the parties may be at a potential "impasse" as a result of MN-S' insistence on commercial negotiations taking precedence.<sup>29</sup></p>	<p>This entry first fails to note that this meeting, and the subsequent progress it provided, as noted below, only occurred as a result of insistence by the MN-S on a meeting to move engagement forward. More importantly, the "impasse" described was not demonstrated by the work MN-S was already engaged in in retaining and working with a consultant and which the MN-S continued immediately following the March 22, 2021 meeting. In this time period, the MN-S was actively engaged in retaining and working with a consultant regarding establishing appropriate protocols for engagement. MN-S was also making this important progress despite the heavy stresses it and its Locals were</p>

<sup>28</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, pp 7-138 – 7-139, PDF 147-148 of 418.

<sup>29</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-139, PDF 148 of 418.



	under due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, and despite the stresses imposed by Denison due its suspension of the Project.
Apr. 23, 2021, Letter, Denison provided a response to the April 9, 2021, MN-S Engagement Plan approach with a detailed workplan and supporting budget, and an offer to immediately fund TLU work as directed by MN-S. <sup>30</sup>	Denison's commitment to "immediately fund" work on the Métis Knowledge Study does not reflect the reality of Indigenous engagement, reflected in the following months of trading of drafts and work plans between Denison and MN-S, that scope and nature of a TLU study are subject to the agreement of the funding and Indigenous party and so require work to reach concord. Funding was only "immediately" available to the extent MN-S was in complete agreement with Denison's proposed work plan. The engagement record for the remainder of 2021 and 2022 demonstrates many instances in which Denison had concerns with the budget and workplan for the Métis Knowledge Study which delayed the Study's commencement. In particular, the MN-S provided a revised copy of the Capacity Funding Agreement for the Métis Knowledge Study to Denison on September 28, 2021, and no revised draft was received back from Denison until April 14, 2022 (note that Denison ascribes this correspondence to April 12, 2022), when Denison suggested a simpler, from its perspective, agreement might be appropriate. This was despite MN-S reaching out directly on this issue on November 2, 2021 and receiving an acknowledge of that outreach.

<sup>30</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-139, PDF 148 of 418.



<p>Feb. 5, 2021, Phone Call, Denison's legal counsel had a call with MN-S' legal counsel regarding the revisions shared by MN-S to the MOU on January 13, 2021. Commitment was made by MN-S' legal counsel to provide new revisions to the drafts in the following week.</p> <p>Jun. 25, 2021, Email, Immediately following a meeting between MN-S, Denison, and the CNSC on June 25, 2021, counsel for Denison and for MN-S set up a meeting to discuss the draft MOU, in existence since January 2020<sup>31</sup></p>	<p>MN-S' notes of the February 5, 2021 phone call indicate that it was Denison's legal counsel who committed to providing revised drafts of the MOU the following week. Accordingly, calling out the delay on the progress on the MOU actually highlights an area where the MN-S waited for a considerable length of time to receive a response from Denison.</p>
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As the above clarifications demonstrate, the MN-S has not added additional processes over time but instead has attempted to work collaboratively with Denison to address substantial Métis concerns over adverse Project impacts to Métis rights and interests and has acted in line with the reasonable expectations that Denison has repeatedly created. This collaborative work is designed to allow for Métis to consent to an appropriate Project. MN-S has been focused on the best ways to address those concerns through the democratic MN-S governance structure and agreements that will result in real protections and Métis consent. To be clear, during this period MN-S repeatedly sought a consent-based *discussion* – i.e., a discussion to explore how Métis rights and interests could be accommodated in a manner mutually agreeable to both parties. While Denison repeatedly created the impression that such discussions would be forthcoming and represent a core element of its collaboration with the MN-S and the development of the Project, at no point did Denison actually engage in such discussions during the period covered by the IER.

The MN-S has made substantial efforts to educate Denison on Métis Nation structure, rights and interests. The MN-S is committed to further engagement to protect Métis rights and interests, within *appropriate and effective* processes and structures that will actually achieve the necessary ends: understanding Métis concerns, including how the Project will adversely affect the Métis, and seeking to appropriately accommodate such concerns.

## **2. Additional Métis Knowledge**

<sup>31</sup> Indigenous Engagement Report, Appendix A-9, p 7-140, PDF 149 of 418.





Consistent with its intent to engage meaningfully in an understanding of the impacts of the Project on Métis rights and title, the MN-S has continued to engage in research efforts on Métis land use in the Project area. Most recently, the MN-S was able to engage with several additional Métis traditional knowledge holders in early 2025, who were able to discuss how they and their families have used the lands around the Project. The knowledge shared by these individuals is compiled in the map shown in Attachment “A”, which also contains the traditional land use map from the 2023 Métis Knowledge Study for comparison. To be clear, these maps each present distinct data-sets, and must be considered together. The MN-S would welcome an opportunity to discuss this new map, and to understand whether additional interviews would be helpful to the Ministry in assessing the Project.

The new information in Attachment “A” clearly shows extensive land use by Métis from various communities in direct proximity to the Project. This information demonstrates the position that the MN-S has always held: the Métis Homeland is unified as are the rights held by the Métis, and that Homeland covers, and those rights are exercised within, the Project area.

This new traditional land use information is consistent with prior case law which recognizes Métis rights in the project area, including commercial rights. In *R. v. Morin and Daigneault*,<sup>32</sup> the Saskatchewan Provincial Court (affirmed by the Saskatchewan Court of Kings Bench) found that Métis rights to fish covered an area “loosely known as Treaty 10 or perhaps a little larger” – an area that includes the Project area.<sup>33</sup> While the court in *R v. Morin and Daigneault* explicitly made no finding on a commercial right to fish, the accused were clearly engaged in commercial fishing activities.<sup>34</sup>

The unified nature of the Métis Homeland and the involvement of many locals further supports the need for the Ministry to consult clearly with MN-S. Such consultation must begin by identifying the Ministry’s understanding of the community to which consultation is owed, the rights of that community, and strength of claim. It must then go on to clearly consider and accommodate Métis rights, interests and title, including economic losses and commercial harvesting.

### **3. Significance of Research Material**

On January 27, 2025, the MN-S provided to the Government of Saskatchewan, through its counsel, 3915 pages of research material (the “**Research Documents**”) and 24,111 records produced in relation to Saskatchewan Court of King’s Bench File SK Q.B. No. 619

<sup>32</sup> 1996 CanLII 12081 (SK PC).

<sup>33</sup> *R v. Morin and Daigneault* at para 20.

<sup>34</sup> *R. v. Morin*, [1998] 2 W.W.R. 18, 159 Sask. R. 161 (SKKB), pp 10-15.



of 1994 (the “**Land Claim**”). We assume that the Ministry has access to the Research Documents but if not, please inform us and the MN-S would be pleased to provide such access.

The Research Documents are focused on the “the historical use and occupancy of Northwest Saskatchewan by the Métis”.<sup>35</sup> The Research Documents also describe and document the scrip process, a process which was unilaterally and fraudulently imposed on Métis (as compared to treaties with First Nations which involved at least some negotiation).

The MN-S’ review and integration of the Research Documents are ongoing but the MN-S wanted to highlight the importance of these Documents in relation to the duty to consult. Most importantly, the Research Documents provide additional evidence in relation to Métis title in the Land Claim area, including the Project area and areas that will be subject to adverse impacts from the Project. The Research Documents also clearly show the historic importance of commercial harvesting to a large Métis population which was mobile over a large area:

- “There was also a considerable flow of servants between Isle a la Crosse, Portage la Loche, Carlton, Buffalo Lake, Rapid River and Athabasca.”<sup>36</sup>
- “Post journals provide dear evidence of a growing Métis population in Northwest Saskatchewan with heavy involvement in commercial production and exchange.”<sup>37</sup>
- “The HBC journals highlight the importance of commercial production and exchange. Métis and other Aboriginal men {and sometimes women} played the role of independent producers and traders of furs and provisions to Company posts.”<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> For instance, Matrix: Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative, Anne Ste. Croix Rothney, Report No. 3, An Analysis of Early Hudson’s Bay Company Records for the English River District, 1821-1870, October 23, 2004, p ii, PDF 2 of 265 (“**Report No. 3**”); Matrix: Métis Aboriginal Title Research Initiative, Leanna Parker and Frank Tough, Report No. 4, Population Estimates and Censuses of Northwest Saskatchewan, 1823-1901, Volume 1, November 28, 2005, p ii, PDF 2 of 385 (“**Report No. 4**”).

<sup>36</sup> Report No. 3, p 14, PDF 23 of 265.

<sup>37</sup> Report No. 3, p 135, PDF 144 of 265.

<sup>38</sup> Report No. 3, p 135, PDF 144 of 265.



- “The maintenance of multiple fisheries in the later period of the monopoly required several dedicated, specialized fishermen.”<sup>39</sup>
- “Further, Métis and other Aboriginal people were called on to act as temporary guides, interpreters and couriers of letters and supplies between different HBC posts. From the time of their initial establishment, the posts at Isle a la Crosse and Green Lake were closely linked, and Company servants traveled between the two neighbouring posts regularly. There was also a considerable flow of servants between Isle a la Crosse, Portage la Loche, Carlton House, Buffalo Lake, Rapid River and Athabasca. Over the course of the 19th century, Aboriginal workers assumed a very formalized role in accompanying the brigades in and out of the country.”<sup>40</sup>
- In the area subject to the Land Claim, which includes the Project area, “the Canadian government recognized a large number of Métis individuals in the Census of 1901” and also underestimated the Métis population by as much as 17%.<sup>41</sup>

The Research Documents support the MN-S’ consistent insistence that Saskatchewan consult and Denison engage on economic losses related to Métis title and impacts to commercial harvest.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The above demonstrates, in addition to the concerns in the Métis comments, that while the MN-S has invested substantial effort in engagement on the Project, engagement and therefore consultation to date has been insufficient. This is true particularly as pertains to title and commercial harvesting matters, but also across the board in terms of substantive Métis concerns raised from the beginning of engagement with the MN-S. Accordingly, the Métis Nation cannot presently consent to the Project in its current form or under the current insufficient consultation process which fails to meaningfully address Métis title, rights and concerns. As discussed in the Métis Initial Comments, the addition of the Project to the already immense burdens on the Métis will tax our Citizens and lands to the breaking point. The honour of the Crown requires that Saskatchewan recognize the significant cumulative effects that the Project will have on our Citizens and lands, and to recognize that our fragile communities, still struggling with the inter-generational trauma of

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<sup>39</sup> Report No. 3, p 136, PDF 145 of 265.

<sup>40</sup> Report No. 3, p 136, PDF 145 of 265.

<sup>41</sup> Report No. 4, p 310, PDF 343 of 385



historic development and residential and day schools, cannot sustain unbridled development in Saskatchewan's North.

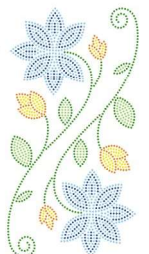
Based on the foregoing, the MN-S reiterates its urgent request that the Ministry engage in, and direct Denison to engage in, deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project. In particular, as the MN-S has from the beginning and based on the additional evidence of the Research Documents, the MN-S requests discussions of the potential economic loss which would result from the Project.

Yours truly,



Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP





February 10, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Environmental Review Division  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Attention: Jessica Way, Environmental Review Officer

Dear Ms. Way:

**Re: MN-S Comments on Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report**

This letter is being provided further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's ("**CNSC**") duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project ("**Project**").

As noted in the Decision on the scope of an environmental assessment of the proposed Wheeler River Project ("**Scoping Decision**"),<sup>1</sup> the Commission of the CNSC ("**Commission**") expects CNSC staff to engage in consultation activities with Indigenous communities in regard to the project.<sup>2</sup> The Commission has acknowledged that the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "**MN-S**") "should be explicitly identified as having potential interests in the Wheeler River Project ... on its own behalf and also on behalf of its potentially impacted Métis communities in Norther Regions I, II and III".<sup>3</sup> The Government of Saskatchewan also has a duty to consult in regard to the Project.

The MN-S recently provided two letters to Saskatchewan detailing Métis concerns with the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Project (the "**Final EIS**") and the included Indigenous Engagement Report ("**IER**"). The two letters to Saskatchewan, dated December 20, 2023 ("**MN-S Initial Comments**") and February 3, 2024 ("**MN-S Further Comments**"), are included hereto in Appendix "**A**" and are shared for the purpose of informing the CNSC of the MN-S' concerns. This letter summarizes, highlights and expands on some of the comments in the MN-S Initial Comments and MN-S Further comments but should be read with reference to those letters.

<sup>1</sup> CNSC Commission Record of Decision DEC 19-H111, Decision on the scope of an environmental assessment of the proposed Wheeler River Project, December 20, 20219.

<sup>2</sup> Scoping Decision, para 23, PDF 8 of 11.

<sup>3</sup> CNSC Commission, Letter dated January 2020.







As you will see, the MN-S Further Comments references 3915 pages and 24,111 records obtained from the University of Alberta and associated with the 1994 Northwest Saskatchewan Métis Land Claim provided to Saskatchewan on January 27, 2025 (the **"Research Documents"**). These Research Documents are relevant to the Project, which will create permanent stigma with regard to these lands, deplete the assets of the Métis (which is their inheritance) and deprive the Métis of the socio-economic opportunities that they would otherwise have if the Project was developed by the Métis and in accordance with their own priorities and values. Please let us know if the CNSC would like to directly receive these documents and we can arrange that access.

As detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments and MN-S Further Comments, the Métis Nation cannot presently consent to the Project in its current form or under the current insufficient consultation process which fails to meaningfully address impacts to Métis rights, including commercial harvesting rights, Métis title, and impacts to Métis communities.

The MN-S is concerned that the Final EIS does not meaningfully incorporate Métis knowledge, does not meaningfully recognize the impacts to the Métis rights and the Métis communities of Northern Saskatchewan. The MN-S has also noted outstanding technical concerns detailed in the MN-S Initial Comments and MN-S Further Comments.

The MN-S has serious concerns with the consultation process to date, some of which are particular to Saskatchewan, but others which pertain to the engagement activities of Denison which are also relied on by the CNSC. In particular, consultation with Saskatchewan and engagement with Denison has been made more difficult by Saskatchewan's refusal to recognize the unified nature of the Métis Nation. Saskatchewan has suggested that its duty to consult is not with the MN-S but instead may be limited to the Patuanak Métis Local #82. This limited view of the Métis Nation, which does not consider the well-documented interconnected nature of Métis communities in Northern Saskatchewan over centuries, and portrays individual Métis Locals as unique Métis communities, is not consistent with the reality of Métis lives and histories. This reality is, for instance, detailed in the MN-S Further Comments. Moreover, Saskatchewan's limited view of the Métis Nation is not consistent with the recognitions of the Government of Canada in its agreements to date with the Métis in Saskatchewan, where Canada has recognized that:

"the MNS, as the government of the Métis in Saskatchewan, represents its Citizens throughout all of Saskatchewan and is mandated to engage in



reconciliation and to assert and protect Métis rights and outstanding claims”<sup>4</sup>

“Métis of Saskatchewan have established the MNS as the government mandated to advance Métis rights, self-government, and self-determination for the Métis of Saskatchewan, as well as to represent its Citizens through democratic governance structures”<sup>5</sup>

“the MNS is mandated to represent the Métis of Saskatchewan”<sup>6</sup>

Denison’s actions meanwhile, as detailed in the MN-S Further Comments, created challenges through the period of engagement for the MN-S as the MN-S sought to collaborate with Locals. Denison repeatedly created the expectation that consent based negotiations would be a key element of its engagement; such expectations were reasonable since such consent-based arrangements are well suited for addressing the Métis title claim interest. Denison then however deferred on how and when those consent based negotiations would take place. In the IER, Denison now improperly appears to portray the MN-S as having complicated consultation by focusing on “commercial” matters. Denison’s conduct, of raising expectations about a consent-based process yet repeatedly delaying such discussions, created distrust, including among the Locals, and caused challenges for effective collaboration and engagement at all levels.

Consultation with Saskatchewan has been furthered hampered by Saskatchewan’s blanket refusal to consult in respect of Métis rights to Métis title and to commercial harvesting. This blanket refusal, set out in Saskatchewan’s consultation policy, is currently the subject of litigation and is inconsistent with Canada’s agreement to negotiate Métis claims to Aboriginal title.

MN-S provides this letter, and the MN-S Initial Comments and MN-S Further Comments, to document and explain the specific and detailed concerns the MN-S has with the state of the Project. The MN-S expects that CNSC will make “good faith efforts to understand

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<sup>4</sup> Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, July 20, 2018, p 2, PDF 2 of 12, available: [Framework-Agreement-for-Advancing-Reconciliation-2018.07.pdf](#).

<sup>5</sup> Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, June 27, 2019, p 1, PDF 6 of 38, available: [Métis-Government-Recognition-and-Self-Government-Agreement-.pdf](#) (“**MN-S Self-Government Agreement**”).

<sup>6</sup> MN-S Self-Government Agreement, Chapter 3.01(a), p 6, PDF 11 of 38.



[Métis] concerns and move to address them.”<sup>7</sup> The issues the MN-S has detailed with the design of the Project must be addressed to accommodate Métis rights and interests in respect of the Project. The issues the MN-S has detailed with consultation must be reflected in the Commission’s determination of whether consultation has been adequate. MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Yours truly,



Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

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<sup>7</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73, para 49.







February 27, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Attention: Pierre Tremblay, President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Tremblay:

**Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

This letter is being provided in respect of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's ("CNSC") duty to consult the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "MN-S"), on its own and in respect of Northern Regions 1 and 3, regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("Denison") Wheeler River Project ("Project"). In the context of that duty, the MN-S writes to request that the CNSC postpone scheduling a hearing for the Project in light of the decision of the federal court in *Kebaowek First Nation v Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*<sup>1</sup> ("Kebaowek"). The MN-S submits that *Kebaowek* requires Denison and CNSC staff to take robust and meaningful efforts to seek and secure the free, prior, and informed consent of the Métis, including those Métis Locals in Northern Region I and III, prior to the scheduling of a hearing.

**Background**

The Commission has acknowledged that the MN-S "should be explicitly identified as having potential interests in the Wheeler River Project ... on its own behalf and also on behalf of its potentially impacted Métis communities in Northern Regions I, II and III".<sup>2</sup>

Canada, by agreement with the MN-S dated February 24, 2023, has recognized that the MN-S is exclusively mandated to represent the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, including for the purpose of engaging in consultation with Canada.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2025 FC 319.

<sup>2</sup> CNSC, Letter dated January 2020 – Document 197.

<sup>3</sup> Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Chapter 5, section 5.02 and 5.02(e), available: [https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS\\_FED-SGRIA\\_02-24-2023.pdf](https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS_FED-SGRIA_02-24-2023.pdf)



On December 24, 2024, CNSC staff indicated their review of the final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) for the Project was complete and that the CNSC Commission Registrar would proceed with scheduling public hearing dates.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Kebaowek First Nation v Canadian Nuclear Laboratories***

In *Kebaowek*, the Federal Court remitted back to the CNSC the approval of a proposed near surface disposal facility (“NSDF”), on the basis of the failure to properly consult the Kebaowek First Nation.<sup>5</sup> The Federal Court found that the CNSC’s existing processes to consider the duty to consult and accommodate did not discharge that duty “through the interpretive lens” of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP”) and the standard of free, prior and informed consent (“FPIC”), and so were deficient.<sup>6</sup>

The Federal Court directed the CNSC to conduct a further process with a view to incorporating Indigenous “law, knowledge, and practices into their processes, and to work towards achieving an agreement.”<sup>7</sup> The goal of reaching an agreement is particularly important in the case of the MN-S and the Project. The Federal Court provided 19 months for the parties to seek an agreement in relation to the NSDF.<sup>8</sup>

### ***Application of Kebaowek to the Project***

The MN-S submits that *Kebaowek* sets a new standard for CNSC consultation, which the current intention for a hearing this fall cannot accommodate. *Kebaowek* was decided in the context of the proper storage of hazardous waste, and therefore triggered the FPIC standard pursuant to UNDRIP Article 29(2) dealing with the storage and disposal of hazardous materials.<sup>9</sup>

Similarly, the Project aims to develop Métis lands, including in a manner that will release hazardous materials into the environment. Consequently, the MN-S asserts that the Project implicates the following UNDRIP articles, which engage the requirement for FPIC:

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<sup>4</sup> CNCC, Letter dated December 24, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 229.

<sup>6</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 212.

<sup>7</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 223.

<sup>8</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 224.

<sup>9</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 221.



- Article 29(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
- Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

Additionally, the following UNDRIP articles are also implicated by the Project's impacts on the Métis and should factor into the CNSC's determination on the Project:

- Article 11(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- Article 12(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
- Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalise, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
- Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- Article 26:
  - (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
  - (2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
  - (3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.



- Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
- Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

UNDRIP and FPIC are therefore clearly engaged in CNSC's consideration of the Project as they were in CNSC's consideration of the NSDF in *Kebaowek*.

However, there are several significant differences between the NSDF and Denison's Project, which warrant a significantly more robust form of consultation and engagement for the Project than what was ordered in *Kebaowek*, including as follows:

- **The Métis will suffer significant novel impacts:** Kebaowek First Nation did not point to "new or novel adverse impacts"<sup>10</sup> of the proposed NSDF. In fact, the NSDF would gather existing waste materials that were stored "in a manner inconsistent with modern industry standards".<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, in the case of the Project, all impacts are new and novel and therefore are significant adverse impacts, as the MN-S and other commentators have detailed to date. The Project will not cure any pre-existing adverse impacts to lands and waters, it will only create new impacts. Accordingly, the imperative for consent to address those impacts is even greater than in *Kebaowek*;
- **The Métis currently have access to the Project site:** Kebaowek First Nation had not been able to access or use the land which was to be used for NSDF for the past 70 years.<sup>12</sup> In contrast, Métis Citizens currently use the Project site and surrounding areas as their families have for generations and over centuries. The Project will create new exclusionary impacts, again creating a greater imperative to seek Métis free, prior, and informed consent for the Project;
- **A longer process does not result in continuing impacts:** Every day that the approval of the NSDF was delayed was a day of continuing impacts of radioactive waste, which was not stored in accordance with international standards.<sup>13</sup> In the case of Project, additional time taken to work to secure Métis consent does not extend Project impacts, but rather delays them;

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<sup>10</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 209.

<sup>11</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 204.

<sup>12</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 171.

<sup>13</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 224.





- ***The Project is within the Métis Aboriginal title claim and within the Métis Homeland:*** The proposed NSDF was not located within Kebaowek First Nation's asserted title territory.<sup>14</sup> The Project, however, is in the middle of the Métis Homeland, as recognized by the CNSC and Denison, and is subject to the 1994 land claim in respect of which the MN-S recently delivered more than 24,000 records to the Government of Saskatchewan. The Project will deeply impact Métis title lands: it will generate stigma among Métis, as seen with Cluff Lake, which reduces use of the lands and resources by the Métis, it will remove resources from the lands before the title claim is resolved and thereby deprive the Métis of the value of their lands, and it will deny the Métis the opportunity to develop their own lands and resources under Métis stewardship in a way that maximizes socio-economic outcomes. There were no such title impacts in *Kebaowek*, creating a far greater need for securing the consent of the Métis; and
- ***The MN-S is the recognized voice for the Métis in Saskatchewan:*** The Kebaowek First Nation "is but one voice speaking on behalf of some of the Algonquin Nation rights holders." Accordingly, the consultation process for the NSDF had to respect the "potential situation that not all members of the rights holding collective agree on the impacts or proper approach to development activities within their traditional territories."<sup>15</sup> In contrast, the MN-S is the voice for the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, a fact recognized by Canada in multiple agreements.<sup>16</sup> The Federal Court similarly recognized that "section 35 rights matters such as title ... are held at the Nation level".<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the importance of seeking agreement with the MN-S, the recognized rights holder, is even stronger than the need for an agreement with Kebaowek First Nation in respect of the NSDF.

<sup>14</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 15.

<sup>15</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 157.

<sup>16</sup> Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Chapter 5, section 5.02 and 5.02(e), available: [https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS\\_FED-SGRIA\\_02-24-2023.pdf](https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS_FED-SGRIA_02-24-2023.pdf); Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, July 20, 2018, p 2, PDF 2 of 12, available: [Framework-Agreement-for-Advancing-Reconciliation-2018.07.pdf](#); Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, June 27, 2019, p 1 and p 6, PDF 6 and 11 of 38, available: [Métis-Government-Recognition-and-Self-Government-Agreement-.pdf](#)

<sup>17</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 150.



To date, no significant efforts have been made to consider the MN-S' position through the lens of FPIC or to attempt to obtain the consent of the MN-S. Denison has only recently agreed to engage in a discussion aimed at securing the consent of the MN-S, but this dialogue remains in its infancy. The CNSC has not been involved in any consent-based discussions with MN-S, inconsistent with the duties imposed by *Kebaowek* and with the fact that the duty to consult ultimately rests with the Crown.

### ***MN-S Requests an Approach to Secure Métis Consent***

MN-S submits that it is appropriate to extend the CNSC's timelines and delay a hearing to allow Denison and the CNSC to engage with the MN-S in a process aimed at seeking the free, prior, and informed consent of the MN-S through a negotiated agreement. Given the 19 months provided in *Kebaowek*, and the significantly greater impacts on the Métis, the MN-S requests that the extension and postponement be for a period of at least 24 months, which could be reduced where FPIC and an agreement are reached. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement in that time, the CNSC would retain jurisdiction to determine if a further extension is required or to proceed to a hearing in which it assesses whether the duty to consult had been fulfilled through the provided processes.

The MN-S commits to diligently engaging with Denison and CNSC during a 24-month extension to facilitate the FPIC process with the aim of achieving agreement.

### ***Conclusion***

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan faces real and significant impacts from the Project, including in respect of its Aboriginal title claim. To date there has been no meaningful or robust effort to secure the free, prior and informed consent of the MN-S. In light of the recent decision in *Kebaowek*, it is appropriate to delay the hearing for the Project so that it can be informed by the results of robust efforts to consult and seek Métis free, prior and informed consent for the Project.

MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Yours truly,



Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel





Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc:

Lisa Thiele, VP, Legal and Commission Affairs & Senior General Counsel, CNSC  
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S



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**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)





February 28, 2024

Ministry of Environment  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch  
3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 5W6

Attention: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

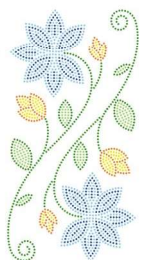
Dear Mr. Dereniwski:

**Re: Denison Wheeler River Project and Saskatchewan (Environment) v. Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, 2025 SCC 4**

This letter is being provided further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Ministry of Environment's duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project ("**Project**"). On November 7, 2024, you sent a letter notifying the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "**MN-S**") of the continuation of that consultation process and provided the MN-S until December 22, 2024, to provide comments. On December 20, 2024, the MN-S provided its initial comments at a high level, noting that the time provided was insufficient and requesting an extension of the comment period to January 31, 2025, as well as an opportunity to meet ("**MN-S Initial Comments**"). On February 3, 2025, the MN-S provided further comments detailing the issues with Denison's engagement to date and providing additional information on Métis Aboriginal title and land use including commercial harvesting ("**MN-S Further Comments**"). MN-S and Saskatchewan then met on February 21, 2025, to discuss the MN-S' comments to that date and mark what MN-S hoped, and still hopes, will be the beginning of true dialogue on Métis rights, interests and concerns ("**February Meeting**").

We are writing to extend that dialogue in consideration of the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada ("**SCC**") in *Saskatchewan (Environment) v. Métis Nation – Saskatchewan*<sup>1</sup> ("**Saskatchewan v MN-S**"). This case is relevant to Saskatchewan's general approach on consultation which has informed consultation on the Project. In that approach and in relation to the Project specifically, Saskatchewan has repeatedly refused to engage in consultation with respect to Métis title and Métis commercial harvesting rights. Most recently, in the February Meeting, Saskatchewan confirmed that it is its policy to not consult on commercial harvesting rights or Métis title. The MN-S asked several

<sup>1</sup> 2025 SCC 4 [*Saskatchewan v MN-S*].





times what information would be required to consider those Métis rights in this instance and has not yet received any response to those questions. The MN-S hopes that Saskatchewan will revisit its approach in light of *Saskatchewan v MN-S*.

In *Saskatchewan v MN-S*, the SCC upheld the MN-S' ability to raise Aboriginal title and commercial harvesting issues in consultation on resource projects such as uranium mines. The SCC ignored Saskatchewan's insistence throughout the case<sup>2</sup> that there was a credibility criterion for claims on which the duty to consult is engaged. Instead, the SCC reaffirmed its prior view that the only three requirements for engaging the duty to consult are "(1) actual or constructive knowledge of the potential existence of the Aboriginal right or title; (2) contemplated Crown conduct; and (3) a potential adverse effect on the asserted right".<sup>3</sup>

The SCC specifically found that "it is clear that Saskatchewan has knowledge of MNS's claim for Aboriginal rights and title, and it is this knowledge which is relevant to the duty to consult analysis." [emphasis added]<sup>4</sup> This knowledge engages the duty to consult generally.<sup>5</sup> In relation to the Project specifically, the MN-S has provided detailed information regarding Métis title and Métis commercial harvesting rights in the area of the Project and the Project's potential adverse effects on those rights. Most recently the MN-S has summarized and expanded that information in the MN-S Initial Comments and MN-S Further Comments.

Consistent with the MN-S' view that each situation must be evaluated on its own merits to assess the requirements of the duty to consult, the SCC noted in *Saskatchewan v MN-S* that the specific duties arising in the underlying consultation were not before it.<sup>6</sup> This approach reaffirms the SCC's longstanding guidance that every case of consultation "must be approached individually."<sup>7</sup>

The SCC's holdings clearly require Saskatchewan to revisit its assessment of the duty consult in relation to the impacts of the Project on Métis title and Métis commercial harvesting rights. That assessment must include "talking together for mutual understanding."<sup>8</sup> That talking must in turn begin with Saskatchewan and the MN-S seeking

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<sup>2</sup> Noted for instance in the summary of Saskatchewan's case at *Saskatchewan v MN-S*, para 48.

<sup>3</sup> *Saskatchewan v MN-S*, para 52.

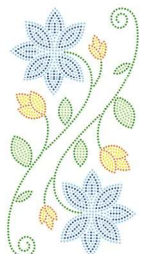
<sup>4</sup> *Saskatchewan v MN-S*, para 54.

<sup>5</sup> Along with Crown conduct and a potential for adverse effects, which have not been directly disputed by Saskatchewan in relation to the Project.

<sup>6</sup> *Saskatchewan v MN-S*, para 54.

<sup>7</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73, para 45 [*Haida*].

<sup>8</sup> *Haida*, para 43.



to agree on an analysis of the depth of the duty to consult on Métis title and Métis commercial harvesting rights impacts from the Project. If Saskatchewan and the MN-S cannot agree, “tribunals and courts can assist.”<sup>9</sup> The MN-S notes that it has repeatedly requested such depth of duty to consult, or strength of claim, analysis.<sup>10</sup>

Based on the foregoing, the MN-S reiterates its urgent request that the Ministry engage in, and direct Denison to engage in, deep consultations with respect to the Project aimed at addressing Métis concerns and achieving Métis consent for the Project. In particular, to remedy Saskatchewan’s prior approach, the MN-S requests discussions of the potential impacts on Métis title and commercially harvesting rights, including in respect of the potential for the development of the Project to stigmatize Métis land use in the area, as well as economic and other losses which would result from the Project’s effects on Métis title and commercial harvesting rights. MN-S looks forward to such expanded and continued discussion, consistent with *Saskatchewan v MN-S*.

Yours truly,



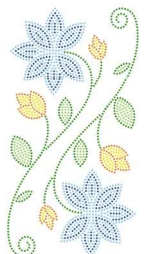
Brent Laroque  
Director of Environment  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

Cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Hillary Peterson, Senior General Council, MN-S  
Arend Hoekstra, Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP  
Jessica Way, Environmental Review Officer, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Carolanne Inglis-McQuay, Director, Corporate Social Responsibility, Denison Mines Corp.

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<sup>9</sup> *Haida*, para 37.

<sup>10</sup> For instance, MN-S Further Comments, pp 2-4; February Meeting.



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Hughie Hill](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Ringer, Ryan](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
[Hoekstra, Arend J.A.](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** 2025-02-28-MN-S-CNSC Wheeler River Meeting minutes  
**Sent:** 2025-03-10 12:36:48 PM

---

Hi Brent and team,

Please see below for the minutes from our last meeting.

Thanks,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

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**Title:** Wheeler River – Meeting with MN-S

**Date:** February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 (3-4pm CST)

**Participants:**

- CNSC: Jes Way, Justin McKeown, Ryan Froess, Ryan Ringer, Rain Noakes
- MN-S: Brent Laroque, Andrew Spriggs, Hughie Hill, Hilary Peterson, Marc Wang, Arend J.A. Hoekstra

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**Summary:**

Meeting Agenda and Concerns

- CNSC shared upcoming hearing dates ([Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding - 2025-H-09](#)). The need for collaborative work to address MN-S concerns will be important over the coming months.
- MN-S shared the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision and its implications for Métis title and commercial harvesting rights.
- MN-S noted the lack of clarity from Saskatchewan on these issues and the need for a clearer relationship with Canada.

Technical and Commercial Harvesting Concerns

- CNSC offered to bring technical experts to discuss concerns such as the permeability of basement rock, as well as on any other topics of concern from MN-S. These could be separate meetings to address specific technical concerns.
- MN-S emphasized the importance of understanding the project impacts on Métis social and economic opportunities.
- MN-S noted they will gather more backing information regarding commercial harvesting in Russell Lake.
- MN-S mentioned other concerns, including groundwater and surface water contamination, woodland caribou recovery, and involvement in monitoring as potential topics for discussion.

#### Next Steps and Meeting Schedule

- CNSC noted that it will be important that we use the time in our upcoming meetings to focus on areas of concern from MN-S, and guidance is needed from MN-S on which topics we need to cover and with whom MN-S wants to include in these discussions.
- MN-S noted that it would compile a list of topics for further discussion.
- MN-S emphasized the complexity of coordinating 5,000-6,000 members that are located in northern Saskatchewan (NR1, 2, and 3).
- CNSC is open and flexible and looks to MN-S and their team to determine how they want to engage their citizens. CNSC is open to community meetings or focusing discussion with technical team for future meetings.
- The next CNSC-MN-S meeting is in the calendar for March 13<sup>th</sup> – MN-S indicated this may be too soon to meet again and Brent wasn't sure this could work with his schedule.
- Jes noted that she may be in Saskatoon the week of March 24<sup>th</sup>, and proposed meeting in person in Saskatoon. Date / time to be proposed by CNSC.
- The deadline for the Participant Funding Program (PFP) application is April 4<sup>th</sup> – MN-S to let CNSC know if they have any questions on this. Will cover review of the EA and consultation reports, CMD and hearing intervention prep / attendance. Will likely also require more meetings for discussion on RIA, so something to consider in application.

#### Action Items

1. CNSC to provide list of outstanding concerns from MN-S's recent letter, for possible discussion in upcoming meetings.
2. MN-S to provide a list of topics for further discussion.
3. Jes to provide potential dates / times for meeting in person, and potentially cancel March 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. **(Complete)**
4. CNSC and MNS to organize additional meetings to address specific technical concerns (e.g. permeability of basement rock). CNSC to ensure appropriate SMEs are present.
5. MN-S to ensure the deadline for the PFP application is met on April 4, 2025. If you need an extension please let us know ASAP.
6. MN-S to cc CNSC on letter to SK MOE summarizing the implication of the SCC decision. **(Complete)**



March 31, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Environmental Review Division  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Attention: Jessica Way, Environmental Review Officer

Dear Ms. Way:

**Re: Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Outstanding Issues and Process Requirements Regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s Wheeler River Project**

This letter is being provided by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“**MN-S**”) further to the ongoing consultation process in respect of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission’s (“**CNSC**”) duty to consult regarding Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). In particular, we are following up on our recent discussions regarding outstanding Métis concerns with the Project. As you know, the MN-S has substantial concerns with the Project’s certain and potential impacts to Métis rights and interests. We are providing this letter to outline steps that can be taken to advance consultation in respect of some of the Métis concerns that have been raised to-date.

At this stage, we think it is important to note that recent jurisprudence from the Federal Court has determined that the CNSC must engage in a consent-based discussion aimed at securing the free, prior and informed consent of the Métis in assessing the Project. The MN-S has requested an opportunity to work with the CNSC to craft such a process, and we look forward to discussing that approach.

In the meantime, this email and letter sets out some specific steps that can be taken by the MN-S, in collaboration with the CNSC, to begin addressing concerns that have been raised by the Métis in respect of the Project. We believe those processes can also help lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion pursuant to the direction of the Federal Court. We have set out key issues for engagement on a topic-by-topic basis below, along with steps that we have identified to advance the engagement.

**1. Concerns regarding stigma, contamination and residual impacts**

- The Métis community has experienced the effects of uranium mining in Saskatchewan for generations. We believe that there is knowledge that can be collected from Métis elders and citizens, regarding their experience with the

effects of uranium mining, that can help us to better predict how Métis land and resource use will change following the development, and eventual reclamation, of the Project. We know from previously held discussions that Métis citizens have avoided harvesting and trapping near Cluff Lake. We would like to engage in a systematic study to help capture these outcomes so that the foreseeable impacts of the stigma associated with the Project can be understood by the CNSC.

- Funding for such a study has also been requested from Saskatchewan, so work could be coordinated. The process for such a study will include the following elements, with appropriate funding to carry them out:
  - community interviews or meetings as appropriate in communities close to existing impacts;
  - community interviews or meetings as appropriate in communities which utilize the Project area, as identified in previous preliminary work by the MN-S; and
  - review of prior research and best practices on managing stigma and risk associated with uranium mining contamination.
- With the proposed study in-hand, we can also work with CNSC and Denison technical staff to identify and discuss opportunities to help minimize stigma (if any), such as through Project changes, Métis involvement in Project operations and monitoring, and Métis involvement in closure processes and decisions. These discussions can be conducted through several channels, including:
  - technical discussions;
  - leadership discussions, involving leadership from the MN-S and the 13 Métis Locals; and
  - community workshops.

## **2. Basement rock permeability**

- Métis elders and other Citizens have expressed their concern with Denison's assertion that the basement rock under the Project is impermeable, and that hazardous materials will be fully contained by the frozen curtain walls.
- The MN-S proposes that engagement to address these concerns begin with community meetings or community interviews as appropriate to collect Métis knowledge within the 13 Métis communities relevant to basement rock permeability.
- MN-S will then have time to review the gathered information and meet with CNSC technical staff to evaluate current understandings of basement rock



permeability and mitigation measures. These discussions can include identifying and considering alternative Project design options, such as freezing underneath the ore body.

- Following these discussions and the identification of alternatives, we would propose further meetings:
  - leadership discussions, involving leadership from the MN-S and the 13 Métis Locals; and
  - community workshops.

**3. Losses to Métis title, the value of the uranium resource, and the socio-economic value through the extraction of that resource.**

- As articulated throughout our correspondence to the Crown, the Project will have significant adverse effects on the Métis, and specifically the Métis land claim.
- We would like to inform our discussions with CNSC by undertaking a study on the socio-economic value that the Métis are being deprived of by Denison undertaking the Project, instead of the Métis undertaking the Project once the land claim is settled. This lost socio-economic value includes the loss of the opportunities to alter the Project's scope and operations to maximize capacity development opportunities for the Métis (including through employment, training, and business development), to undertake the Project in a way that seeks to minimize socio-economic stress on our communities, and to minimize the adverse effects on the lands, water and wildlife that occupy our land claim.
- Funding for such a socio-economic study has also been requested from Saskatchewan, so work could be coordinated on this. MN-S is not aware of similar studies being done, so this work may involve several meetings with technical experts, MN-S environment and consultation administrators, and potentially MN-S leadership to discuss the scope and considerations for such a study. The study should also include community feedback to help ensure that the results are accurate and meaningful.
- Once the socio-economic study is available, we would look to engage with CNSC, and potentially Denison, to help inform the Crown of the lost socio-economic potential of the Métis land claim. We would also welcome opportunities to engage with CNSC and Denison to identify appropriate accommodation methods. It is our hope that CNSC and Denison would engage in these discussions with an aim of securing the free, prior, and informed consent of the Métis.

- In addition to the socio-economic study, we would like to work with CNSC and Denison to better understand the lost financial value of the resource that will be extracted from the Métis homeland. Developing this understanding may require the retention of experts, and the disclosure of updated information by Denison regarding its resource modelling. If necessary, we are willing to consider a non-disclosure agreement or similar confidentiality commitments to protect information that Denison deems to be sensitive.
- Once a study on lost economic value is complete, we would look to engage with CNSC and Denison (and potentially Saskatchewan) to understand if there are methods for minimizing the adverse effects on the Métis. Such opportunities may include the provision of guarantees or indemnities of the lost value that can be realized when the Métis establish Aboriginal title. Alternatives, such as resource revenue sharing, may also help to mitigate the adverse effects on the Métis land claim, but the acceptability of any such sharing would be subject to input from the Métis Locals.

#### **4. Effects on harvesting, particularly fishing, through impacts to Whitefish Lake and Russel Lake.**

- We have previously identified our concerns that the Project will adversely affect the animals, lands and waters of the Métis Homeland and land claim.
- Having already expressed our concerns, including with the effective extinguishment of nearby Métis commercial fishing rights, the release of known contaminants into waterways (for example selenium), and the continuing obstacles to rehabilitating the caribou population and the Métis reliance on caribou, we would like CNSC and Denison to come to the table to discuss potential mitigation measures to address these concerns.
- If robust and meaningful mitigation measures can be identified, we would propose an opportunity to bring these measures back to Northern Regions I and III and our 13 Locals, to secure their feedback and further inform our discussions.
- Ultimately, through appropriately resourced discussions, we would like to reach a conclusion on fitting accommodation measures that can help inform a decision by the Métis Nation to provide its free, prior, and informed consent.

#### **5. Monitoring of ongoing impacts**

- The Project will be developed within the Métis Homeland and within the Métis land claim specifically. For this reason, the MN-S seeks to be robustly and meaningfully engaged in the oversight of the Project throughout its operations lifespan and into closure.



- We would like to work with CNSC to discuss CNSC oversight and monitoring structures and opportunities for involvement of Métis in those structures, including participation in decision making and access to Project data, including monitoring data.
- Once there is clarity on the depth of involvement available to the Métis through the lifespan of the Project, we intend to present that material to Northern Region I and III and our 13 Locals, and it can form a part of the free, prior and informed consent process (and ultimately, decision).

## 6. Consent process

- We believe that the above elements are critical to understanding how the Project will adversely affect the Métis and to identifying opportunities for robust, meaningful accommodation.
- With the above processes complete, the MN-S, along with CNSC and Denison, will be positioned to commence a meaningful and robust process of seeking and securing the free, prior, and informed consent of the MN-S, including Northern Region I and III and the 13 Locals, for the Project.

This letter is not intended to be comprehensive, but to identify pathways along which the MN-S, the CNSC, and Denison can advance through the duty to consult process and ultimately address some of the foreseeable issues that will arise in seeking the free, prior, and informed consent of the Métis.

MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Maarsii, thank you.



Hillary Peterson,  
Senior General Counsel  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S

Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission



Commission canadienne de  
sûreté nucléaire

Commission Registry

Greffe de la Commission

**VIA EMAIL**

e-Doc 7475059 (Word)

e-Doc 7475061 (PDF)

March 12, 2025

Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel  
Metis Nation-Saskatchewan  
310-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0A7

**Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

Dear Hilary Peterson,

Thank you for your letter of February 27, 2025. As you know, it was forwarded to the Registry by the President's Office for a response and with this letter, I want to acknowledge that we have well-received your request.

The Registry appreciates that it is on the basis of the review and consideration by MN-S of the decision of the Federal Court in *Kebaowek First Nation v. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories* that you make this request for postponement. The CNSC is itself undertaking a review of the Court's decision and instruction respecting its discharge of its duty.

From the nature of your request, there seems to be no urgency; however, I want to assure you that the Registry will seek to provide a substantive response to your letter once a full and contextual consideration of the postponement request can be completed.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Candace Salmon

Commission Registrar  
Legal and Commission Affairs Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[candace.salmon@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnsccsn.gc.ca) / cell: (343) 630-3471

Registraire de la Commission  
Direction générale des affaires juridiques et de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[candace.salmon@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnsccsn.gc.ca) / Tél. (343) 630-3471

cc. David Cates, Kevin Himbeault, Janna Switzer, Denison Mines

**Attachment:**

1. Re : MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing



February 27, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Attention: Pierre Tremblay, President and Chief Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Tremblay:

**Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

This letter is being provided in respect of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's ("CNSC") duty to consult the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the "MN-S"), on its own and in respect of Northern Regions 1 and 3, regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("Denison") Wheeler River Project ("Project"). In the context of that duty, the MN-S writes to request that the CNSC postpone scheduling a hearing for the Project in light of the decision of the federal court in *Kebaowek First Nation v Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*<sup>1</sup> ("Kebaowek"). The MN-S submits that *Kebaowek* requires Denison and CNSC staff to take robust and meaningful efforts to seek and secure the free, prior, and informed consent of the Métis, including those Métis Locals in Northern Region I and III, prior to the scheduling of a hearing.

**Background**

The Commission has acknowledged that the MN-S "should be explicitly identified as having potential interests in the Wheeler River Project ... on its own behalf and also on behalf of its potentially impacted Métis communities in Northern Regions I, II and III".<sup>2</sup>

Canada, by agreement with the MN-S dated February 24, 2023, has recognized that the MN-S is exclusively mandated to represent the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, including for the purpose of engaging in consultation with Canada.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 2025 FC 319.

<sup>2</sup> CNSC, Letter dated January 2020 – Document 197.

<sup>3</sup> Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Chapter 5, section 5.02 and 5.02(e), available: [https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS\\_FED-SGRIA\\_02-24-2023.pdf](https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS_FED-SGRIA_02-24-2023.pdf)



On December 24, 2024, CNSC staff indicated their review of the final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) for the Project was complete and that the CNSC Commission Registrar would proceed with scheduling public hearing dates.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Kebaowek First Nation v Canadian Nuclear Laboratories***

In *Kebaowek*, the Federal Court remitted back to the CNSC the approval of a proposed near surface disposal facility (“NSDF”), on the basis of the failure to properly consult the Kebaowek First Nation.<sup>5</sup> The Federal Court found that the CNSC’s existing processes to consider the duty to consult and accommodate did not discharge that duty “through the interpretive lens” of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP”) and the standard of free, prior and informed consent (“FPIC”), and so were deficient.<sup>6</sup>

The Federal Court directed the CNSC to conduct a further process with a view to incorporating Indigenous “law, knowledge, and practices into their processes, and to work towards achieving an agreement.”<sup>7</sup> The goal of reaching an agreement is particularly important in the case of the MN-S and the Project. The Federal Court provided 19 months for the parties to seek an agreement in relation to the NSDF.<sup>8</sup>

### ***Application of Kebaowek to the Project***

The MN-S submits that *Kebaowek* sets a new standard for CNSC consultation, which the current intention for a hearing this fall cannot accommodate. *Kebaowek* was decided in the context of the proper storage of hazardous waste, and therefore triggered the FPIC standard pursuant to UNDRIP Article 29(2) dealing with the storage and disposal of hazardous materials.<sup>9</sup>

Similarly, the Project aims to develop Métis lands, including in a manner that will release hazardous materials into the environment. Consequently, the MN-S asserts that the Project implicates the following UNDRIP articles, which engage the requirement for FPIC:

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<sup>4</sup> CNCC, Letter dated December 24, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 229.

<sup>6</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 212.

<sup>7</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 223.

<sup>8</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 224.

<sup>9</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 221.



- Article 29(2): States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
- Article 32(2): States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

Additionally, the following UNDRIP articles are also implicated by the Project's impacts on the Métis and should factor into the CNSC's determination on the Project:

- Article 11(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to practise and revitalize their cultural traditions and customs. This includes the right to maintain, protect and develop the past, present and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies and visual and performing arts and literature.
- Article 12(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to manifest practise, develop and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, customs and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to the use and control of their ceremonial objects; and the right to the repatriation of their human remains.
- Article 13(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to revitalise, use, develop and transmit to future generations their histories, languages, oral traditions, philosophies, writing systems and literatures, and to designate and retain their own names for communities, places and persons.
- Article 25: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and strengthen their distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and coastal seas and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard.
- Article 26:
  - (1) Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.
  - (2) Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.
  - (3) States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources. Such recognition shall be conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the indigenous peoples concerned.





- Article 29: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
- Article 32(1): Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

UNDRIP and FPIC are therefore clearly engaged in CNSC's consideration of the Project as they were in CNSC's consideration of the NSDF in *Kebaowek*.

However, there are several significant differences between the NSDF and Denison's Project, which warrant a significantly more robust form of consultation and engagement for the Project than what was ordered in *Kebaowek*, including as follows:

- **The Métis will suffer significant novel impacts:** Kebaowek First Nation did not point to "new or novel adverse impacts"<sup>10</sup> of the proposed NSDF. In fact, the NSDF would gather existing waste materials that were stored "in a manner inconsistent with modern industry standards".<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, in the case of the Project, all impacts are new and novel and therefore are significant adverse impacts, as the MN-S and other commentators have detailed to date. The Project will not cure any pre-existing adverse impacts to lands and waters, it will only create new impacts. Accordingly, the imperative for consent to address those impacts is even greater than in *Kebaowek*;
- **The Métis currently have access to the Project site:** Kebaowek First Nation had not been able to access or use the land which was to be used for NSDF for the past 70 years.<sup>12</sup> In contrast, Métis Citizens currently use the Project site and surrounding areas as their families have for generations and over centuries. The Project will create new exclusionary impacts, again creating a greater imperative to seek Métis free, prior, and informed consent for the Project;
- **A longer process does not result in continuing impacts:** Every day that the approval of the NSDF was delayed was a day of continuing impacts of radioactive waste, which was not stored in accordance with international standards.<sup>13</sup> In the case of Project, additional time taken to work to secure Métis consent does not extend Project impacts, but rather delays them;

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<sup>10</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 209.

<sup>11</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 204.

<sup>12</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 171.

<sup>13</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 224.



- ***The Project is within the Métis Aboriginal title claim and within the Métis Homeland:*** The proposed NSDF was not located within Kebaowek First Nation's asserted title territory.<sup>14</sup> The Project, however, is in the middle of the Métis Homeland, as recognized by the CNSC and Denison, and is subject to the 1994 land claim in respect of which the MN-S recently delivered more than 24,000 records to the Government of Saskatchewan. The Project will deeply impact Métis title lands: it will generate stigma among Métis, as seen with Cluff Lake, which reduces use of the lands and resources by the Métis, it will remove resources from the lands before the title claim is resolved and thereby deprive the Métis of the value of their lands, and it will deny the Métis the opportunity to develop their own lands and resources under Métis stewardship in a way that maximizes socio-economic outcomes. There were no such title impacts in *Kebaowek*, creating a far greater need for securing the consent of the Métis; and
- ***The MN-S is the recognized voice for the Métis in Saskatchewan:*** The Kebaowek First Nation "is but one voice speaking on behalf of some of the Algonquin Nation rights holders." Accordingly, the consultation process for the NSDF had to respect the "potential situation that not all members of the rights holding collective agree on the impacts or proper approach to development activities within their traditional territories."<sup>15</sup> In contrast, the MN-S is the voice for the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, a fact recognized by Canada in multiple agreements.<sup>16</sup> The Federal Court similarly recognized that "section 35 rights matters such as title ... are held at the Nation level".<sup>17</sup> Accordingly, the importance of seeking agreement with the MN-S, the recognized rights holder, is even stronger than the need for an agreement with Kebaowek First Nation in respect of the NSDF.

<sup>14</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 15.

<sup>15</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 157.

<sup>16</sup> Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, Chapter 5, section 5.02 and 5.02(e), available: [https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS\\_FED-SGRIA\\_02-24-2023.pdf](https://metisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS_FED-SGRIA_02-24-2023.pdf); Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, July 20, 2018, p 2, PDF 2 of 12, available: [Framework-Agreement-for-Advancing-Reconciliation-2018.07.pdf](#); Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, June 27, 2019, p 1 and p 6, PDF 6 and 11 of 38, available: [Métis-Government-Recognition-and-Self-Government-Agreement-.pdf](#)

<sup>17</sup> *Kebaowek*, para 150.





To date, no significant efforts have been made to consider the MN-S' position through the lens of FPIC or to attempt to obtain the consent of the MN-S. Denison has only recently agreed to engage in a discussion aimed at securing the consent of the MN-S, but this dialogue remains in its infancy. The CNSC has not been involved in any consent-based discussions with MN-S, inconsistent with the duties imposed by *Kebaowek* and with the fact that the duty to consult ultimately rests with the Crown.

### ***MN-S Requests an Approach to Secure Métis Consent***

MN-S submits that it is appropriate to extend the CNSC's timelines and delay a hearing to allow Denison and the CNSC to engage with the MN-S in a process aimed at seeking the free, prior, and informed consent of the MN-S through a negotiated agreement. Given the 19 months provided in *Kebaowek*, and the significantly greater impacts on the Métis, the MN-S requests that the extension and postponement be for a period of at least 24 months, which could be reduced where FPIC and an agreement are reached. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement in that time, the CNSC would retain jurisdiction to determine if a further extension is required or to proceed to a hearing in which it assesses whether the duty to consult had been fulfilled through the provided processes.

The MN-S commits to diligently engaging with Denison and CNSC during a 24-month extension to facilitate the FPIC process with the aim of achieving agreement.

### ***Conclusion***

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan faces real and significant impacts from the Project, including in respect of its Aboriginal title claim. To date there has been no meaningful or robust effort to secure the free, prior and informed consent of the MN-S. In light of the recent decision in *Kebaowek*, it is appropriate to delay the hearing for the Project so that it can be informed by the results of robust efforts to consult and seek Métis free, prior and informed consent for the Project.

MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Yours truly,



Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel





**Métis Nation – Saskatchewan**

cc:

Lisa Thiele, VP, Legal and Commission Affairs & Senior General Counsel, CNSC  
Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S



---

**Métis Nation-Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)





March 14, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Attention: Candace Salmon, Commission Registrar

Dear Ms. Salmon:

**Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

We, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”), on our own and in respect of Northern Regions 1 and 3, write to follow up on your letter of March 12, 2025 which responded to our letter dated February 27, 2025.

We appreciate your letter and the fact that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (“**CNSC**”) is engaged in a full and contextual consideration of our postponement request. We agree that there is some time before the scheduled CNSC hearing for Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). However, we would like to emphasize that it is vitally important to achieve, as soon as reasonably possible, clarity of expectations for MN-S, Northern Regions 1 and 3, the 13 Locals in those Regions, and all the Citizens of MN-S. Changing expectations have undermined the ability of the Métis to engage regarding the Project, as MN-S has previously detailed in discussions with the CNSC. The Métis must know if CNSC and Denison will consult with the Métis with the goal of obtaining Métis free, prior and informed consent, and what the process for obtaining that consent will be.

We look forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Maarsii,

Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S

---

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)





**VIA EMAIL**

Document ID: DAMZHJW66V33-645838268-16

April 2, 2025

Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel  
Metis Nation-Saskatchewan  
310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK, S7K 0A7

**Subject: Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

Dear Hilary Peterson,

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 2025,<sup>1</sup> further to our previous correspondence of March 12, 2025, and February 27, 2025.

The Commission Registry understands that it is important for MN-S to know, as soon as possible, whether changes will be made to the public hearing dates as currently scheduled for the above noted project.

In terms of next steps respecting the CNSC's consultation and collaboration with MN-S on the Denison Wheeler River Project, Adam Levine, Director of CNSC's Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division, is copied on this letter. He will respond with more details on how the CNSC staff intend to move forward with the MN-S.

---

<sup>1</sup> Included in Attachment 1

With respect to your request to postpone the hearing for the Denison Mines Wheeler River Project, the Commission has considered the request under section 14 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure (Rules). Section 14 gives the Commission the authority to adjourn a proceeding, on such terms and conditions as the Commission finds appropriate in order to ensure a fair, informal and expeditious consideration of the matter.

The adjournment request relies on the Federal Court decision in *Kebaowek First Nation v. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*<sup>2</sup> (*Kebaowek*) as setting a new standard for consultation, and it is your position that the currently scheduled public hearing is too soon to achieve the required level of consultation as considered through the lens of the principles and articles of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. You also submit that there are significant differences between the circumstances in *Kebaowek* and the situation of MN-S in relation to the Denison Wheeler River Project, which also militate in favour of adjourning this hearing

As an agent of the Crown, the Commission recognizes its role and obligations in fulfilling its constitutional obligations and upholding the honour of the Crown, along with advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Nations and communities. Where the Commission's decision may adversely impact Aboriginal and treaty rights, the Commission must be satisfied that it has met these duties prior to making relevant environmental assessment and licensing decisions.

At this time, the Commission has determined that it would be premature to adjourn the proceeding. It will have the opportunity to review and assess all of the evidence with regard to consultation activities and their sufficiency as part of the hearing process, and the hearing itself will be an important forum to consider these issues in a fair and transparent manner. Please be assured that the Commission will consider all of the submissions respecting the consultation on this Project at that time, which remains some time away.

As a result, Part I of the hearing remains scheduled to commence on October 8, 2025. The Commission encourages MN-S to continue to work collaboratively with CNSC staff and Denison on a process and path forward that satisfies the goals of reconciliation and respects the rights of the MN-S to work towards reaching consensus and agreement on the Project.

---

<sup>2</sup> 2025 FC 319.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission Registry if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Candace Salmon

Commission Registrar  
Legal and Commission Affairs Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca) / cell: (343) 630-3471

Registraire de la Commission  
Direction générale des affaires juridiques et de la Commission  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca) / Tél. (343) 630-3471

cc. : Laura Burnouf - [lburnouf@mns.ca](mailto:lburnouf@mns.ca)  
Mervin "Tex" Bouvier - [tex.mns@sasktel.net](mailto:tex.mns@sasktel.net)  
Andrew Spriggs - [aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)  
Brent Laroque - [blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)  
David Cates - [dcates@denisonmines.com](mailto:dcates@denisonmines.com)  
Kevin Himbeault - [khimbeault@denisonmines.com](mailto:khimbeault@denisonmines.com)  
Janna Switzer - [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)  
Roy Millen - [roy.millen@blakes.com](mailto:roy.millen@blakes.com)  
Lisa Thiele - [Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Adam Levine - [Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Patrick Burton - [patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Attachment:**

1. Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing, correspondence from MN-S to Commission Registry, March 14, 2025.



March 14, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9  
Attention: Candace Salmon, Commission Registrar

Dear Ms. Salmon:

**Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing**

We, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”), on our own and in respect of Northern Regions 1 and 3, write to follow up on your letter of March 12, 2025 which responded to our letter dated February 27, 2025.

We appreciate your letter and the fact that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (“**CNSC**”) is engaged in a full and contextual consideration of our postponement request. We agree that there is some time before the scheduled CNSC hearing for Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). However, we would like to emphasize that it is vitally important to achieve, as soon as reasonably possible, clarity of expectations for MN-S, Northern Regions 1 and 3, the 13 Locals in those Regions, and all the Citizens of MN-S. Changing expectations have undermined the ability of the Métis to engage regarding the Project, as MN-S has previously detailed in discussions with the CNSC. The Métis must know if CNSC and Denison will consult with the Métis with the goal of obtaining Métis free, prior and informed consent, and what the process for obtaining that consent will be.

We look forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Maarsii,

Hilary Peterson  
Senior General Counsel  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

cc: Laura Burnouf, Northern Region I Regional Director, MN-S  
Mervin “Tex” Bouvier, Northern Region III Regional Director, MN-S  
Andrew Spriggs, Lands and Consultation Manager, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S

---

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7  
306.343.8285  
[metisnationsk.com](http://metisnationsk.com)



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Boser, Sydney](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Hughie Hill](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Monthly meetings  
**Sent:** 2025-04-04 8:37:29 AM

---

Hi Brent,

Thanks for letting us know that you couldn't make this meeting.

Apologies if there has been any confusion over the meeting series, however, the monthly meetings are specific to the Wheeler River project. We've scheduled these so that CNSC staff can provide updates on the regulatory processes, and to allow MN-S to raise any outstanding issues and concerns related to the project so we can work together to resolve them. In recent meetings and letters provided to the CNSC, MN-S has indicated that you have topics of concern to discuss, these project-specific monthly meetings are the venue in which we can do this.

Given the recent correspondence we've received from MN-S, particularly the key issues and requests contained in the letter sent March 31<sup>st</sup>, it's important that we discuss these outstanding concerns that MN-S has raised. Understanding you are incredibly busy, we have been ready to discuss any concerns MN-S has raised so it's unfortunate that we are having difficulty connecting. Would MN-S be available to meet during any of the following time slots next week?:

- Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>: 2:30 to 3:30
- Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: 2 to 3
- Friday April 11 between 9:30 and 11am or between 1:30 and 3

A couple of updates we had intended to share yesterday:

- We are expecting to have information from the EA report shared with MN-S by April 25<sup>th</sup>, and MN-S will have four weeks to review it. Please keep this in mind for next steps of the process, because our timelines are tight. We don't have much flexibility and are trying to give as much time as we can.
- The PFP deadline for the Wheeler River hearing is **today** (April 4<sup>th</sup>): [Participant funding for Denison's Wheeler River Project](#), and it sounds like MN-S has not yet sent in an application.

We are committed to working through MN-S concerns together, and are looking forward to connecting with you.

Have a great weekend.

Jes



**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 2:53 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Cc:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Hughie Hill <hhill@mns.ca>

**Subject:** Monthly meetings

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Good afternoon Jess and apologies for the short notice once again, but we'd like to cancel our meeting this afternoon. More immediately Andrew and I have a scheduling conflict, but more generally MN-S would like to have project development specific update meetings going forward instead of pre-set monthly meetings. We are committed to the process with CNSC and encourage the CNSC to continue to follow their duty to provide updates and engage with MN-S, however we would prefer to have these discussions on project specific matters as requested by either CNSC or MN-S going forward.

**Brent Laroque (he/him)**

Director of Environment  
306-361-3189

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**

310-20th Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
Canada S7K 0A7

**Heartland of the Métis and Treaty 6 Territory**



[Book time to meet with me](#)



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**From:** [Levine, Adam](#)  
**To:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** Fw: Response from the Commission Registrar  
**Attachments:** [Letter to Hilary Peterson - Re MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-04-14 5:57:52 PM

---

FYI

Sent from my Bell Samsung device over Canada's largest network.

---

**From:** Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 14, 2025 7:54:44 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Laura Burnouf <lburnouf@mns.ca>; tex.mns@sasktel.net <tex.mns@sasktel.net>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; dcates@denisonmines.com <dcates@denisonmines.com>; khimbeault@denisonmines.com <khimbeault@denisonmines.com>; jschwitzer@denisonmines.com <jschwitzer@denisonmines.com>; Millen, Roy <roy.millen@blakes.com>; Thiele, Lisa <Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick <Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Salmon, Candace <candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Response from the Commission Registrar

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Good afternoon,

MN-S appreciates the consideration given to our request. We do not agree that the best path is proceeding on the procedure planned to date, and maintain our position that true engagement, on a duty to consult standard, let alone one based appropriately on seeking Métis consent, will clearly take beyond the current October hearing date.

Nonetheless, we remain committed to engaging with CNSC and with Denison and are moving forward on that basis, and look forward to further engagement.

Maarsii,

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**  
Michif Citizen  
Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 3:16 PM  
**To:** Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Cc:** Laura Burnouf <lburnouf@mns.ca>; tex.mns@sasktel.net <tex.mns@sasktel.net>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; dcates@denisonmines.com <dcates@denisonmines.com>; khimbeault@denisonmines.com <khimbeault@denisonmines.com>; jschwitzer@denisonmines.com <jschwitzer@denisonmines.com>; Millen, Roy <roy.millen@blakes.com>; Thiele, Lisa <Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick <Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Salmon, Candace <candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Response from the Commission Registrar

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence from the Commission Registrar in response to your March 14, 2025 letter.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Cheramy Thirumeny  
Administrative Coordinator | Coordinatrice Administrative  
Commission Registry | Greffe de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission Canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email | Courriel : [cheramy.thirumeny@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cheramy.thirumeny@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

---

**From:** Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** March 14, 2025 1:54 PM  
**To:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Laura Burnouf <lburnouf@mns.ca>; tex.mns@sasktel.net; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Response from the Commission Registrar

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Hello Cheramy,

Please find attached correspondence from MN-S in response to CNSC's March 12, 2025 letter.

Maarsii,

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**  
Michif Citizen  
Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

## Métis Nation–Saskatchewan



---

**From:** Interventions / Interventions (CNSC/CCSN) <[Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Interventions@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 12, 2025 7:53 AM  
**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Laura Burnouf <[lburnouf@mns.ca](mailto:lburnouf@mns.ca)>; Mervin Tex Leonard Bouvier <[mervinbouvier@mns.ca](mailto:mervinbouvier@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com) <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; [dcates@denisonmines.com](mailto:dcates@denisonmines.com) <[dcates@denisonmines.com](mailto:dcates@denisonmines.com)>; [khimbeault@denisonmines.com](mailto:khimbeault@denisonmines.com) <[khimbeault@denisonmines.com](mailto:khimbeault@denisonmines.com)>; Tremblay, Pierre <[pierre.tremblay@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pierre.tremblay@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Thiele, Lisa <[Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Lisa.Thiele@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Salmon, Candace <[candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:candace.salmon@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Response from the Commission Registrar

Good morning,

Please find attached correspondence from the Commission Registrar in response to your February 27, 2025 letter.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Cheramy Thirumeny  
Administrative Coordinator | Coordinatrice Administrative  
Commission Registry | Greffe de la Commission  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission Canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email | Courriel : [cheramy.thirumeny@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cheramy.thirumeny@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**From:** [Levine, Adam](#)  
**To:** [hpeter@mnsc.ca](mailto:hpeter@mnsc.ca)  
**Cc:** [Brent Larocque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [Update\\_on\\_Proposed\\_Next\\_Steps\\_for\\_Consultation\\_with\\_MN-S\\_April\\_17\\_2025.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-04-17 11:35:22 AM

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Hi Hilary, hope you are doing well! Please find attached a response to MN-S' recent letters and correspondence to the CNSC regarding the Denison Wheeler River Project and next steps for consultation and engagement on the Project. Please let us know when MN-S would be available to meet to discuss and we can work together to set up a time. Thanks and hope you have a good weekend!

Adam



**April 17, 2025**

Hilary J. Peterson,  
Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer  
Métis Nation - Saskatchewan  
310-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7K 0A7

**Subject: Update on Proposed Next Steps for Consultation with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Hilary:

Thank you for your letters dated February 27<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, addressed to President Tremblay and Ms. Jessica Way, respectively. This response builds off of and is in addition to the letter the CNSC Registrar sent to the MN-S on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, which contained a commitment to provide further details on the next steps proposed by CNSC staff for consultation which aims to secure Métis Nation – Saskatchewan's (MN-S) free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in relation to the Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project).

Ongoing consultation, relationship building and engagement began in 2019 between MN-S and the CNSC in relation to the Project. CNSC staff are committed to continue building on the work that has been done to date and are proposing the following next steps in order to strive towards reaching consensus and agreement with MN-S on the proposed Project :

- CNSC staff propose to have a meeting as soon as practicable where we can discuss MN-S' key issues and requests referenced in your letter of March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as well as options on a path forward to address them including potential additional mitigations, commitments and accommodations, as well MN-S' preferred approach to consultation and FPIC process for the Project.
- Following this meeting CNSC staff will provide a follow-up letter to confirm what was discussed and proposed next steps. The letter will include a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests provided by MN-S in your March 31<sup>st</sup> letter as well as anything in addition raised at the meeting.
- CNSC staff are also open to holding a joint meeting with MN-S leadership and representatives, and Denison to discuss MN-S' concerns and requests regarding the Project in order to identify solutions and a path forward collectively should this be of interest to MN-S.
- CNSC staff are dedicated to collaborating with MN-S to ensure that MN-S' perspectives, issues and concerns, Métis Knowledge and Land Use Information, potential impacts of the

proposed Project on MN-S rights, and other topics of interest to MN-S are properly reflected in CNSC staff's reports and recommendations to the Commission, including CNSC staff's Consultation Report, the MN-S specific Rights Impact Assessment, CNSC staff's Commission Member Document and CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment Report.

- CNSC staff are pleased that MN-S has applied for the [funding opportunity](#) available through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP) to support your participation in the remaining steps of the regulatory and consultation process for the Project.

CNSC staff would like to discuss these remaining steps of the regulatory review process and the approach to ongoing consultation and engagement with MN-S as soon as practicable.

CNSC staff are committed to continued collaboration with MN-S to ensure that the consultation for the Project is meaningful, addresses MN-S' concerns, protects your Nation's rights and interests and upholds the Honour of the Crown.

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a long-term relationship with MN-S and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project. Please confirm receipt of this letter and inform us of your availability for a meeting to discuss the matters outlined above.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Levine  
Director  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c. :      CNSC: J. Way, S. Boser, J. McKeown  
                     MN-S: B. Laroque, A. Spriggs  
                     Denison: J. Switzer, C. Inglis-McQuay

**References:**

Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing to Hilary Peterson, April 2, 2025.

Re: Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Outstanding Issues and Process Requirements Regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s Wheeler River Project to Ms. Jessica Way, March 31, 2025.



**Related Correspondence:**

Re: MN-S Request for Postponement of the Denison Wheeler River Project Hearing to Mr. Pierre Tremblay, February 27, 2025.

Proposed Next Steps of Consultation with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project to Mr. Brent Laroque, January 22, 2025.

---

**From:** [Hilary Peterson](#)  
**To:** [Levine, Adam](#)  
**Cc:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project  
**Sent:** 2025-04-25 2:22:57 PM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed  
EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hello Adam,

Thank you for your response to our letter and your commitment to meeting with us as soon as practicable. MN-S is currently in our election period. MN-S' general election day is May 24, 2025. Therefore, MN-S leadership is not available to meet until June. In the meantime, let's get a meeting scheduled, which will need to be confirmed by the new MN-S leadership.

**MN-S is available anytime on either June 9 or June 16 to meet with you.**

Your letter, however, implies that the concerns of the MN-S can be resolved relatively straightforwardly in the existing regulatory process. MN-S does not believe that to be the case as it has been documented extensively. Comprehensive leadership and community discussions, as well as the gathering of information on the full range of issues discussed in the March 31, 2025 letter are required for a meaningful consultation process. MN-S looks forward to working with the CNSC to achieve those ends.

Maarsii,

Hilary

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**  
Michif Citizen  
Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:34 AM

**To:** Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com>; Janna Switzer <jswitzer@denisonmines.com>; Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary, hope you are doing well! Please find attached a response to MN-S' recent letters and correspondence to the CNSC regarding the Denison Wheeler River Project and next steps for consultation and engagement on the Project. Please let us know when MN-S would be available to meet to discuss and we can work together to set up a time. Thanks and hope you have a good weekend!

Adam

**From:** [Levine, Adam](#)  
**To:** [Hilary Peterson](#)  
**Cc:** [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project  
**Sent:** 2025-04-25 2:49:20 PM

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Hi Hilary, thanks for the response! That works for us. I will ask that our teams work together to find a time in June that could work for a meeting with us and MN-S leadership, following the elections.

In the meantime, would it be possible for us at a working level to have a meeting to discuss MN-S' concerns with regards to the Wheeler River Project and begin preparing for and coordinating the leadership meeting in June? Let me know and we can work to set something up in the next few weeks.

Thanks, and hope you have a good weekend!

Adam

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**From:** Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>  
**Sent:** April 25, 2025 4:23 PM  
**To:** Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com>; Janna Switzer <jswitzer@denisonmines.com>; Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzowski@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Adam,

Thank you for your response to our letter and your commitment to meeting with us as soon as practicable. MN-S is currently in our election period. MN-S' general election day is May 24, 2025. Therefore, MN-S leadership is not available to meet until June. In the meantime, let's get a meeting scheduled, which will need to be confirmed by the new MN-S leadership.

**MN-S is available anytime on either June 9 or June 16 to meet with you.**

Your letter, however, implies that the concerns of the MN-S can be resolved relatively straightforwardly in the existing regulatory process. MN-S does not believe that to be the case as it has been documented extensively. Comprehensive leadership and community

discussions, as well as the gathering of information on the full range of issues discussed in the March 31, 2025 letter are required for a meaningful consultation process. MN-S looks forward to working with the CNSC to achieve those ends.

Maarsii,

Hilary

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**

Michif Citizen

Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



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**From:** Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:34 AM

**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary, hope you are doing well! Please find attached a response to MN-S' recent letters and correspondence to the CNSC regarding the Denison Wheeler River Project and next steps for consultation and engagement on the Project. Please let us know when MN-S would be available to meet to discuss and we can work together to set up a time. Thanks and hope you have a good weekend!

Adam



Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Patent & Trademark Agents  
1133 Melville Street  
Suite 3500, The Stack  
Vancouver, B.C. V6E 4E5 Canada  
Tel: 604-631-3300 Fax: 604-631-3309

**Roy Millen\***

Partner

Dir: 604-631-4220

roy.millen@blakes.com

*\*Law Corporation*

Reference: 50413/67

April 28, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

**Attention: Adam Levine**  
**Director, Indigenous Consultation and**  
**Engagement Division**

**Re: Response to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Outstanding Issues and Process**  
**Requirements Regarding Denison Mine Corp.'s Wheeler River Project**

Dear Mr. Levine,

We write in response to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan's ("**MN-S**") letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission ("**CNSC**"), dated March 31, 2025 (the "**March Letter**"), regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s ("**Denison**") Wheeler River Project (the "**Project**"), and in furtherance of our previous letter to the CNSC dated March 28, 2025 (the "**Initial Response**").

On February 27, 2025, the CNSC announced public hearings for the Project's licence application will take place on October 8, 2025 and the week of December 8, 2025 (the "**Hearings**"). As set out in the Initial Response, Denison strongly opposes any delay of the Hearings.

The March Letter provides the MN-S' recommended steps to advance consultation in respect of Métis concerns.<sup>1</sup> In response, we clarify and provide additional context to the history of consultation between Denison and the MN-S. As we set out below, Denison has meaningfully engaged with the MN-S to support its understanding of potential Project impacts to Métis traditional land use and rights, and has collaborated with the MN-S to develop a path forward that satisfies the goals of reconciliation and respects the rights of the MN-S to work towards reaching consensus and agreement on the Project. This

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<sup>1</sup> We note that the MN-S does not represent all Métis interests in the Project and that Denison has secured the FPIC of Kineepik Local #9 ("**KML**"), the Métis Local in closest proximity to the Project.  
1399-5011-5094

includes Denison seeking the free, prior and informed consent (“**FPIC**”) of the MN-S to the Project since at least 2019.

Denison remains committed to continue building on the work that has been done to date.

### **Denison Consistently Supported the MN-S with Sharing Traditional Métis Knowledge**

In the March Letter (point #1), the MN-S requests CSNC provide funding to undertake a study that will involve interviews of Métis communities to support an understanding of the potential impacts of the Project on Métis traditional land use. Denison has engaged with Métis communities on such impacts since 2016 and agreed to provide up to \$350,000 for the MN-S to undertake a study to facilitate the transmission of Métis traditional knowledge related to the Project (the “**Métis Knowledge Study**”).<sup>2</sup> In particular:

- In 2016, Denison initiated the consultation process with Métis communities at the early stages of Project development. In connection with this process, Métis communities have been invited to share information and concerns regarding the potential impacts of the Project to Métis land and resource use.
- In 2019, Denison began engaging with the MN-S after many of the Métis communities which Denison had been engaging with directly delegated their duty to consult to the MN-S. This included engagement with the MN-S in respect of a potential Métis Knowledge Study.
- On September 3, 2019 the MN-S sent Denison a proposal requesting \$265,440 for the Métis Knowledge Study.<sup>3</sup> The MN-S then increased its budget request to \$350,000.<sup>4</sup> Denison agreed to provide the funding requested by the MN-S, for the work scope proposed by MN-S.
- On January 18, 2021, instead of proceeding with the Métis Knowledge Study at that time, the MN-S suspended engagement activities with Denison. The MN-S informed Denison it was not prepared to continue engagement activities, or the Métis Knowledge Study, unless Denison undertook certain actions regarding a commercial agreement for its exploration activities.<sup>5</sup>
- On October 24, 2022, Denison and the MN-S entered into a Capacity Funding Agreement which included the \$350,000 requested by the MN-S to undertake the Métis Knowledge Study.<sup>6</sup> After signing the Capacity Funding Agreement, at the request of the MN-S, Denison provided additional

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<sup>2</sup> Denison also provided KML with funding for a similar study, and incorporated the information shared by KML regarding Métis knowledge into the development of baseline studies for the Project and its terrestrial ecosystem effects assessment.

<sup>3</sup> Denison Mines Corp. “Wheeler River Project: Indigenous Engagement Report” November 2024 (“**IER**”), pg. 7-134, available [online](#).

<sup>4</sup> IER, pg. 7-136.

<sup>5</sup> IER, pg. 7-138.

<sup>6</sup> IER, pg. 7-150.

1399-5011-5094



funding for the review of its draft EIS and thereafter reiterated its willingness to support the MN-S.<sup>7</sup>

- In the year following the signing of the Capacity Funding Agreement, Denison met with the MN-S eight times in support of advancing the parties' understanding of the Project's potential impacts.<sup>8</sup> Two of these meetings included CNSC and the Province of Saskatchewan to discuss the draft EIS and to assist the progress of the Métis Knowledge Study.<sup>9</sup> After the second of these meetings, the MN-S cancelled future meetings with the CNSC and Province of Saskatchewan (which were already scheduled) and informed Denison it would conduct an internal review of the draft EIS.<sup>10</sup>
- On October 24, 2023, the MN-S delivered to Denison a copy of the Métis Knowledge Study. Denison incorporated information from the Métis Knowledge Study into its Final EIS. The MN-S did not express to Denison that further studies would be required to understand potential Project impacts on Métis communities.
- On January 22, 2024, Denison sent the MN-S an updated version of the EIS based on the integration of the Métis Knowledge Study. Denison also provided a memo to the MN-S outlining the sections and manner in which the Métis Knowledge Study was incorporated into the EIS.<sup>11</sup>
- On February 5, 2024, after reviewing the updated EIS and meeting with Denison to discuss the same, the MN-S Director of Environment emailed Denison to confirm the MN-S did not "have any concerns regarding the handling of confidentiality and the private information of our citizens in your incorporation of our Métis Knowledge Study into your draft EIS."<sup>12</sup> Denison advised the MN-S it would proceed with the EIS based on such information. The MN-S did not express any concerns to Denison regarding this approach.

In addition to funding the Métis Knowledge Study, Denison has repeatedly sought and encouraged the MN-S to share its traditional knowledge relevant to understanding potential impacts from the Project on Métis rights.

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<sup>7</sup> IER, pg. 7-155.

<sup>8</sup> IER, pgs. 7-153-157.

<sup>9</sup> IER, pg. 7-153.

<sup>10</sup> IER, pg. 7-154.

<sup>11</sup> IER, pg. 7-159.

<sup>12</sup> IER, pg. 7-159.

1399-5011-5094

### **Denison Sought Community Meetings with the MN-S**

In the March Letter (point #2), the MN-S notes that Métis elders and Citizens have expressed their concern regarding basement rock permeability. To address these concerns, the MN-S proposes engagement proceed with community meetings or community interviews to collect Métis knowledge.

Denison has sought community meetings with Métis peoples since the early stages of Project-related engagement. Notably, Denison had scheduled meetings with Métis communities in 2019 prior to involvement of the MN-S. After these communities delegated their duty to consult to the MN-S, at the request of the MN-S, Denison postponed the community meetings. After doing so, Denison requested direction from the MN-S on seven different occasions over the next year to reschedule these meetings. The MN-S repeatedly delayed rescheduling the meetings and instead, elected to pause engagement activities with Denison in January 2021.<sup>13</sup>

Denison has worked diligently to provide opportunities for the MN-S to share information about the Project and facilitate its meaningful involvement throughout the assessment of the Project. In the five years of engagement prior to Denison submitting the Final EIS, the MN-S was provided numerous opportunities during the EA to share the concerns of Métis elders and Citizens in regard to the permeability of the basement rock.

On March 4, 2023 the MN-S provided over 100 comments on the draft EIS. None of these comments noted such a concern of Métis elders and Citizens. Denison addressed each of these comments and requested the MN-S follow up on Denison's responses. The MN-S did not respond. Additionally, as noted above, the MN-S undertook a Métis Knowledge Study, funded by Denison, over the course of a year. The Métis Knowledge Study did not provide any concerns or information from Métis elders or Citizens regarding the permeability of the basement rock.

When the MN-S has expressed concerns related to the Project's mining method, Denison has addressed such concerns. For example, after the MN-S commented on the draft EIS and recommended that Denison clarify with the MN-S (i) the freezing effects on the Upper and Lower barrier zones post mining and (ii) if the freeze thaw process could cause increased fracturing potential within these zones, Denison provided a separate technical memo in response to these issues for the MN-S to review.<sup>14</sup>

Denison is committed to continue building on the work that has been done to date, including attending community meetings, as it has been seeking to do since 2019.

### **Denison is Currently Engaged in Commercial Negotiations with the MN-S**

In the March Letter (point #3), the MN-S raise a number of concerns about socio-economic impacts. The EIS provides a comprehensive review of the socio-economic impacts of the Project, and Denison has

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<sup>13</sup> IER, pg. 7-138.

<sup>14</sup> MN-S comment number 447 on draft EIS, March 4, 2023 available [online](#).  
1399-5011-5094

engaged with the MN-S in respect of economic opportunities at the Project for Métis peoples. To this end, the MN-S provided comments on the draft EIS regarding socio-economic impacts and Denison responded to each of these comments. This included explaining the anticipated business and employment opportunities for Métis peoples at the Project.<sup>15</sup> Further, Denison is, and has been, seeking to secure the FPIC of the MN-S to the Project as part of a consent-based commercial agreement. Denison and the MN-S entered into a Negotiation Protocol on November 21, 2024 to establish the process and timelines for the negotiation of such an agreement. The agreement, if executed by the parties, would be expected to provide significant contracting, employment and economic benefits to Métis peoples, in addition to the significant benefits already accorded to Métis citizens of KML.

The MN-S has also requested the CNSC provide funding to carry out a socio-economic study. The concerns the MN-S raise in point #3 of the March Letter relate to circumstances that have existed since the Project was proposed many years ago, and the MN-S could have sought to undertake such a study during that time. If the MN-S and CNSC proceed with this study, in Denison's view it would be inappropriate for the study to result in any delay of the Hearings. Such delay would be unreasonable in the circumstances, cause material financial and reputational harm to Denison and would damage the financial wellbeing of other Indigenous groups, including Métis peoples, which have agreements with Denison regarding the Project.

Denison entered into mutual benefit agreements with KML and English River First Nation ("**ERFN**") that secured their FPIC and will provide significant financial benefits to these groups through the development of the Project. We note that, based on the proximity of ERFN and KML to the Project and the information shared with Denison to date by the MN-S (including the Métis Knowledge Study), KML and ERFN have demonstrated the potential to experience greater impacts to their traditional rights than the Métis Locals and Citizens represented by the MN-S. The title claim by the MN-S overlaps with the traditional territory of both ERFN and KML, and neither of these groups recognize the MN-S as representing their Section 35 rights. Any delay to the Hearings based on the MN-S' comments would be detrimental to Denison and to the interests of KML and ERFN, all of whom will benefit from the approval and development of the Project.

The MN-S also appears to suggest the Project's proposed method of mining does not seek to minimize adverse effects on the lands, water and wildlife in the areas traditionally used by Métis peoples. The Project will use an ISR-mining method, which is expected to result in significantly fewer adverse environmental impacts to the Project area than underground or open-pit mining. Denison has shared substantive information regarding this mining method with the MN-S. In response, the MN-S has expressed its concern about the potential for fewer business opportunities for Métis peoples than if the Project were an underground or open-pit mine.

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<sup>15</sup> Denison response to MN-S comment 451 on draft EIS.  
1399-5011-5094

## **Continued Engagement on Potential Impacts to Métis Rights**

In the March Letter (point #4 and #5), the MN-S has raised concerns about harvesting and impacts of ongoing monitoring. Denison has, and will continue to, engage with the MN-S regarding the potential impacts to Métis harvesting rights. To date, Denison has diligently responded to such concerns and comments shared by the MN-S throughout the EA. For example, Denison addressed the MN-S' concerns regarding impacts to Russel Lake by noting that, while Russel Lake was not initially included as a location to monitor fish health because it is outside the LSA, Russel Lake can be included in a follow-up monitoring program and that the MN-S would be invited to participate in the development and implementation of such program.<sup>16</sup>

Additionally, Denison has offered the MN-S opportunities to facilitate such discussions through a Joint Working Group (“**JWG**”) since August 2023. Denison has repeatedly followed up with the MN-S regarding draft terms of reference for the JWG to enable further discussion and collaboration between the parties. On numerous occasions, the MN-S informed Denison that it would advance the JWG at a later date.<sup>17</sup> This progress was further delayed in August 2024, when the MN-S informed Denison that it would not advance the JWG until Denison prioritized commercial negotiations.<sup>18</sup>

Since that time, Denison and the MN-S have entered into the Negotiation Protocol. Pursuant to this Protocol, Denison is negotiating a commercial agreement with the MN-S to secure its FPIC to the Project, which would, if completed, include specific processes for the parties to collaborate on monitoring and mitigation measures in respect of such potential impacts to Métis rights. As Denison and the MN-S continue to negotiate such an agreement, Denison will continue to encourage the MN-S' participation in the JWG.

## **Denison will Continue to Seek the FPIC of the MN-S**

Throughout the past six years of engagement with the MN-S, Denison has consistently sought advice from the MN-S with regard to the manner it would like to be engaged. This approach was affirmed by the MN-S in September 2019, when the President of the MN-S advised Denison staff that Denison was undertaking consultation with the MN-S and Métis Locals in accordance with MN-S protocols, and confirmed that Denison was meeting the MN-S' expectations.<sup>19</sup> Since that time, Denison has structured its engagement to meet the MN-S' preferences to the extent practicable, and has consistently sought direction from the MN-S.

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<sup>16</sup> Denison response to MN-S comment 474 on draft EIS.

<sup>17</sup> IER, pgs. 7-160-161.

<sup>18</sup> IER, pg. 7-162.

<sup>19</sup> IER, pg. 7-131.

1399-5011-5094

The Indigenous Engagement Record details the years of time, effort and expense Denison spent to meaningfully engage with the MN-S. The Indigenous Engagement Record notes over 200 different occasions of engagement between the parties over this time period, and is highlighted by Denison:

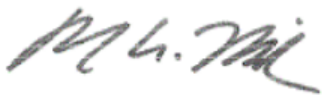
- meeting with the MN-S directly on more than 20 different occasions;
- funding the Métis Knowledge Study;
- repeatedly offering to host community meetings;
- attending an MN-S workshop;
- entering into a capacity funding agreement with the MN-S;
- providing site tours;
- advancing a JWG comprised of Denison staff and MN-S representatives; and
- negotiating to secure the FPIC of the MN-S to the Project.

These are only some of the numerous activities Denison has undertaken with the MN-S over the past six years. Denison will continue to engage with the MN-S and expand upon the significant work carried out to date. Denison is committed to continued collaboration with the MN-S to address concerns regarding impacts to Métis rights.

This letter is in furtherance of our Initial Response and is not intended to be a comprehensive response to the MN-S' request to delay the Hearings. We welcome any further guidance the CNSC wishes to provide in respect of collaboration opportunities with the MN-S between now and the Hearings.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Roy Millen\*

cc: Denison Mines Corp.

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Spriggs](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-04-30 5:51:00 PM

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Good afternoon Brent,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis



May 16, 2025

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Environmental Review Division  
280 Slater Street, P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Attention: Jessica Way, Environmental Review Officer

Taanishi, Hello Ms. Way:

**Re: Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Response to Denison Correspondence dated April 28, 2025**

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (“**MN-S**”) writes to respond to Denison Mines Corp.’s (“**Denison**”) latest correspondence, dated April 28, 2025 (“**Denison Letter**”), respecting the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission’s (“**CNSC**”) review of Denison’s Wheeler River Project (“**Project**”). The MN-S is deeply concerned by the tone of the comments, and by the inaccuracies, in the Denison Letter. These kinds of statements and bald accusations are unfortunately consistent with Denison’s approach to engagement over the past six years. Notably, instead of addressing the substantive concerns of the Métis, Denison’s comments mainly focus on the history of engagement with the MN-S. The MN-S, in a letter dated February 10, 2025 (“**MN-S Further Comments**”),<sup>1</sup> previously detailed the errors and inaccuracies in Denison’s Indigenous Engagement Report, which are largely replicated in the Denison Letter. The MN-S will not reiterate that comprehensive critique here. Instead, the MN-S will focus on some of the new matters raised by Denison. The MN-S raises these matters to place CNSC’s consultation in the proper context and because the MN-S is eager to work with the CNSC to correct these errors and misunderstandings. The MN-S wants to move forward productively with the intent, as expressed by Denison, of obtaining the Métis’ free, prior, and informed consent.

***Denison incorrectly challenges the MN-S’ jurisdiction as representative of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan.***

Denison alleges that Kineepik Local #9 (“**KML**”) and English River First Nation (“**ERFN**”) “have demonstrated the potential to experience greater impacts to their traditional rights than the Métis Locals and Citizens represented by the MN-S” and that the MN-S does not

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<sup>1</sup> Included in Letter to the CNSC, “Re: MN-S Comments on Denison Wheeler River Project Final EIS and Indigenous Engagement Report”, February 10, 2025, Appendix “A” [**MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A**].



represent the Section 35 rights of either KML or ERFN.<sup>2</sup> This statement is false, unnecessary, and offensive to the MN-S.

First, the MN-S rejects the suggestion that there are not serious potential impacts from the Project on Métis Citizens' rights and interests. Secondly, the MN-S has never claimed to represent the interests of ERFN.

The MN-S is the government of the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan, as agreed to by Canada in the 2023 Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between the MN-S and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada ("**Self-Government Agreement**").<sup>3</sup> The Self-Government Agreement recognizes that the MN-S is exclusively mandated to engage in consultation with Canada, where Canada's conduct has the potential to adversely impact Métis rights within Saskatchewan.<sup>4</sup>

KML is a Local within the framework established by the MN-S Constitution, and its membership is comprised of MN-S Citizens who have agreed to participate in the Local. KML does not represent the MN-S or the Métis Nation in Saskatchewan broadly.

MN-S Citizens have the right to join the Local in which they reside. Local membership is not a criterion for exercising Métis rights for three obvious reasons: first, Métis rights are collective rights<sup>5</sup> and are not determined on a Local-by-Local basis; second, unlike First Nation membership, Local membership is based on area of residence, not an MN-S Citizen's historic community connection (for instance, MN-S Citizens who currently live in Saskatoon and who are members of a Saskatoon-area Local may nevertheless have significant rights-based connections to the Project area through family connections and the exercise of rights-based activities); third, MN-S Citizens join Locals voluntarily as there is no requirement for a Citizen to join a Local.

KML currently has approximately 120 MN-S Citizens as members. Each of those members (residing in Pinehouse, Saskatchewan) are members of KML in addition to being Citizens of the MN-S. However, there are also 78 MN-S Citizens resident in Pinehouse who have chosen not to be members of KML.

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<sup>2</sup> Denison Letter, PDF 5.

<sup>3</sup> Métis Nation within Saskatchewan Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement between Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and His Majesty the King in Right of Canada as represented by the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, available: [https://Métisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS\\_FED-SGRIA\\_02-24-2023.pdf](https://Métisnationsk.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MNS_FED-SGRIA_02-24-2023.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Self-Government Agreement, Chapter 5, section 5.02(e)(ii).

<sup>5</sup> *R. v. Powley*, 2003 SCC 43, para 24.

In total, there are approximately 2,070<sup>6</sup> MN-S Citizens who reside in Northern Region 1 and Northern Region 3, many of whom are not members of Locals.

The MN-S has no objection to Denison working with KML to ensure its members benefit from the Project. However, the fact that KML supports the advancement of the Project in no way reduces the authority of the MN-S to represent its Citizens, as Denison suggests, nor does it reduce the importance of seeking and securing MN-S consent. Denison's clear efforts to undermine and marginalize the authority of the MN-S have been, and continue to be, corrosive to the trust and respect necessary for meaningful engagement.

***Denison mischaracterizes conversations with the MN-S to ignore Métis concerns with the use of Métis knowledge in the Project Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS").***

The Denison Letter discusses communications dated February 5, 2024, regarding the EIS, and emphasizes that the MN-S "did not express any concerns" regarding Denison's approach.<sup>7</sup> Denison's characterization of these interactions is misleading. In the communications which occurred in February 2024, the MN-S provided comments on the use of, and appropriate protections for, Métis traditional knowledge. The MN-S did not approve of the substantive approach to the use of that knowledge in the EIS. The MN-S has been clear, repeatedly, that the EIS does not meaningfully include Métis traditional knowledge in the assessment of baselines and Project impacts.<sup>8</sup> Meaningfully incorporating Métis knowledge, would, among other things, require consideration of the mitigations proposed by the MN-S, such as freezing under the Project, no selenium release and no fish effect standards, and consideration of the effects of the Project on Métis title and commercial harvesting rights, including appropriate mitigation to address the impacts to such rights.

***Denison incorrectly characterizes the nature of the Métis Knowledge Study to improperly downplay Métis concerns regarding basement rock permeability.***

MN-S Citizens and elders, and the MN-S on their behalf, have concerns that the basement rock under the Project may be permeable, leading to groundwater contamination and other issues which would affect Métis rights to use and benefit from their Homeland. These concerns were recently reiterated by Local leadership in conversations with Denison. These concerns are based on the traditional knowledge of MN-S Citizens as well as their experience in the mining industry. The appropriate way to accommodate these concerns is by freezing under the Project.

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<sup>6</sup> As of May 14, 2025 there are 1,651 registered MN-S citizens within NRI and NRIII combined. There are an additional 426 applications in-progress.

<sup>7</sup> Denison Letter, PDF 5.

<sup>8</sup> For instance, MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A, MN-S Further Comments, pp 4-5, PDF 28-29; see also, MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A,

In response to these concerns, Denison states that the Métis Knowledge Study “did not provide any concerns or information” on basement rock permeability.<sup>9</sup> As stated in its introduction, the Métis Knowledge Study provided “an overview on Métis in Saskatchewan and land and resource use within NR1 and NR3” [emphasis added].<sup>10</sup> The interviews and other research methods in the Métis Knowledge Study were not designed to capture Project concerns such as those related to basement rock permeability. The MN-S has brought forward these concerns appropriately, such as when invited to comment on the Project by Saskatchewan and in CNSC’s consultation phase.

Denison has still not provided its view on why freezing under the Project is improper, impractical, or otherwise impossible.

***Denison inaccurately blames the MN-S for delays in community meetings and engagement.***

As it did in the Project Indigenous Engagement Report, Denison blames the MN-S for the postponement of a set of community meetings and alleges that the MN-S elected to pause engagement activities with Denison in January 2021.<sup>11</sup> This narrative ignores several important facts previously detailed by the MN-S in the MN-S Further Comments:

- First, by January 2021, Project environmental assessment activities had already been postponed by Denison for almost a year and were not in fact resumed until January 20, 2021. This suspension was severely destructive to the MN-S’ efforts and its relationship with the Locals and contributed heavily to overall issues of confusion and delay caused by Denison.<sup>12</sup>
- Second, Denison’s narrative ignores the MN-S’ substantive work on moving forward engagement such as retaining a consultant and establishing appropriate protocols for engagement, which occurred in the months following the supposed January 2021 “pause”. The MN-S in fact insisted on a meeting with Denison in March of 2021 to move this work forward. The MN-S was also carrying out this work despite the stress of the COVID-19 pandemic on its Citizens and Locals and despite the harm caused by Denison’s own pause in environmental assessment activities.<sup>13</sup>
- Finally, Denison’s discussion of community meetings fails to acknowledge the ways in which Denison made such community meetings more difficult by undermining the MN-S’ role in facilitating consultation processes. Denison created an expectation among Métis Locals that Denison would seek to negotiate agreements in respect of impacts and then refused to honour that expectation, including by repeatedly, over several years, refusing to participate in consent-based

<sup>9</sup> Denison Letter, PDF 5.

<sup>10</sup> Metis Knowledge Study, p 1, PDF 10.

<sup>11</sup> Denison Letter, PDF 4.

<sup>12</sup> MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A, MN-S Further Comments, p 15, PDF 39.

<sup>13</sup> MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A, MN-S Further Comments, pp 16-17, PDF 40-41.

discussions. At the same time that Denison refused to engage in any such discussions with the MN-S, it was actively pursuing such conversations with KML to the knowledge of Locals throughout Northern Region 1 and Northern Region 3. This created distrust and suspicion among the Locals, in respect of both Denison and the MN-S.<sup>14</sup> This distrust and suspicion made it more difficult for the MN-S to organize community activities.<sup>15</sup> Denison's postponement of the environmental assessment during 2020 and early 2021 added to these issues. Moreover, in February 2021, Denison unilaterally conducted a series of community meetings in Northern municipalities which were mostly attended and opened by Métis and which involved discussion of Métis traditional knowledge. With these meetings, Denison continued to undermine the MN-S' role as representative of its Citizens and the MN-S' relationship with its Citizens and Locals.

Accordingly, it is the experience of the MN-S that the delays and challenges raised by Denison were substantially authored by Denison, not the MN-S. The MN-S has had to deal with broken Denison commitments and expectations, repeated periods of prolonged unresponsiveness,, Denison's suspension of activities, and its overt efforts to circumvent the MN-S by focusing on securing support from a single Local. While assessing the history of engagement between Denison and the MN-S, the CNSC should also consider the disruptions and challenges the COVID-19 pandemic created for the MN-S organization and its communities between 2020-2023.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, the Denison Letter promotes the same inaccurate portrayal of the MN-S which Denison has promoted in the Indigenous Engagement Report and elsewhere: that the MN-S caused delays, failures of engagement, and failures to advance substantive measures to address Métis rights and interests. This story is false, including for the reasons described above. The MN-S is committed to working collaboratively with the CNSC and Denison to address these issues.

The MN-S looks forward to further engagement with the CNSC on this matter.

Maarsii, thank you.



Hilary Peterson,  
Senior General Counsel  
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan

<sup>14</sup> MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A, MN-S Further Comments, pp 12-13, PDF 36-37; see also: Denison Mines, Wheeler River Project – Provincial Technical Proposal & Federal Project Description, May 2019/December 2020, Table 8.3, p 139, PDF 175 of 187.

<sup>15</sup> MN-S to CNSC Letter Appendix A, MN-S Further Comments, p 14, PDF 38.

*Note: MN-S is within our provincial election period, until election day on May 24, 2025.  
MN-S local leadership is not included in the provincial election.*

cc: Louis Gardiner, Local President, Local 21 Île-à-la-Crosse, MN-S  
Brent Laroque, Director of Environment, MN-S  
Adam Levine, Director, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division, CNSC





**From:** [McKeown, Justin](#)  
**To:** [Hilary Peterson](#); [Brent Laroque](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project  
**Sent:** 2025-05-21 1:47:58 PM

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Hi Hilary, Brent and Andrew,

Apologies to be bothering you during election time but I wanted to follow up on the message below. Is the intent for the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to be between MN-S and CNSC only? Please advise.

We have noted that in MN-S correspondence there are a number of concerns that have been brought up. While not exhaustive, a few concerns we've noted are the following:

- Freezing under the project (recommended mitigation)
- Release of selenium
- Fish effect standards
- Commercial harvesting
- Basement rock permeability and contamination

We have hydrogeology and water quality/aquatics specialists that I am seeking to make available for the meeting to speak to some of these technical concerns noted above. Are these issues that MN-S are willing to discuss as a starting point? Or are there other issues that are of higher importance to MN-S? If you would be able to let us know that would be much appreciated.

Thanks for your time.

-Justin

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**From:** McKeown, Justin  
**Sent:** May 14, 2025 1:52 PM  
**To:** 'Hilary Peterson' <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Levine, Adam <adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>; Andrew Spriggs <aspriggs@mns.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary,

I wanted to make a quick check for the May 26<sup>th</sup> meeting at 1PM. Upon double-checking I noted that Janna and Carolanne from Denison were included on the meeting invite. I am wondering if that is a holdover from having them on this email chain as our intention was to have a bilateral meeting with MN-S. This may have been my issue as I inadvertently kept them on this conversation thread.

Did MN-S also want to include Denison in the meeting or is it ok to meet with CNSC only?  
Please advise.

Thanks.

-Justin

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**From:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 9, 2025 3:16 PM

**To:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Justin,

Great- we have June 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm at the MN-S 20th street office set in our calendars.

Yes, we can accommodate a virtual working-level on Denison. We have May 26 at 1pm in our calendars.

Please note at both of these meetings we will have internal legal and external legal in attendance.

Hilary

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**

Michif Citizen

Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



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**From:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 6, 2025 8:42 AM  
**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary,

Thanks for the response. Prior to the tentatively scheduled June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting I will work with you to set an agenda.

Concerning our discussions for the working-level meeting on Denison, our team will be challenged that week to make an in-person meeting. Is it possible to continue the virtual meeting format at the working-level? Please advise.

Thank you.

-Justin



---

**From:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 2, 2025 4:55 PM

**To:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Thank you Justin. We will see you at our MN-S 20<sup>th</sup> street office on June 19.

For the working level meeting, May 26 works for us.

For both meetings does 1pm at the MNS office work for you and your team?

Hilary

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**

Michif Citizen

Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



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**From:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 1, 2025 11:05 AM  
**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary,

We are available and would like to tentatively schedule to meet on June 19<sup>th</sup> at MN-S' office please.

Concerning working level meeting, we are open to meet at the availability of MN-S. Would MN-S have availability on the following weeks for such meetings:

- Week of May 12<sup>th</sup>
- Week of May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Week of May 26<sup>th</sup>

If you are able to provide us some dates and times that would work in these periods we can work to align our schedules to find a time to continue to discuss MN-S' concerns.

Thanks for your time Hilary.

-Justin

---

**From:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:39 PM

**To:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Adam and Justin,

The following dates work for us to meet after the election, June 19th anytime or June 20th in the morning. To be clear, when we come to an agreeable date it will remain tentative as it will need to work for incoming leadership.

Let's meet at the MN-S 20th street office please.

Yes, we are open to a working level meeting to discuss our concerns with regards to the Denison Wheeler River Project. Can you please provide us with your suggested dates?

Maarsii,

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**

Michif Citizen

Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:24 AM

**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Good morning Hilary,

Thank you so much for your response. As per your offer below, we have some staff commitments on June 16<sup>th</sup>. However, would it be possible to meet with MN-S on June 17<sup>th</sup>?

We are happy to send out the invite and host at the CNSC office. Or if MN-S would prefer, you are welcome to send out an invite to meet at the MN-S office in Saskatoon.

Rest assured we have read and contemplated the March 31<sup>st</sup> letter and we view this as one of a series of meetings we will require to work through the concerns MN-S has raised.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your time.

**Justin McKeown, B.Sc., P.Biol.**

Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions | Chef d'équipe, régions de l'ouest et du nord

Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division | Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 403-466-7185

*I have the privilege of living and working in Moh'kinstsis/Wicîspa/Guts'ists'l, on Treaty 7 lands and on the homeland of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Districts 5 and 6.*

---

**From:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** April 25, 2025 2:23 PM

**To:** Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Adam,

Thank you for your response to our letter and your commitment to meeting with us as soon as practicable. MN-S is currently in our election period. MN-S' general election day is May 24, 2025. Therefore, MN-S leadership is not available to meet until June. In the meantime, let's get a meeting scheduled, which will need to be confirmed by the new MN-S leadership.

**MN-S is available anytime on either June 9 or June 16 to meet with you.**

Your letter, however, implies that the concerns of the MN-S can be resolved relatively straightforwardly in the existing regulatory process. MN-S does not believe that to be the case as it has been documented extensively. Comprehensive leadership and community discussions, as well as the gathering of information on the full range of issues discussed in the March 31, 2025 letter are required for a meaningful consultation process. MN-S looks forward to working with the CNSC to achieve those ends.

Maarsii,

Hilary

**Hilary J. Peterson, JD, LLM (She/Her)**

Michif Citizen

Senior General Counsel/ Head Legal Officer

**Métis Nation–Saskatchewan**



---

**From:** Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:34 AM  
**To:** Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>; Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)>; Janna Switzer <[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Response to MN-S Letters to CNSC- Denison Wheeler River Project

Hi Hilary, hope you are doing well! Please find attached a response to MN-S' recent letters and correspondence to the CNSC regarding the Denison Wheeler River Project and next steps for consultation and engagement on the Project. Please let us know when MN-S would be available to meet to discuss and we can work together to set up a time. Thanks and hope you have a good weekend!

Adam

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Consultation Report Section 4.4 - For Review.docx](#); [MN-S\\_EA\\_Content\\_For\\_Review.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-05-26 2:45:00 PM

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Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included



in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
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We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-05-30 1:05:00 PM

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Thank you Brent for submitting MN-S' review of the documentation. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
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**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

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**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [Andrew Spriggs](#);  
**Subject:** For MN-S Review - Excerpt from EA report  
**Sent:** 2025-05-30 5:10:35 PM

---

Hi Brent,

As we have been reviewing and pulling together the final elements of the EA Report, and some additional text was identified that we'd like to have MN-S review. This is information included in the *Indigenous uses: Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes* Section of the EA report.

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan

The Project site is located within Métis Northern Region 1 (NR-1), close to the border of Northern Regions 2 and 3 (NR-2 and NR-3) and within Homeland of the Métis. Métis citizens from NR-1 and NR-3 have strong ties and interest in the Project area and several key Métis communities with whom Denison and CNSC have been engaging with are in Métis NR-3 (Pinehouse, Beauval, Ile La Crosse) and access to the Project is via road traveling through NR-3.

The Métis Knowledge Study (MKS) that was provided to Denison and the CNSC by MN-S included information in the form of interviews, maps, and tables on the traditional use and occupancy, trail and travel networks, seasonal camps and harvesting areas throughout NR-1 and NR-3 in proximity to the proposed Project. The study provided by MN-S identified hunting, fishing and plant harvesting sites in the LSA and RSA near Cree Lake and the Key Lake highway corridor. In addition, the MN-S also shared that there are culturally important current use and historical sites located in the RSA, including transportation travel routes, seasonal campsites, and gathering sites that are used for knowledge transfer and Métis teachings. These cultural activities related directly to the Métis people's traditional dietary habits, dependence on traditional foods and harvesting for medicinal purposes.

As with the other content shared, we are looking to ensure that the information reflected is accurate to what MN-S has shared with us. Sorry to be sending along more content after the fact, but this section came together a bit later. If you could please let us know if you have any edits before June 13<sup>th</sup>, I'd appreciate it. It's a pretty short excerpt, so I hope that two weeks is enough time to review.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
[MN-S - Métis Knowledge Study - CNSC What We Heard Report](#); [CNSC & MN-S Denison Meeting - Aug 9th Notes and Issues & Concerns Table](#); [MN-S Consultation Report Section 4.4 - Final June 2025.docx](#); [ISCF - Contribution Funding Application Form EN - 2024 - ISRD - FINAL.PDF](#);  
**Attachments:**  
**Sent:** 2025-06-05 3:41:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage MN-S to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

As for your comment in the documentation regarding when the WWH report was sent to MN-S for review- the report was sent to MN-S on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and then it was discussed again at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – see attached the original email where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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June 3, 2025

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan  
310-20<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 0A7

Attention: Brent Laroque, Director of Environment

**Re: Denison MN-S Joint Working Group Meeting (April 30, 2025)**

Dear Mr. Laroque,

We are writing to express our thanks to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (the “**MN-S**”) for attending a joint working group meeting with Denison Mines Corp. (“**Denison**”) on April 30, 2025 (the “**JWG Meeting**”) at the MN-S office in Saskatoon. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our discussions with the MN-S regarding its questions related to the potential impacts of the Wheeler River Project (the “**Project**”) on Métis rights and title, as further expressed in the MN-S’ March 31, 2025 letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

This letter summarizes the key points of our discussion at the JWG Meeting and includes our thoughts on how such matters can be appropriately addressed in the near future. We also provide additional information in response to certain concerns expressed by the MN-S regarding the Project. For clarity, we have attached the agenda from the JWG Meeting in Appendix A.

**1. Concerns about Stigma, Contamination and Residual Impacts**

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed the concerns expressed by members of the Métis community regarding their perceptions of potential contamination from the Project. We understand that these include concerns related to groundwater, drinking water quality, and the disposal of radioactive waste. The MN-S also expressed that stigma from the Project’s perceived contamination and residual impacts may affect Métis citizens’ use of the Métis Homeland.

To respond to the MN-S’ concerns, we have included information relevant to these matters in addition to summarizing our discussion at the JWG Meeting.

***(a) Assessed potential impacts to groundwater***

Throughout the environmental assessment (“**EA**”) of the Project, Denison conducted extensive environmental and technical studies to evaluate the potential adverse impacts of the Project. These studies, which are integrated into the Project’s final Environmental Impact Statement (“**EIS**”),

demonstrate the Project can be constructed, operated, and decommissioned in a manner that is not likely to cause significant adverse effects to the surrounding biophysical or human environments.<sup>1</sup>

In support of this conclusion, and as explained at the JWG Meeting by Janna Switzer (Denison's Vice President Environment, Sustainability & Regulatory), Denison undertook numerous studies related to potential Project impacts on groundwater. In particular, Denison assessed the potential impacts of the Project on groundwater as a pathway to surface water, and the associated potential for changes in groundwater inputs to surface water to influence fish and fish habitat, sediment quality, vegetation, wildlife, human health, and Indigenous land and resource use (including Métis land and resource use).<sup>2</sup>

To evaluate how constituents of potential concern ("COPC") dissolved into groundwater may interact with the environment after remediation of groundwater in the mining area, Denison applied a rigorous numerical model of groundwater flow and chemical COPC behaviour along the groundwater flow path as a predictive tool.<sup>3</sup> As Ms. Switzer shared at the JWG Meeting, the results supported the conclusion that, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, the potential impacts of the Project on groundwater are not expected to cause adverse residual effects.<sup>4</sup> Further, concentrations of COPCs are predicted to remain at levels that would not result in environmental risk.<sup>5</sup>

Changes to groundwater as a result of increases in constituent concentrations are predicted to be negligible to low in magnitude and limited to the local study area.<sup>6</sup> Accordingly, Denison has concluded the Project would not result in significant residual effects to groundwater.

Denison understands and respects the interests and concerns of the MN-S regarding the potential impacts of the Project on groundwater. As part of our response to these concerns, Denison is committed to providing the MN-S with the outcomes of monitoring data in respect of this area and engaging with the MN-S on such information.

***(b) Assessed potential impacts to human health as a result of surface water ingestion and use***

Denison assessed the potential impacts of the Project regarding the ingestion of surface water as part of the human assessment in the EA. The main input into the aquatic environment which could affect human health is the release of treated effluent into Whitefish Lake. To measure these

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<sup>1</sup> Denison Mines Corp. "Wheeler River Project Final Environmental Impact Statement" accepted by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on December 24, 2024 ("Final EIS"), p. 16-32, available [online](#).

<sup>2</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-122.

<sup>3</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-123.

<sup>4</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-123.

<sup>5</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-123.

<sup>6</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-106.

potential impacts, Denison undertook a conservative screening of predicted reasonable upper bound treated effluent concentrations against surface water quality guidelines. The screening values in the EIS are based on the most restrictive provincial or federal surface water quality guidelines (to the extent these guidelines exist for the COPCs).<sup>7</sup> Based on these and other studies, and the implementation of mitigation measures, we concluded that the Project could be constructed, operated, and decommissioned without compromising safety to human health.

Further, changes to surface water levels and flows were assessed to be well below criteria identifying a residual effect during all phases of the Project.<sup>8</sup> Interactions of the Project with surface water were highly localized to the local study area, specifically to Whitefish Lake. Project-related interactions do not extend beyond the local study area into the regional study area.<sup>9</sup>

Denison understands and respects the interests and concerns of the MN-S regarding the potential ingestion and use of surface water in and around the Project area. As part of our response to these concerns, Denison is committed to providing the MN-S with the outcomes of monitoring data in respect of this area and engaging with the MN-S on such information.

### ***(c) Disposal of radioactive waste***

The MN-S has expressed concern that the EA did not include an assessment of decommissioning plans for radioactive waste stored at the Project.

Radioactive waste that is composed of special waste (drill cuttings) and/or precipitate is expected to be sent off site for processing at an eligible licensed facility.<sup>10</sup> Other Project-related materials which are contaminated from operational activities that cannot be cleaned to pass standard radiological clearance will remain on-site in an industrial landfill or will be transported in accordance with appropriate regulations and disposed off-site at an approved facility. The industrial landfill would continue to hold such materials during and potentially following decommissioning. Denison will install a double lined pad with leak detection and collection system between the primary and secondary geosynthetic composite liners.<sup>11</sup> This design is the best available technology and can safely operate for several hundred years with the proper installation and maintenance.<sup>12</sup> Upon closure of the Project-site, the industrial landfill will be covered with an engineered impermeable liner system to minimize infiltration of precipitation into the containment

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<sup>7</sup> Final EIS, p. 10-25.

<sup>8</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-106.

<sup>9</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-106.

<sup>10</sup> Final EIS, p. 10-93.

<sup>11</sup> Final EIS, p. 2-54.

<sup>12</sup> Final EIS, p. 2-54.

system.<sup>13</sup> Performance of the containment system will be monitored through a network of groundwater monitoring wells located around the industrial landfill.<sup>14</sup>

Denison understands and respects the interests and concerns of the MN-S regarding the disposal of radioactive waste from the Project. As part of our response to these concerns, Denison is committed to providing the MN-S with the outcomes of monitoring data in respect of this area and engaging with the MN-S on such information.

***(d) Potential stigma and Métis use of land in and around the Project***

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed the MN-S' concerns regarding potential stigma from the Project and the related impacts to Métis citizens' use of lands and waters in and around the Project. We understand that the MN-S has requested funding from the Province of Saskatchewan (the "**Province**") to carry out additional studies to identify and discuss opportunities to help minimize potential stigma, such as through Project changes, Métis involvement in Project operations and monitoring, and Métis involvement in closure processes and decisions.

Denison collected information from Métis and other Indigenous peoples over the course of the EA to understand traditional and ongoing uses of areas in and around the Project. As discussed further below, the MN-S identified Whitefish Lake as an area potentially impacted by the Project and has expressed concerns related to Métis' fishing activities in the lake and the potential associated stigma therein.

The information shared with Denison during the EA and incorporated into the final EIS demonstrates there is only occasional, and no consistent, use of Whitefish Lake. Nevertheless, Denison took a conservative approach in the EA and conducted its assessment of Project-related effects to Whitefish Lake as if it was an actively-used area. Even with this approach, as Ms. Switzer explained at the JWG Meeting, Denison concluded the potential effect to fishers (if any) would be undetectable because there are no predicted Project-induced changes to the abundance and distribution of fish, or indications of potential radiological exceedances.<sup>15</sup>

Denison understands that perceptions around the quality of the resource could still change Métis behaviour.<sup>16</sup> At the JWG Meeting, Denison reaffirmed the importance of continuing to assess how the Project may affect Métis citizens' behaviour in and around the Project area, and how the perception of risk and impressions of past mining projects in the region generally impact pre-existing conceptions of the Project.

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<sup>13</sup> Final EIS, p. 2-54.

<sup>14</sup> Final EIS, p. 2-54.

<sup>15</sup> Final EIS, p. 11-59.

<sup>16</sup> Final EIS, p. 11-69.



Denison factored such potential impacts into its residual effects assessment in the EA and integrated mitigation and monitoring measures to address these concerns. The monitoring programs are ongoing and facilitate the sharing of information relevant to potential Project impacts, including qualitative and quantitative assessments. Throughout the EA, as well as in response to the MN-S' comments on the Project's draft EIS, Denison has committed to sharing this monitoring information with the MN-S for its review and for its potential distribution to Métis citizens. To this end, information from these monitoring programs will be shared with the MN-S.

At the JWG Meeting, Denison and the MN-S discussed the value in making information from these monitoring programs more accessible to MN-S citizens. Denison looks forward to collaborating with the MN-S to develop the best method to continue sharing such monitoring information.

## **2. Basement Rock Permeability**

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed the questions shared by MN-S regarding the permeability of the basement rock under the Project and whether hazardous materials will be fully contained by the frozen curtain walls. Further, the MN-S expressed that one or more Métis elders' understanding indicates basement rock may be permeable.

As Chad Sorba (Denison's Vice President Technical Services & Project Evaluation) explained during the JWG Meeting, the Project's freeze wall will be keyed into the basement rock to avoid faults, fractures, or other avenues that would otherwise allow contaminants to travel under the freeze wall. As outlined in the final EIS, the freeze wall will be established by drilling vertical holes from the surface into the basement rock (over 400 m below surface). The freeze holes will be spaced approximately 5 to 10 m apart. Over 300 freeze holes are estimated for the Project. The ground will be frozen from the surface down into the low permeability basement rock to create a continuous wall around the mining area that is completely contained from the surrounding regional groundwater.<sup>17</sup> The result is a closed-loop system that prevents the freeze wall brine from entering the environment.

The foundation of the basement rock is composed of thick, ancient rocks (e.g., metamorphic and igneous), which form the crust of continents. A substantive testing regime conducted by Denison demonstrates that the basement rock below the uranium deposit at the Project serves as a natural aquitard.<sup>18</sup> An aquitard is a geologic formation that may contain groundwater but is not capable of transmitting significant quantities of groundwater under normal hydraulic gradients, and that may function as a confining bed.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Final EIS, p. 2-ix.

<sup>18</sup> Final EIS, pgs. 2-19 and 14-12.

<sup>19</sup> Final EIS, p. 7-vi.

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed additional opportunities to incorporate traditional knowledge perspectives into technical understandings of the freeze wall mining process. Denison would be pleased to receive relevant Métis traditional knowledge in addition to the information already provided by the MN-S in its Métis knowledge study for the Project. To this end, we encourage the MN-S to share the traditional knowledge possessed by Métis elders which relates to the basement rock, to the extent the MN-S is interested in doing so. We can then consider that traditional knowledge in the context of the information presented in the EIS.

We remain committed to collaborating with the MN-S to support its understanding of the Project and the freeze wall technology. To assist the MN-S and its citizens' with this process, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting between the MN-S and Greg Newman - the Project's freeze wall subject matter expert.

### **3. Losses to Métis Title, the Value of the Uranium Resource, and the Socio-Economic Value through the Extraction of that Resource**

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed concerns expressed by the MN-S in relation to potential losses to Métis title resulting from the development of the Project. In particular, that by Denison advancing the Project, we are depriving the MN-S of the socio-economic value which would otherwise be realized if the Métis land claim were resolved in favour of the Métis. While we are unable to comment on the Province's position regarding this matter, we note that as part of the final EIS, Denison completed a socioeconomic study to assess broader socioeconomic value impacts of the Project including the potential loss of resources.<sup>20</sup>

Further, as you are aware, Denison and the Métis represented by MN-S entered into a Negotiation Protocol on November 21, 2024, which includes a process and timeline for the parties to negotiate a consent-based commercial agreement in respect of the Project. Since then, Denison and the MN-S have been negotiating such an agreement in good faith. If the parties enter into a consent-based commercial agreement, our expectation is that the consent provided by the Métis represented MN-S in consideration for certain financial and other benefits will accommodate Métis' interests and concerns regarding the Project, including the economic component.

We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the near future to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

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<sup>20</sup> Final EIS, p. 3-4.

#### **4. Effects on Harvesting, Particularly Fishing, though Impacts to Whitefish Lake and Russell Lake**

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed the MN-S' questions regarding potential impacts of the Project on the animals, lands and waters within the Métis Homeland.

Denison started collecting data in the Project area and the Whitefish Lake and Russell Lake areas prior to the initiation of its EA in 2019, as early as 2016. To this end, Denison assessed commercial activity from fishers in the area and the potential impacts of the Project on commercial fishers. Based on these assessments, we determined the Project would not result in significant adverse effects to Whitefish Lake or downstream in Russell Lake.<sup>21</sup> However, Denison still factored the Project's potential impact on harvesting activities into its mitigation planning.<sup>22</sup>

With respect to woodland caribou, the Project is located in a provincially defined caribou range where the population is deemed to be stable and caribou habitat disturbance is within the federal threshold.<sup>23</sup> Studies conducted and integrated into the EIS support the conclusion that effects of the Project on woodland caribou will be not significant. The residual effects of alteration and/or loss of available habitat and of change in mortality are not expected to affect the sustainability or integrity of the regional woodland caribou population.<sup>24</sup> To this end, Projects impacts to caribou from the removal of habitat will not increase disturbance beyond the federal threshold and caribou populations will continue to be self-sustaining. Our evaluations indicate that effects from the Project would be an avoidance of use by caribou to other forested areas within the range, and the only possible direct mortality impact for woodland caribou may result from collision with a vehicle.

Denison has committed to offset the habitat removed (with a buffer) and is developing a caribou management plan with the Province. As part of the Province's boreal woodland caribou management efforts, it is working with industry to develop effective and practical approaches to mitigate potential impacts to woodland caribou. In the Province's hierarchy of controls for caribou habitat management, "offset" is the restoration of habitat outside a project's footprint which is used to compensate project impacts where such impacts result in a loss of functional habitat for an extended period of time.

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<sup>21</sup> Final EIS, s. 13.5-4.

<sup>22</sup> Final EIS, p. 11-69.

<sup>23</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada, "Report on the Progress of the Recovery Strategy Implementation (Period 2017 - 2022) and the Action Plan Implementation (Period 2018 - 2023) for Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), Boreal Population, in Canada" dated 2024, available [online](#).

<sup>24</sup> Final EIS, p. 9-313.

As stated in the EIS, Denison and the Province will develop a Draft Caribou Mitigation Plan, which will include a detailed assessment of the necessary habitat offset.<sup>25</sup> This offset has not been settled. The EIS outlines the engagement activities Denison has undertaken with regulatory agencies to determine the woodland caribou habitat offset calculation framework.<sup>26</sup> Denison understands the MN-S has been invited to be a part of the Province's advisory committee to develop the woodland caribou mitigation framework but has not yet participated. Denison encourages the MN-S to participate with the Province in this process so that its input can be considered in the development of this framework.

During the JWG Meeting, we asked the MN-S whether there are any obstacles to rehabilitating caribou habitat which Denison can address, to which the MN-S did not provide an answer at the time. We remain open to receiving feedback from the MN-S on this matter. As noted above, Denison is currently engaging with the Province to develop the Project's Draft Caribou Mitigation Plan. We would be pleased to receive input from the MN-S regarding the development and implementation of this plan.

## **5. Monitoring of Ongoing Impacts**

In the JWG Meeting, we discussed opportunities for Denison and the MN-S to collaborate regarding the Project's monitoring programs.

Denison understands the importance of undertaking monitoring at the Project and enabling access to information which is discernable and transparent. This includes facilitating a process to discuss challenges and concerns of Métis citizens. The need for an effective communication process between the parties was a common theme at the JWG Meeting. From our perspective, Denison and the MN-S share the desire to collaboratively develop such a process to effectively communicate monitoring and other important information and to bridge scientific and traditional knowledge perspectives. At the JWG Meeting (and in prior engagement meetings with MN-S), we have discussed options to achieve this goal. Denison has also implemented a variety of communication and engagement methods in the development of the EIS and on an ongoing basis, to make information about the Project accessible to Métis citizens and others.

Denison appreciates the feedback shared by the MN-S regarding the importance of developing an effective method to communicate Project monitoring information to Métis citizens. Denison is committed to developing this process within the first year of Project construction. We look forward to collaborating with the MN-S on this matter.

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<sup>25</sup> Final EIS, p. 9-311.

<sup>26</sup> Final EIS, Table 4.5-1, Appendix 9-E.

## 6. Consent Process

As we discussed in section 3 above, in parallel to the ongoing discussions regarding the potential impacts of the Project on Métis rights and title, the MN-S and Denison continue to advance commercial negotiations to provide the consent of the MN-S to the Project.

Denison has been seeking the free, prior and informed consent of the MN-S to the Project since 2019. Throughout this time, we have worked collaboratively with the MN-S to develop a process which satisfies the goals of reconciliation and respects the rights of the MN-S to work towards reaching consensus and agreement on the Project. In doing so, we have meaningfully engaged with the MN-S to support its understanding of potential Project impacts to Métis traditional land use and rights.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with the MN-S to seek reconciliation of both parties' rights and interests in relation to the Project and surrounding lands and waters.

Sincerely,



Carolanne Inglis-McQuay  
Director, Corporate Social Responsibility

cc: David Cates, President & Chief Executive Officer, Denison Mines Corp.  
Janna Switzer, Vice President, Environment, Sustainability & Regulatory, Denison Mines Corp.

## **Appendix A**

(See attached)



## Agenda

### Joint Working Group: MN-S and Denison Engagement Outstanding Issues (per corr. to CNSC March 31, 2025)

1. Introductions
2. Concerns about stigma, contamination and residual impacts
3. Basement rock permeability
4. Losses to Metis title, the value of the uranium resource and the socio-economic value of that resource
5. Effects on harvesting, particularly fishing, though impacts to Whitefish Lake and Russell Lake
6. Monitoring of ongoing impacts
7. Consent process



**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** MN-S - Wheeler - May 26 - Meeting Minutes - Call for Edits  
**Sent:** 2025-06-18 3:23:37 PM

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Hello Brent,

Please see below for the minutes from our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Do not hesitate to reach out with any edits or questions.

Kindly,

Rain

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#### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 26, 2025

**Location:** Virtual Meeting

**Participants:** Representatives from CNSC and MN-S

**CNSC:** Sydney Boser, Justin McKeown, Jes Way, Rain Noakes, Konrad Gorzkowski Ryan Ringer (CNSC Legal), Samantha Longo, Jeffrey Lam, Qinghuai Zheng

**MN-S:** Brent Laroque, Marc Wang (internal legal), Matt Hammer (external legal), Arend Hoekstra (external legal), Hilary Peterson (internal legal)

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#### **Update on Denison Engagement**

- MN-S provided an update on ongoing challenges in engagement with Denison Mines.
- Concerns were raised about Denison's approach, which MN-S described as "divide and conquer," undermining MN-S governance by engaging with individual locals rather than the MN-S government.
- MN-S emphasized that it is the exclusive representative of Métis rights in Saskatchewan, as recognized by the Government of Canada.
- There is an ongoing challenge with Denison not recognizing MN-S as a rights bearing Nation in the project area due to their involvement with KML
- CNSC acknowledged the concerns and reiterated that it consults with MN-S as having Métis rights in the project area and are considered a potentially impacted Indigenous Nation for this project. CNSC has been consulting MN-S directly on this project since 2019. CNSC stated that they are consulting both KML and MN-S as part of the Duty to Consult for the Denison project due to the direction CNSC received from KML in December 2021.
- MN-S is continuing to meet with Denison to express their concerns which were mentioned in the letter dated May 16<sup>th</sup>

#### **Clarification on CNSC's Role and Crown Obligations**

- CNSC clarified that it is not a rights-determining body but has a duty to consult as an agent of the Crown.
- CNSC staff confirmed that the Commission must be satisfied that the duty to consult has been fulfilled before making licensing decisions.



- MN–S requested clarity on how CNSC incorporates Canada’s recognition of MN–S as the exclusive rights-holder into its consultation processes.

#### **Governance and Representation**

- MN–S described its internal governance structure and the recent “One Voice” agreement among 13 locals to coordinate engagement with Denison.
- CNSC inquired about how MN–S engages with locals and how input is gathered and represented.
- MN–S noted that engagement has been limited due to resource constraints and Denison’s past reluctance to engage meaningfully.
- MN-S mentioned the 2023 self-government agreement and where the duty lies. CNSC has always been consulting MN-S directly.
- MN-S doesn’t want the KML support to take away from their rights in the project area as Metis citizens – other MN-S citizens are sharing in the same rights as KML, which is only representing ~120 citizens out of 50k or more.

#### **Technical and Environmental Concerns**

- CNSC offered to discuss technical issues, including water quality and hydrogeology, but MN–S preferred to defer these discussions to the June 19 meeting when community leadership would be present.
- MN–S raised concerns impacts, referencing Cluff Lake as an example of reduced traditional land use due to perceived contamination.
- MN-S asked about CNSC suggested exploring funding opportunities (e.g., Stream 1 funding) for community-based studies on land use and psychosocial impacts. MN-S suggested looking at a real tangible example, such as the one at Cluff Lake, on how likely people are to return to using a site post-decommissioning.

#### **Aboriginal Title and Socioeconomic Impacts**

- MN-S mentioned the title claim: Filed in 1994, northwest SK near Cree Lake, went to Supreme Court in November but because the claim is in stay, Saskatchewan argued that they didn’t need to consult on the claim and the court said the 1994 claim is the vehicle and MN-S has filed 25,000 records on the title claim (traditional Metis use past and script process) – showing script process was designed to strip peoples lands away
- MN–S emphasized the need to consider lost socioeconomic opportunities and long-term impacts on Métis self-determination and land use.
- CNSC acknowledged the importance of understanding these impacts and noted that a Rights Impact Assessment (RIA) process is underway where this could be considered.

#### **Rights Impact Assessment (RIA)**

- CNSC outlined the RIA process, which will include a narrative-based assessment of Métis rights, potential impacts, and proposed mitigations.
- Documentation will be shared in fall 2025, with the goal of submitting supplemental materials before the December 8 hearing (Part 2).
- MN–S expressed interest in ensuring the RIA reflects the full scope of impacts, including those related to the title claim.

#### **Consent-Based Process**

- MN–S emphasized the importance of a consent-based process and requested clarity on CNSC’s definition and approach to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- CNSC acknowledged the evolving nature of FPIC and expressed willingness to work with MN–S to understand and support its consent-based governance processes.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

- CNSC to follow up on:
  - Clarification of its position regarding MN–S as the exclusive rights-holder.
  - Eligibility of Stream 1 funding for studies related to Cluff Lake.
- MN–S to:
  - Provide feedback on CNSC’s consultation report draft (Section 4.4) by the extended deadline (complete).
  - Prepare for technical and leadership discussions at the June 19 meeting.
- Both parties to continue collaboration on the RIA and broader consultation process.

### Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv

(he / him / il)

Environmental Review Officer | Agent en examen de l’environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l’examen de l’environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: (778) 687-1324

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.4 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-27 2:34:00 PM

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Good afternoon Brent,

Please see attached the MN -S' issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that MN-S has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-06-27 4:17:39 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Good afternoon Sydney,

Thank you for passing these revisions back to us, they look consistent with our modifications, with one exception. We would prefer this last sentence be deleted. CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project.

The MN-S has never had the opportunity or resources for a true for consent-based process. Our engagement with Denison to date has been conducted under the pressure of hard bargaining tactics, including Denison's shifting position of whether it would participate in consent-focused discussions with the MN-S over a number of years, as we have well documented, and a lack of sufficient resources to meaningfully engage with the 13 Locals, collect important data regarding Métis attitudes towards the Cluff Lake mine site, and advance a robust traditional knowledge inventory, which we have requested from Denison, Saskatchewan and the CNSC (we appreciate the direction to the Stream 1 capacity funding but this alone is insufficient). In our letter of March 31, 2025, we outlined a process to lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion. As detailed in that letter, that process would require meaningfully engaging with the 13 Locals and NR1 and NR3 to determine how they want to be engaged, and likely the engagement of experts, elders, youth and translators, workshops with community, trips to the lands around the Project site, and other activities. We have yet to receive a response from CNSC regarding the suggested process in our March 31, 2025 letter, and it is unclear to us whether CNSC has given our request any consideration. In this context, while we invite an opportunity to work with CNSC to secure the consent of the Métis community for the Wheeler River Project, including through meaningful and robust engagement with and within our Locals, we believe it is inaccurate to state that CNSC staff will "continue ... efforts to work towards seeking" Métis consent.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:42 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with MN-S on understanding and addressing the concerns and

where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 30, 2025 1:05 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Thank you Brent for submitting MN-S' review of the documentation. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

.....

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**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 5:00 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Sydney,

Thank you for this email and for the reminder and extension at our meeting. Please see attached our suggested revisions to ensure the documents are accurate. Where the source of the information in the revision may not be immediately obvious, we have indicated at least one source in a footnote – these citations are in no way reflective of all sources of such information in the record. We have also added context and comments in footnotes.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:59 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Sounds good thanks Brent!

Sydney

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Sent:** May 26, 2025 2:47 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES
--

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to



2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Call for Edits - Meeting Minutes - June 19 - MN-S  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 2:26:43 PM

---

**From:** Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2025 1:54 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Levine, Adam <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Longo, Samantha <[samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:samantha.longo@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Zheng, Qinghuai <[qinghuai.zheng@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:qinghuai.zheng@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Call for Edits - Meeting Minutes - June 19 - MN-S

Hi Brent,

Please see below for the draft minutes from our meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or proposed edits.

Kindly,

Rain

---

**Meeting Minutes: CNSC–MN–S Engagement on Denison Wheeler River Project**

**Date:** June 19, 2025

**Location:** MN–S Office (310 20th Street East - 4th floor, Saskatoon, SK)

**Type:** Hybrid format (In-Person and Virtual)

**Participants:**

- **MN–S Representatives:** Regional Representative Brennan Merasty (NR3), Hillary Peterson (General Counsel), Byron Dolan (legal), Matthew Vermette (COO), Andie Arnold, Dave DeVos, George Natomagan, Matt Hammer (legal), Mark Wang (legal), Arend Hoekstra (legal), Brent Laroque
- **CNSC Representatives:** Adam Levine, Justin McKeown, Sydney Boser, Jes Way, Ryan Froess, Rain Noakes, Samantha Longo, Qinghuai Zheng (Quinn, Geoscience), Konrad Gorzkowski

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**Key Issues and Concerns Raised by MN–S**

**a. Duty to Consult and Métis Title:**

- MN–S emphasized their constitutionally protected rights and the significance of their 1994 Métis title claim over northwest Saskatchewan.
- Concerns raised about:
  - Lack of recognition of MN–S as the exclusive representative of Métis rights holders.
  - Denison’s engagement tactics perceived as divisive and undermining MN–S governance

- The need for CNSC to respect MN–S governance and not engage directly with locals without involving MN-S. CNSC reiterated that since the beginning of the Project, they have been working directly with MN-S for engagement and consultation purposes aside from KML who have asked to represent themselves.
- b. **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):**
  - MN–S expressed concern that FPIC is being treated as a procedural checkbox rather than a substantive process.
  - Emphasized that consent must be built from the ground up, with full community involvement.
  - CNSC has been engaging with MN-S on the Denison file directly since 2019 and has been following MN-S governance and working towards FPIC.
  - Called for CNSC to recognize the difference between procedural engagement and genuine FPIC.

### **Denison Wheeler River Project – Technical and Environmental Concerns Selenium and Water Quality**

- MN–S raised concerns about:
  - Bioaccumulation of selenium in fish and aquatic species and effluent treatment options for selenium.
  - Long-term impacts on commercial and subsistence harvesting.
  - Trust in modeling and monitoring data.
  - How would exceedances of EA predictions/risk to aquatic biota be addressed if they were to happen
- CNSC Response:
  - Selenium levels predicted to remain below regulatory thresholds.
  - Monitoring will occur quarterly, with adaptive management requirements built into regulatory framework if risk to the aquatic environment needed to be addressed.
  - Denison is still in the process of determining effluent treatment technologies and options. CNSC committed to having discussions on best available technology economically feasible (BATEA) with MN-S in a technical meeting.

### **Freeze Wall and Permeability**

- Concerns raised about:
  - Integrity of the freeze wall and potential for groundwater contamination .
  - Lack of community understanding of the technical design.
- CNSC Response:
  - Freeze wall design includes of monitoring of multiple parameters (such as pressure, temperature).
  - Core samples and hydrogeological data confirm low permeability of basement rock.
  - CNSC open to supporting community education and visual aids to explain the design.

### **Monitoring and Community Involvement**

- MN–S emphasized the need for:
  - Community-led monitoring programs.
  - Integration of traditional knowledge and land-user observations.
  - Transparent communication of monitoring results.

- CNSC committed to:
  - Supporting tripartite technical meetings (CNSC, MN-S, Denison) if required

### **Socioeconomic and Cultural Impacts**

- MN-S raised concerns about:
  - Short-term employment vs. long-term sustainability.
  - Mental health, addiction, and social disruption linked to mining cycles.
  - Impacts of “man camps” on community safety, especially for women.
- CNSC acknowledged:
  - These are serious concerns, though some fall outside CNSC’s direct mandate.
  - Will work with other federal partners and Denison to address these issues where possible.
  - Socioeconomic impacts linked to environmental changes are considered under CEAA 2012, 5(1)(c).

### **Caribou and Cumulative Effects**

- MN-S expressed frustration with provincial processes (e.g., SK1 range plan) and lack of meaningful Métis inclusion.
- Called for federal leadership in addressing cumulative effects and caribou recovery.
- CNSC Response:
  - CNSC staff are considering caribou impacts under CEAA 2012.
  - CNSC staff are working closely with ECCC and have proposed an EA condition for meeting the Federal Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population. This is an important topic that is still under regular discussion, and CNSC can provide updates to MN-S as these discussions progress and Denison’s offsetting and mitigation plans are developed.

### **Funding and Governance**

- Discussion on funding allocations and governance:
  - Concerns raised about locals applying independently and undermining collective voice.
  - MN-S clarified that all engagement should go through the central MN-S government:
    - **Both Beauval and MN-S have applied for funding in the recent PFP offering, which MN-S noted they have discussed with the region, who will be rescinding this request.**
    - **MN-S requested that in the future, CNSC staff consult with MN-S if there are conflicting requests.**
    - **There was some discussion around how it came to be that KML was being engaged separately. MN-S acknowledged that they recalled when KML provided this direction to CNSC and Denison to engage with them directly, as MN-S also received a letter making this intention clear and MN-S accepted this request (2021).**
- CNSC Response:
  - **Committed to respecting MN-S governance; however, it can be complicated when we get requests from individuals or other bodies as CNSC is not a rights determining body**
    - **CNSC staff also noted that they reached out to MN-S for clarification on this topic back in May and received no response.**
  - Once CNSC receives the letter from Beauval rescinding their application, CNSC will let the funding review committee (FRC) know and they will decide

the new funding amount for MN-S and a new agreement will be sent for MN-S signature.

#### Action Items and Next Steps

Action Items	Responsible	Timeline
Coordinate tripartite technical meeting on BATEA, selenium in water, and other topics as needed	Ryan/Konrad (CNSC), MN-S, Denison	July 2025
Discuss gathering core samples for community education/outreach	Konrad (CNSC), some, Denison	July 2025
Clarify funding reallocation for NR1/NR3 engagement	CNSC Funding Team, MN-S	Complete
Information sharing on progress with caribou discussions	Jes/Ryan (CNSC), ECCC, MN-S	Ongoing
Establish regular monthly check-ins	Sydney (CNSC), MN-S	July 2025
Document and integrate MN-S FPIC process into consultation record	Sydney (CNSC), MN-S	Before Part 2 Hearing

#### Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv

(he / him / il)

Environmental Review Officer | Agent en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: (778) 687-1324

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#); [David Devos](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
[Update\\_on\\_Proposed\\_Next\\_Steps\\_for\\_Consultation\\_with\\_MN-S\\_April\\_17\\_2025.pdf](#); [MN-S Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.4 - For Review.docx](#);  
**Attachments:**  
**Sent:** 2025-07-11 3:01:00 PM

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Good afternoon Brent,

Apologies on the late responses here as I was away on holidays last week. As for the last sentence, instead of being deleted CNSC has changed the wording to the following: "CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S to understand and support their FPIC process and engage in efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project, where possible."

When we met on June 19<sup>th</sup>, CNSC indicated an openness to engage with the locals/regions identified and to continue to work with MN-S on your approach to seeking consent on the Project. CNSC also indicated we wanted to hear about how best to approach that type of engagement and how MN-S would like to coordinate that with us and Denison as appropriate. Once we hear back from you on an appropriate approach, CNSC is happy to work with MN-S on that. As for the March 31<sup>st</sup> letter, CNSC did provide a response back to Hilary on April 17<sup>th</sup> which lead to our meetings on May 26<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. In that letter CNSC states that we will provide a follow up letter to confirm what was discussed and proposed next steps including a disposition table that responds to key issues, concerns and requests. We are currently working on this and will share back with MN-S when ready. In the meantime, we have also shared the issues tracking table for your review for concerns raised throughout the consultation and engagement process for the Project which is due on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We look forward to hearing from you on the following items.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <blaroque@mns.ca>

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 4:18 PM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Hilary Peterson <hpeterson@mns.ca>; Marc Wang <mwang@mns.ca>; David Devos <ddevos@mns.ca>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Good afternoon Sydney,

Thank you for passing these revisions back to us, they look consistent with our modifications, with one exception. We would prefer this last sentence be deleted. CNSC staff will also continue to work with MN-S regarding their FPIC process and efforts to work towards seeking their consent for the Project.

The MN-S has never had the opportunity or resources for a true for consent-based process. Our engagement with Denison to date has been conducted under the pressure of hard bargaining tactics, including Denison's shifting position of whether it would participate in consent-focused discussions with the MN-S over a number of years, as we have well documented, and a lack of sufficient resources to meaningfully engage with the 13 Locals, collect important data regarding Métis attitudes towards the Cluff Lake mine site, and advance a robust traditional knowledge inventory, which we have requested from Denison, Saskatchewan and the CNSC (we appreciate the direction to the Stream 1 capacity funding but this alone is insufficient). In our letter of March 31, 2025, we outlined a process to lay the foundation of a subsequent consent-based discussion. As detailed in that letter, that process would require meaningfully engaging with the 13 Locals and NR1 and NR3 to determine how they want to be engaged, and likely the engagement of experts, elders, youth and translators, workshops with community, trips to the lands around the Project site, and other activities. We have yet to receive a response from CNSC regarding the suggested process in our March 31, 2025 letter, and it is unclear to us whether CNSC has given our request any consideration. In this context, while we invite an opportunity to work with CNSC to

secure the consent of the Métis community for the Wheeler River Project, including through meaningful and robust engagement with and within our Locals, we believe it is inaccurate to state that CNSC staff will “continue ... efforts to work towards seeking” Métis consent.

**Brent Laroque**

Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 5, 2025 3:42 PM

**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

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Good afternoon Brent,

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As for your comment in the documentation regarding when the WWH report was sent to MN-S for review- the report was sent to MN-S on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2024 and then it was discussed again at our meeting on August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024 – see attached the original email where it was sent and the notes from the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. As part of the discussion in the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, CNSC requested feedback from MN-S on the WWH report which is indicated as an action in the meeting summary notes. Although we have not received specific feedback from MN-S to date, we remain open to any comments or feedback MN-S may have.

I have also attached the Stream 1 capacity funding application for MN-S interest as it was mentioned at our meeting on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for this application is June 27<sup>th</sup> and CNSC would be happy to work with MN-S on scoping your application regarding fear/avoidance, monitoring and attitudes around nuclear facilities as it relates to the Wheeler River project.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



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Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 29, 2025 5:00 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for this email and for the reminder and extension at our meeting. Please see attached our suggested revisions to ensure the documents are accurate. Where the source of the information in the revision may not be immediately obvious, we have indicated at least one source in a footnote – these citations are in no way reflective of all sources of such information in the record. We have also added context and comments in footnotes.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Sounds good thanks Brent!

Sydney

---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hey Syd, apologies I missed this. I can have feedback to you by EOD on Thursday if that could work.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 2:46 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Hi Brent,

Please see attached the Consultation and EA report content for MN-S review of accuracy. The deadline has passed as it was May 23<sup>rd</sup> but we can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without MN-S' input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** April 30, 2025 3:51 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** Andrew Spriggs <[aspriggs@mns.ca](mailto:aspriggs@mns.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Brent,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included

in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.4 of the Consultation Report which outlines our consultation activities with MN-S related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on MN-S, a table with key consultation activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by MN-S related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.4 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-17 3:34:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Brent,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Goodluck with Batoche this weekend!

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:35 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,

Please see attached the MN -S' issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that MN-S has raised

throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Brent Laroque](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [David Devos](#); [Hilary Peterson](#); [Marc Wang](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [MN-S Updated Issues Tracker - July 29th 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-29 9:23:00 AM

---

Good morning Brent,

Thank you for sending along. Please see attached the updated tracker.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 23, 2025 9:39 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>; Marc Wang <[mwang@mns.ca](mailto:mwang@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Boon Mataen Sydney! Please see the latest version attached.

**Brent Laroque**  
Director of Environment

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 17, 2025 3:34 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Goodluck with Batoche this weekend!

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:35 PM  
**To:** Brent Laroque <[blaroque@mns.ca](mailto:blaroque@mns.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; David Devos <[ddevos@mns.ca](mailto:ddevos@mns.ca)>; Hilary Peterson <[hpeterson@mns.ca](mailto:hpeterson@mns.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & MN-S - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Brent,



Please see attached the MN -S' issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that MN-S has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without MN-S' feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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## **B.6            Key Correspondence with Lac La Ronge Indian Band**

**From:** [Froess, Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS  
**Sent:** 2022-03-10 5:07:12 PM

---

FYI sent to these Nations and communities.

kevin.mercredi@outlook.com; Chief Coreen Sayazie <csayazie@hotmail.com>; b-tsannie@hotmail.com; Shea Shirley <shea.shirley@yathinene.com>; Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>; Cheyenna Campbell (cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com); jerry.bernard@erfn.net; Mark Calette <mcalette@mns.work>; slandriecrossland@mns.work; s.nickolet@mns.work; Walter Smith <wsmith@kineepik.ca>; Billie Jo Natomagan <bнатomagan@kineepik.ca>; jtsanniejr@pagc.net; rmcleod@pagc.net; [tcooksearson@lrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@lrib.ca](#); lburnouf@mns.work; tex.mns@sasktel.net; Eric Sylvestre <eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca>; chief1@birchnarrows.ca; norma.catarat@outlook.com; Elmercampbell35@gmail.com; glenmccallum glenmccallum@mns.work

---

**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** March 9, 2022 4:12 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi (adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) <adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that funding is available to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

**The deadline to submit this funding application is due March 14, 2022.**

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

If you have any questions on the application **please do not hesitate to reach out** to myself by phone or email and or for specific questions please feel free to contact:

Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator

613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks you,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

---

**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** January 10, 2022 2:33 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi ([adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)) <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to  
<https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

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For all the latest CNSC news, visit CNSC's homepage at <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/>

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Follow the CNSC on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/CanadianNuclearSafetyCommission>

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Follow the CNSC on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cnscccsn/life>

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If you experience any difficulties in accessing the CNSC website, please send an email to [cnscccsn.info@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cnscccsn.info@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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To unsubscribe, send an email to [cnscccsn.info@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:cnscccsn.info@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Faille, Sylvain](#); [Babcock, Neil](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Akhter, Salman](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Aimann Sadik, England, Brianne ENV](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca);  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application  
**Sent:** 2022-06-17 4:38:47 PM

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Dear Chief Cook-Searson,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



June 17, 2022

e-Doc: 6819358

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson:  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
tcooksearson@llrib.ca

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application**

Dear Chief Tammy Cook-Searson:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage and use of natural uranium in laboratory studies, for a 60 day feasibility field test that Denison are planning to conduct in August 2022. Following completion of the test, the recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project, led by CNSC staff. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC as necessary.

It is important to note that the proposed feasibility field test is not within the scope of the CEAA 2012 EA, as this is a distinct project. The field test could therefore proceed prior to an EA decision.

**Feasibility Field Test**

Through the feasibility field test, Denison intends to validate previous testing and determine the feasibility of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This test requires no new clearing of land or new drilling, only the construction of limited temporary surface facilities.

During the planned test, mineralized material will be removed from the ground through a process that includes injecting a solution into test wells, separating liquids from solids, and collecting the resulting materials for further analysis. These materials are expected to contain elevated levels

natural uranium, and samples will be analysed for general chemistry at the on-site chemical laboratory and later transported to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for further analysis. Once all analysis is complete, materials will be placed in above ground storage tanks, and will remain the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

In March 2022 an application was also submitted to the SMOE, as Denison requires a permit to construct and operate a pollutant control facility prior to conducting the proposed feasibility field test. This permit is required under Saskatchewan's *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations, 1996*, and the application remains under provincial review.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licences have a service standard of 80 business days for a DO decision, from the date a complete application has been received. DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

**As an Indigenous Nation and/or community with a potential interest in Denison's licence application, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views or receiving any additional information you may have with respect to Denison's application to the CNSC for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence, for this proposed project.**

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a licence be granted to Denison for the proposed field test.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence application or the ongoing EA for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



If you wish to receive e-mail notifications related to the EA process and other updates on this licensing process, please let us know and we can add you to the project distribution list.

You may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nana Kwamena

Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: G. Christiansen  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, S. Akhter, J. Way, W. Yen, A. Levine, R.  
Froess, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Faille, Sylvain](#); [Babcock, Neil](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Akhter, Salman](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Aimann Sadik](#); [England, Brianne ENV](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca);  
**Bcc:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Notice of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence issued to Denison Mines Corp.  
**Sent:** 2022-08-05 11:34:00 AM

---

Dear Chief Cook-Searson,

In follow up to our email and letter from June 17<sup>th</sup>, this email is to inform you that a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence has now been granted to Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) by a CNSC Designated Officer.

Denison applied for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation licence for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan in order to complete a feasibility field test of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This licence, which is valid from August 3, 2022 to December 31, 2023, authorizes Denison to temporarily store and use natural uranium in laboratory studies above ground.

As always, we remain available to discuss in more detail. To obtain more detailed information or for any questions, please contact Jes Way at [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or Ryan Froess at [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 4:39 PM  
**To:** [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Faille, Sylvain <[sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Babcock, Neil <[neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Burton, Patrick <[patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Akhter, Salman <[salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Aimann Sadik <[aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca](mailto:aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca)>; England, Brianne ENV <[brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca)>; [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca)  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application

Dear Chief Cook-Searson,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](mailto:jerry.bernard@erfn.net); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](mailto:wsmith@kineepik.ca); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:bnatomagan@kineepik.ca); [glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work); [Brent Laroque](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](mailto:kevin.mercredi@outlook.com); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](mailto:b-tsannie@hotmail.com); [csayazie@hotmail.com](mailto:csayazie@hotmail.com); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](mailto:d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net); [d.classen@sasktel.net](mailto:d.classen@sasktel.net); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](mailto:norma.catarat@brdn.ca); [receptionist@mltc.net](mailto:receptionist@mltc.net); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_larock@hotmail.com); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

**Sent:** 2022-10-24 11:28:00 AM

---

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
[Cheyenna Hunt](#); 'jerry.bernard@erfn.net'; 'nvp.mike@sasktel.net';  
'wsmith@kineepik.ca'; 'bnatomagan@kineepik.ca';  
'glenmccallum@mns.work'; 'Brent Laroque'; 'Shannon Landrie-Crossland';  
'garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'; 'shea.shirley@yathinene.com';  
'kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'; b-tsannie@hotmail.com;  
**Bcc:** [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#);  
'd.classen@sasktel.net'; 'chief1@birchnarrows.ca';  
'norma.catarat@brdn.ca'; 'receptionist@mltc.net';  
'claire\_larock@hotmail.com'; 'karenbird@pbcn.ca'; 'tmerasty@pbcn.ca';  
'bmerasty@pbcn.ca'; 'tcooksearson@llrib.ca'; 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net';  
'gchristiansen@llrib.ca'; 'cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com';  
[karenbird@pbcn.ca](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public  
Comment Period Begins  
**Sent:** 2022-11-21 3:42:00 PM

---

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission **complete**. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [\*Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012\*](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**

**Environmental Assessment Officer**

Email: [wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day

public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Janna Switzer](#);  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** Contact from Lac La Ronge  
**Sent:** 2023-01-19 2:45:14 PM

---

Hi Carolanne and Janna,

I spoke to Janna, I got a call and email from Ty Roberts today, the Land Manager for Lac La Ronge Indian Band this morning, stating that they have not been properly consulted. It sounds like an email I sent to our Indigenous distribution list with a reminder of the Public and Indigenous Comment period deadline was forwarded along by one of their executives.

I spoke with Ty this afternoon. He says this is the first they are hearing of this project and was surprised that they had not received a duty to consult notification from the province (and have nothing in their records). I shared that the project kicked off in 2019 and that I was under the impression Denison had presented to Lac La Ronge early on (based on what's in the EIS), but also that the project was put on hold at the beginning of the pandemic. I also noted that there is still quite a bit of time in the EA process and that CNSC would be available to meet, share information and hear what their interests are, and hoped that they would provide a submission through the comment period.

They don't necessarily have concerns at this stage, but want to be informed, engaged and consulted, and are looking for more information. It sounds like they intend to meet the comment period deadline. They will be meeting with the Traditional Lands Board on February 9<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, and he'd like to present some information to them and get some feedback to share back with CNSC through the comment period. I told him that I'd share the EIS and Registry documentation, and that I'd reach out to yourselves to let you know that I'd heard from him and that they are interested in meeting. He is also requesting shapefiles for the project - they use Arc GIS, and would like to look at the proposed project area, as he believes there are likely land users in the area and wants to identify who these might be, if there are trap lines, etc. Are these something you would be able to provide?

I told Ty we'd be happy to set up a teams meeting and it sounds like he would be fine to have a joint meeting, in the name of getting them all the information they need as soon as possible. Please let me know if that is of interest. He'd like to meet before the 9<sup>th</sup>. I am going to shoot a note to Aimann as well, but Ty didn't see a need to meet with the province at this stage.

His contact information is:

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**  
**Reserve Lands Manager**  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Lands & Resources  
PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0  
Office: 306-425-2183



Mobile: 306-420-9536  
Fax: 306-425-2170  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)

He also asked that their general email address be included for any communications: [lands@llrib.ca](mailto:lands@llrib.ca)

Thanks,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [lands@lrib.ca](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project - Follow Ups  
**Sent:** 2023-01-20 3:10:45 PM

---

Hi Ty,

Thanks for the call yesterday afternoon. In follow up, I am sharing some documents related to the EA process. I'm also CC-ing other members of the CNSC team working on this project, from our Environmental Assessment Division (Wish Yen), Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division (Ryan Froess and Sydney Nickolet) and Licensing Division (Konrad Gorzowski).

Here is a link to the project page on the Impact Assessment Registry, which has most of the project documents: [Wheeler River Project \(ceaa-acee.gc.ca\)](#). Documents to highlight are:

Document Number	Document Title	File	Date
22	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Executive Summary for the draft EIS - English Version</a>	<a href="#">PDF (10.5 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
20	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement</a>	<a href="#">PDF (140.2 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
21	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Draft EIS Roadmap</a>	<a href="#">PDF (686 KB)</a>	November 21, 2022
65	<a href="#">Combined Appendices for the Wheeler River Project Draft EIS</a>	<a href="#">PDF (240.5 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
67	Wheeler River Project: EIS Executive Summary Poster - Dene Version (French Only)	<a href="#">PDF (845 KB)</a>	January 13, 2023
66	Wheeler River Project: EIS Executive Summary Poster - Cree Version (French Only)	<a href="#">PDF (945 KB)</a>	January 13, 2023

Document #20 is the draft Environmental Impact Statement, for which the public comment period is currently under way (Comments are due **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**). Documents #22, 66 and 67 all contain condensed versions of the EIS document, which provide summarized overviews of the project. I would note, I'm having an issue with the last two entries and neither of these are posted in French, so ignore the notes on that.

In terms of meeting, would some time on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** between **1 and 4pm** SK work for you to meet virtually, through MS Teams? We could start with an hour. If easier, let me know and we can get on the phone to find a time.

I have reached out to the province of SK and our points of contact at Denison to share what we discussed. Denison has said they will provide a shape file for the project, so that is to come. I suspect you will hear from Denison as well, but wanted to share their contact information so that you have it:

**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**  
Director, Corporate Social Responsibility  
e: [cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)  
t: 306-652-8200 x 131 | f: 306-652-8202  
345 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7K 1N3  
[www.denisonmines.com](http://www.denisonmines.com)

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of this. Looking forward to talking soon.

Thanks,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@lrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@lrib.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 19, 2023 9:33 AM

**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Jessica,

I left you a voicemail this morning, could you please call me back as soon as possible on my cell phone at 3064209536. LLRIB would like to set up an engagement meeting to discuss this project and the impacts to land users in the area.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0



306-425-2183



306-425-2170

[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)



**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Cheyenna Hunt](#); ['jerry.bernard@erfn.net'](#); ['nvp.mike@sasktel.net'](#); ['wsmith@kineepik.ca'](#); ['bнатomagan@kineepik.ca'](#); ['glenmccallum@mns.work'](#); ['Brent Laroque'](#); ['Shannon Landrie-Crossland'](#); ['garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'](#); ['shea.shirley@yathinene.com'](#); ['kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); ['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@llrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#); ['gchristiansen@llrib.ca'](#); ['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#);

**Bcc:** [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); ['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@llrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#); ['gchristiansen@llrib.ca'](#); ['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#);

**Subject:** Reminder: Wheeler River Project Public and Indigenous Comment Period

**Sent:** 2023-01-18 7:34:00 PM

---

Hi Everyone,

Just sending a reminder that if you would like to provide comments on the Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement, they are due on **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Please feel free to share with anyone that would be interested in providing a submission during this comment period.

If you have any questions about the information in these emails, please don't hesitate to contact me at the information below.

Thanks,

**Jes Way**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission **complete**. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**  
**Environmental Assessment Officer**  
Email: [wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Cc:** [Lands and Resources office; Froess, Ryan; Nickolet, Sydney; Yen, Wish; Gorzkowski, Konrad;](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project - Follow Ups  
**Sent:** 2023-01-20 4:08:35 PM

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Hi Jessica,

Yes that time works for me, please send a calendar invite.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Lands & Resources  
PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0  
306-425-2183  
306-425-2170  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)



---

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** January 20, 2023 4:07 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@llrib.ca>

**Cc:** Lands and Resources office <lands@llrib.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project - Follow Ups

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Hi Ty,

No problem.

The afternoon of the 7<sup>th</sup> is an option. Would 1:30 SK time work for you?

Thanks,

Jes

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 5:03 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Lands and Resources office <[lands@llrib.ca](mailto:lands@llrib.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project - Follow Ups

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Hi Jessica,

Thank you for the information and the quick reply. Unfortunately I am unavailable on Feb 2, 2023 but I do have availability on Feb 6 or 7, 2023. Please let me know if either of these dates are suitable for you. In the meantime, we will review the documents you shared with the Traditional Lands & Resources Advisory Committee at our regularly scheduled meeting on Feb 14, 2023.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Lands & Resources  
PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0  
306-425-2183  
306-425-2170



**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** January 20, 2023 3:11 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@lirib.ca>

**Cc:** Lands and Resources office <lands@lirib.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Gorzkowski, Konrad <konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project - Follow Ups

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Hi Ty,

Thanks for the call yesterday afternoon. In follow up, I am sharing some documents related to the EA process. I'm also CC-ing other members of the CNSC team working on this project, from our Environmental Assessment Division (Wish Yen), Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division (Ryan Froess and Sydney Nickolet) and Licensing Division (Konrad Gorzkowski).

Here is a link to the project page on the Impact Assessment Registry, which has most of the project documents: [Wheeler River Project \(ceaa-acee.gc.ca\)](#). Documents to highlight are:

Document Number	Document Title	File	Date
22	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Executive Summary for the draft EIS - English Version</a>	<a href="#">PDF (10.5 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
20	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement</a>	<a href="#">PDF (140.2 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
21	<a href="#">Wheeler River Project: Draft EIS Roadmap</a>	<a href="#">PDF (686 KB)</a>	November 21, 2022
65	<a href="#">Combined Appendices for the Wheeler River Project Draft EIS</a>	<a href="#">PDF (240.5 MB)</a>	November 21, 2022
67	Wheeler River Project: EIS Executive Summary Poster - Dene Version (French Only)	<a href="#">PDF (845 KB)</a>	January 13, 2023
66	Wheeler River Project: EIS Executive Summary Poster - Cree Version (French Only)	<a href="#">PDF (945 KB)</a>	January 13, 2023

Document #20 is the draft Environmental Impact Statement, for which the public comment period is currently under way (Comments are due **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**). Documents #22, 66 and 67 all contain condensed versions of the EIS document, which provide summarized overviews of the project. I would note, I'm having an issue with the last two entries and neither of these are posted in French, so ignore the notes on that.

In terms of meeting, would some time on **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** between **1 and 4pm** SK work for you to meet virtually, through MS Teams? We could start with an hour. If easier, let me know and we can get on the phone to find a time.

I have reached out to the province of SK and our points of contact at Denison to share what we discussed. Denison has said they will provide a shape file for the project, so that is to come. I suspect you will hear from Denison as well, but wanted to share their contact information so that you have it:

**Carolanne Inglis-McQuay**

Director, Corporate Social Responsibility

e: [cingleismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cingleismcquay@denisonmines.com)

t: 306-652-8200 x 131 | f: 306-652-8202

345 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

Saskatoon, SK, Canada, S7K 1N3

[www.denisonmines.com](http://www.denisonmines.com)

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of this. Looking forward to talking soon.

Thanks,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@lirib.ca>

Hello Jessica,

I left you a voicemail this morning, could you please call me back as soon as possible on my cell phone at 3064209536. LLRIB would like to set up an engagement meeting to discuss this project and the impacts to land users in the area.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0



306-425-2183



306-425-2170

[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2023-02-09 6:01:00 PM

---

Hi Ty,

Thank you for your submission of Lac La Ronge Indian Band's comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Denison's proposed Wheeler River project. These will soon be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) for the project.

I will add you to our project distribution list for the project, but if you are also interested in keeping up to date with all CNSC news and updates such as upcoming public outreach sessions, public comment periods on documents (including EA documents for all projects), CNSC hearings and meetings, etc., you are welcome to subscribe to our public mailing list here:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <ty.roberts@lirib.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 9, 2023 4:37 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Comments for Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Hi Jes,

Please see attached.

Thanks,

**Ty Roberts, B.S.A., PAg.**

**Reserve Lands Manager**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 • La Ronge, SK • S0J 1L0



306-425-2183



306-425-2170

[ty.roberts@lrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@lrib.ca)



**From:** [Yen, Wish](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Ty Roberts](#);  
**Subject:** 2023-02-09 LLRIB and CNSC Wheeler Project update meeting minutes  
**Sent:** 2023-02-13 5:00:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Ty,

Please find the meeting minutes for our meeting last Thursday below for your consideration.

Thank you,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Agente en évaluation environnementale

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Wheeler Project Update

February 9, 2023 2-2:30PM CST

Attendees: Ty Roberts, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet, Jes Way, Wish Yen

**Welcome**

- Introductions
- Wheeler River Project Update Presentation (attached)

**LLRIB Engagement**

- A quick review of the land user map shows that approximately 10 land users are identified within this area who are actively hunting, trapping and fishing with confirmed 8 registered trappers
- LLRIB has capacity to participate and will be providing comments with the following key messages:
  - Members of the LLRIB may be impacted through hunting, trapping and fishing and potentially impacted through cultural and spiritual rights
  - Ty has also reached out to leadership to request additional specific comments and concerns. There is a Traditional Lands and Resource Committee meeting taking place next week and Ty will raise the Denison project to them then and reach out to CNSC if any specific concerns or comments are raised at that time.
  - LLRIB is not anti-industry, the current request is for additional information, inclusion in the project and to make sure that the traditional rights of LLRIB members are being respected and that members are informed/involved in the project.
- Currently in an election cycle for Chief and council, which will impact decision making in March and April
  - New environmental coordinator to start towards the end of February

**Denison-LLRIB engagement**

- Denison has not reached out to LLRIB to engage on this project in quite some time – Ty believes Denison should be reaching out to LLRIB

- LLRIB wants to be sitting at the table with Denison to learn more about the project, determine if Treaty rights are potentially impacted
- Active engagement on the project should also include economic opportunities through the business arm of the LLRIB

#### **Wheeler River EIS**

- Section 4 has information on engagement that Denison has completed
- Section 3 and 11 have information on traditional land use that Denison has received and how it is incorporated throughout the EIS

#### **Action Items**

- CNSC will reach out to Denison to inform them of LLRIB's interest in the Wheeler River project
- Ty will be submitting LLRIB comments on the draft Wheeler River EIS to the CNSC, possibly with additional comments from leadership

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

**Sent:** February 7, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Nickolet, Sydney; Yen, Wish; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Ty Roberts

**Subject:** CNSC-LLRIB Meeting - Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment - Updated date/time

**When:** February 9, 2023 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agenda:

- Updates on EA process
- Next steps in the process, and meeting/communicating with LLRIB going forward

Thanks,  
Jes

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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---

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
['cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com'](#); ['jerry.bernard@erfn.net'](#);  
['nvp.mike@sasktel.net'](#); ['wsmith@kineepik.ca'](#); ['bnatomagan@kineepik.ca'](#);  
['glenmccallum@mns.work'](#); ['blaroque@mns.work'](#); ['Shannon Landrie-Crossland'](#); ['rsmith@mns.work'](#); ['sfladager@mns.work'](#);  
['aspriggs@mns.work'](#); ['mbrunet@mns.work'](#);  
['garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'](#); ['shea.shirley@yathinene.com'](#);  
['dana.kellett@yathinene.com'](#); ['bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com'](#);  
['kevin.mercredi@outlook.com'](#); ['b-tsannie@hotmail.com'](#);  
['csayazie@hotmail.com'](#); ['d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net'](#);  
['d.classen@sasktel.net'](#); ['claire\\_larock@hotmail.com'](#);

**Bcc:** ['chief1@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca'](#);  
['trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca'](#); ['douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca'](#);  
['norma.catarat@brdn.ca'](#); ['receptionist@mltc.net'](#); ['karenbird@pbcn.ca'](#);  
['tmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['bmerasty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['patti@mccunn-miller.com'](#);  
['cbeatty@pbcn.ca'](#); ['tcooksearson@lrib.ca'](#); ['ty.roberts@lrib.ca'](#);  
['ashley.carlson@lrib.ca'](#); ['gchristiansen@lrib.ca'](#); ['jtsanniejr@pagc.net'](#);  
['rmcleod@pagc.net'](#); ['mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com'](#); Heidi Klein; Janna Switzer; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay; Manickum, Katherine; Khanan, Rabya; ['Steven Coupland'](#); [Way, Jessica](#);

**Subject:** Wheeler River Project Bulletin - April 2023

**Sent:** 2023-04-26 1:55:00 PM

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To all participants of the Wheeler River regulatory review process,

CNSC staff will be providing regular updates to all those who have participated and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project, in the form of project bulletins.

This first bulletin (dated April 2023) is attached to this email and provides a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", in both English and French.

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>

If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,



The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject/iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](mailto:jerry.bernard@erfn.net);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](mailto:wsmith@kineepik.ca); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:bnatomagan@kineepik.ca);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work); [blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [rsmith@mns.work](mailto:rsmith@mns.work); [sfladager@mns.work](mailto:sfladager@mns.work); [aspriggs@mns.work](mailto:aspriggs@mns.work);  
[mbrunet@mns.work](mailto:mbrunet@mns.work); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com);  
[shea.shirley@yathinene.com](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com);  
[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](mailto:kevin.mercredi@outlook.com); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](mailto:b-tsannie@hotmail.com); [csayazie@hotmail.com](mailto:csayazie@hotmail.com); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](mailto:d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net);  
[d.classen@sasktel.net](mailto:d.classen@sasktel.net); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_larock@hotmail.com);

**Bcc:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca);  
[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca);  
[norma.catarat@brdn.ca](mailto:norma.catarat@brdn.ca); [receptionist@mltc.net](mailto:receptionist@mltc.net); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca);  
[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com);  
[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca);  
[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net);  
[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](mailto:mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com); [Heidi Klein](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Steven Coupland](#); [Sorouche Mirmiran](#);

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Public and Indigenous Comment Tables Posted

**Sent:** 2023-06-27 8:27:00 PM

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Good evening everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment process.

As you may be aware, the 90-day [public and Indigenous comment period](#) for the proposed Wheeler River draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) took place from November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff have now reviewed [all comments received](#), and these been detailed in public comment tables. These can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at the following links:

- [Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement - For Denison Response](#)
- [Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement - For CNSC Response](#)

It is expected that Denison, CNSC staff and any other parties provide responses to these comments by the time a final EIS is submitted. These will be posted to the registry at a later date, along with

the Final EIS.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#);  
[wsmith@kineepik.ca](#); [bнатомagan@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#);  
[blarogue@mns.work](#); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#);  
[sfladager@mns.work](#); [aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
**Bcc:** [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#);  
[gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#);  
[mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#); [Heidi Klein](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Steven Coupland](#); [Sorouche Mirmiran](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Yen. Wish](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Additional August 2023 Completeness Check and Next Phase of EIS Technical Review  
**Sent:** 2023-08-31 5:48:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide another update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) Process.

On August 18, 2023, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted responses to information requests (IRs) for the proposed Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are sufficient to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [August 28, 2023 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The 90-day technical review has since begun, and will conclude by November 27, 2023. The focus of this review will be the following documents, all posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(August 18, 2023\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)

- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Yen, Wish](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Takala, Torin](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#);  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](#); [bнатomagan@kineepik.ca](#);  
[georges@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blarogue@mns.work](#);  
[slandriecrossland@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#);  
[aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#);  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#);  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#);  
[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#);  
[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#);  
[mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** Full Public and Indigenous Distro List

**Sent:** 2023-12-08 2:04:00 PM

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To all participants of the Wheeler River regulatory review process,

CNSC staff will be providing regular updates to all those who have participated and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project, in the form of project bulletins.

Please find the Winter Project Bulletin (dated December 2023) attached to this email which will provide a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", in both English and French.

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>.

If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aEIC.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject/iaac-aEIC.gc.ca).

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](mailto:cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com); [jerry.bernard@erfn.net](mailto:jerry.bernard@erfn.net);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](mailto:nvp.mike@sasktel.net); [wsmith@kineepik.ca](mailto:wsmith@kineepik.ca); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](mailto:bnatomagan@kineepik.ca);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](mailto:glenmccallum@mns.work); [blaroque@mns.work](mailto:blaroque@mns.work); [Shannon Landrie-Crossland](#); [rsmith@mns.work](mailto:rsmith@mns.work); [sfladager@mns.work](mailto:sfladager@mns.work); [aspriggs@mns.work](mailto:aspriggs@mns.work);  
[mbrunet@mns.work](mailto:mbrunet@mns.work); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](mailto:garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com);  
[shea.shirley@yathinene.com](mailto:shea.shirley@yathinene.com); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](mailto:dana.kellett@yathinene.com);  
[bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](mailto:bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](mailto:kevin.mercredi@outlook.com); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](mailto:b-tsannie@hotmail.com); [csayazie@hotmail.com](mailto:csayazie@hotmail.com); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](mailto:d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net);  
[d.classen@sasktel.net](mailto:d.classen@sasktel.net); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](mailto:claire_larock@hotmail.com);

**Bcc:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca);  
[trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca);  
[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca);  
[norma.catarat@brdn.ca](mailto:norma.catarat@brdn.ca); [receptionist@mltc.net](mailto:receptionist@mltc.net); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca);  
[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com);  
[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca);  
[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net);  
[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](mailto:mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com); [Heidi Klein](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Steven Coupland](#); [Sorouche Mirmiran](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Yen](#), [Wish](#), [Way](#), [Jessica](#);

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Revised EIS and Submission Package - February 2024

**Sent:** 2024-02-23 5:27:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

On February 10, 2024, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a revised draft EIS package for the proposed Wheeler River Project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding information requests (IRs) have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [February 21, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) will run from February 21, 2024 to May 20, 2024. Subject Matter experts will review the responses to IRs provided by Denison, which includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(February 21, 2024\)](#).
- [Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(February 21, 2024\)](#)



- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
[cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#);  
[nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](#);  
[glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blaroque@mns.work](#);  
[slandriecrossland@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#);  
[aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#);  
[garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#);  
[dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#);  
[kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#);  
[csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#);  
[claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#);  
[conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#);

**Bcc:** [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#);  
[receptionist@mltc.net](#); [karenbird@pbcn.ca](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#);  
[skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](#);  
[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](#);  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [mellissa.winfield-lesk@hatch.com](#);  
[hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#);  
[cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#);  
[mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Dennis Sherratt](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
[jessielacosta2017@gmail.com](#); [Damien Georges](#); [Gorzowski](#), [Konrad](#);  
[Kwamena](#), [Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Takala, Torin](#); [Paul James](#);  
[alfreddawatsare@erfn.net](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);

**Subject:** Wheeler River Update - Summer 2024

**Sent:** 2024-08-23 6:17:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

You are receiving this email because you have participated in and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Please see that attached project bulletin for summer 2024, which provides a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", as well as the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for this project](#).

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get->

[involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm](#)

If you would prefer not to receive updates like this in the future, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject/iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** [Faille, Sylvain](#); [Babcock, Neil](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Frigault, Nicole](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Dereniowski, Jeff ENV](#); [Piper, Candace ENV](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca);  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Field Test - Renewal Notification Letter to LLRIB  
**Sent:** 2024-12-07 4:55:00 PM

---

Dear Chief Cook-Searson,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application for renewal from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



December 7, 2024

e-Doc: 7421358

Chief Tammy Cook-Searson  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
tcooksearson@lrib.ca

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices  
Licence Renewal Application**

Dear Chief Cook-Searson:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to renew Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence No. 60677-1-24.0, issued for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage of natural uranium collected during the Feasibility Field Test. The recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground while Denison pursues a licence to continue operations at the Wheeler River site.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012), led by CNSC staff, has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project,. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC, as necessary.

**Feasibility Field Test**

The feasibility field test has concluded and the recovered mineralized material containing natural uranium is currently in above ground storage tanks at the Wheeler River site. The material remains the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

Denison's current request to renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence is to permit the mineralized solution to remain at the site and perform sampling of the material for further analysis. There is no change to the design or construction of storage tanks and protective barriers at the site. Likewise, there is no change to the CNSC regulatory requirements imposed through this licence.

The licence is proposed to have a term of two years, expiring December 31, 2026. Denison would be required to either renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, transfer the material to another CNSC licence, or remove the material from the Wheeler River site prior to expiry of this licence.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a renewed licence be granted to Denison.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence renewal application for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

If you haven't already, you may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nicole Frigault

A/Director, Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: G. Christiansen, LLRIB  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, N. Kwamena, J. Way, R.  
Noakes, A. Levine, R. Froess, CNSC  
J. Dereniowski, C. Piper, SEASB

**From:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#) on behalf of [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**To:** [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#)

**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [alfred.dawatsare@erfn.net](#); [cheyenna.hunt@desnedhe.com](#); [jenny.wolverine@erfn.net](#); [nvp.mike@sasktel.net](#); [bnatomagan@kineepik.ca](#); [glenmccallum@mns.work](#); [blaroque@mns.work](#); [rsmith@mns.work](#); [sfladager@mns.work](#); [aspriggs@mns.work](#); [mbrunet@mns.work](#); [garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com](#); [shea.shirley@yathinene.com](#); [dana.kellett@yathinene.com](#); [bruce.hanbidge@yathinene.com](#); [kevin.mercredi@outlook.com](#); [b-tsannie@hotmail.com](#); [csayazie@hotmail.com](#); [d.powder.nhsr@sasktel.net](#); [d.classen@sasktel.net](#); [claire\\_larock@hotmail.com](#); [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#); [andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca](#); [robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](#); [conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca](#); [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#); [douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca](#); [norma.catarat@brdn.ca](#); [receptionist@mltc.net](#); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [patti@mccunn-miller.com](#); [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](#); [skmerasty@pbcn.ca](#); [cagnew@lgl.com](#); [tcooksearson@lrib.ca](#); [ty.roberts@lrib.ca](#); [ashley.carlson@lrib.ca](#); [gchristiansen@lrib.ca](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [hklein@twoworldsconsulting.com](#); [jswitzer@denisonmines.com](#); [cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](#); [scoupland.sgcresearch@gmail.com](#); [mirmirans@cna.ca](#); [Bruce Hanbidge](#); [Dennis Sherratt](#); [jessielacosta2017@gmail.com](#); [Damien Georges](#); [Gorzkowski](#); [Konrad](#); [Kwamena](#); [Nana-Owusua](#); [Burton](#); [Patrick](#); [Takala](#); [Torin](#); [Paul James](#); [Noakes](#); [Rain](#); [McKeown](#); [Justin](#); [Nickolet](#); [Sydney](#); [Chani Campbell](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Brienne England](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Margaret Rosling](#); [alfred.dawatsare@erfn.net](#); [Brienne England](#); [Kwamena](#); [Nana-Owusua](#); [Frigault](#); [Nicole](#);

**Bcc:**

**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River December 2024 EA Update - Accepted Final EIS

**Sent:** 2024-12-24 12:28:00 PM

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Hi Everyone,

In our last update, we noted the completion of the technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS). This update had also indicated that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> Denison submitted a final EIS package.

Following a 30 day review, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has accepted the final EIS. This acceptance follows a comprehensive EIS technical review process by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT), including consultations with Indigenous Nations and communities



and members of the public. CNSC staff will now proceed with the preparation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, which will be made available, along with a Commission Member Document, for review by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public prior to a public Commission hearing.

The following documents have now been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR) for this project:

- [Letter: CNSC to Denison - Wheeler Project - Acceptance of the Final EIS and Supporting Documents](#)
- [Final environmental Impact Statement](#)
- [Combined Final EIS Appendices](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 5 - Wheeler River Final EIS Submission](#)

With these conclusions, along with the sufficient licence application, CNSC staff will notify CNSC Commission Registrar of this acceptance, who will proceed with scheduling public hearing dates. Further details regarding how to participate will be provided once the Commission Secretariat has announced the hearing dates. In early January, notifications will be sent to Indigenous Nations and communities with detailed next steps in the consultation process.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Duhaime, Brenda](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [Zenobj, Adam](#); [Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca); [ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca);  
**Subject:** Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [2025-01-20-Letter-CNSC\\_to\\_LLRIb\\_-\\_Next\\_steps\\_of\\_the\\_Regulatory\\_Process-Wheeler\\_River\\_EA.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-01-22 6:07:22 PM

---

Dear Chief Cook-Searson,  
I am sending the attached letter on behalf of the CNSC, outlining proposed next steps of the CNSC's consultation process with Lac La Ronge Indian Band for the Wheeler River regulatory review process. We look forward to hearing back from you and setting up a meeting to discuss further.  
Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



**January 22, 2025**

CIAR NO.: 80178

e-Doc: 7448072

Chief Cook-Searson  
Lac La Ronge Indian Band  
Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
tcooksearson@llrib.ca

**Subject: Proposed Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with Lac La Ronge Indian Band for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Cook-Searson:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update and share a proposed consultation and engagement approach with Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) on the regulatory review process for Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project).

**Current Status of the Process of the federal Environmental Assessment**

On December 24, 2024, the federal review of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded, and the Final EIS was accepted by CNSC staff as it meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). As you will have learned from the CNSC's December 24<sup>th</sup> email to the public distribution list, the documents can be found on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry \(the Registry\)](#).

CNSC staff have reviewed the responses Denison provided to comments that were received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS in 2023, and these are now [available on the Registry](#). CNSC staff have also drafted responses comments that were applicable to the CNSC's oversight and responsibilities and look forward to further discussing these in the immediate future. The responses can also be [found on the Registry](#).

**Proposed Next Steps of Consultation**

Building on the ongoing consultation and engagement that started in 2022 between LLRIB and CNSC in relation to this Project, CNSC staff have provided the consultation approach as outlined in Appendix 1. Table 1 of this letter details the suggested consultation activities for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Project.

The CNSC staff will be preparing the following reports and documents to support staff's recommendations to the Commission:

- **An EA Report** which provides information and analysis to assist the Commission in its determination on whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
- **A Consultation Report** which will include details on consultation and engagement activities and perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on Indigenous Nations' rights and interests.
- **A Commission Member Document (CMD)** which presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.

CNSC staff are interested in ensuring that LLRIB's perspectives, issues and concerns, and other topics of interest to LLRIB are properly reflected in CNSC staff's reports and recommendations. This would involve CNSC staff developing the content as a first step based on information that LLRIB has submitted and provided to date to the CNSC and Denison and then providing the draft content for review and comment. CNSC staff will be providing detailed timelines on the remainder of the regulatory process once a Commission hearing date has been identified by the Commission Registry.

The activities outlined in the proposed consultation approach are flexible, and CNSC staff would like to discuss these remaining steps of the regulatory review process. Some potential topics for discussion would include:

- review of the CNSC's assessment of the Project specifically related to LLRIB information on community member perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on the LLRIB rights and interests
- discussions with the CNSC and Denison, as appropriate, regarding potential commitments, mitigations and accommodations to address potential environmental effects
- awarding funding through the CNSC's PFP to support the review of CNSC staff's Reports and consultation and engagement with the CNSC participation in the CNSC's Commission hearing process through interventions, as determined by LLRIB discussions with the CNSC on conclusions and recommendations related to topics of concern and interest to LLRIB

CNSC staff are committed to continued collaboration with LLRIB to ensure that consultation for the Project is meaningful, addresses LLRIB's concerns, and upholds the Honour of the Crown. To discuss any matters related to the regulatory review process of the Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Please review the proposed consultation process for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Wheeler River Project (Appendix 1) and **provide any feedback by February 17, 2025.**

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a long-term relationship with LLRIB and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Yours sincerely,



Nana Kwamena  
Director  
Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



Justin McKeown  
A/ Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c. : CNSC: A. Levine, P. Burton, J. Way, R. Froess, B. Duhaime, K. Gorzkowski, R. Noakes, A. Zenobi  
LLRIB: T. Roberts, G. Christiansen

Enclosure: (1) Proposed consultation process with Lac La Ronge Indian Band for the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project

#### References:

- [1] CNSC, Regulatory Guide, *REGDOC- 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement*, Version 1.2, February 2022, <https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/published/html/regdoc3-2-2-v1-2/>
- [2] CNSC, *Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement*, May 2016, <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>

## Appendix 1

### Proposed Consultation Process with Lac La Ronge Indian Band for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process of the Wheeler River Project

#### 1. Introduction

These proposed next steps in the consultation process, which started in 2022, are intended to guide federal Crown (led by CNSC) consultation activities with Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project (the Project). They communicate CNSC's objectives for consultation, the proposed structure for integrating consultation into the regulatory review process, and the proposed activities in which the CNSC and LLRIB can work together to address LLRIB's concerns regarding the Project.

#### 2. Federal Crown's Consultation Objectives

- To continue the establishment of a positive and productive working relationship with LLRIB during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process.
- To communicate with LLRIB about the Project and developments during the regulatory review process in a timely manner.
- To work with LLRIB to:
  1. identify any potential environmental effects of the Project, including those on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, health and socio-economic conditions, and heritage resources
  2. identify adverse impacts of the Project on your community's potential or established rights
  3. ensure options for avoiding, mitigating, or accommodating adverse impacts are considered
- To work with LLRIB and the proponent to respond to specific questions and requests regarding issues raised related to the Project.
- To listen to and understand the concerns raised, and consider the feedback, perspectives, and issues raised by LLRIB.

#### 3. Integrating Consultation into the Regulatory Review Process

Table 1 provides a description of the main remaining steps in the regulatory review process and a description of how the CNSC proposes to integrate consultation activities into those steps. This table describes what LLRIB should receive, have access to, or expect from the CNSC, on behalf of the federal Crown, and what LLRIB could share and provide to the regulatory review process.

**Table 1: Integrating Consultation into the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What LLRIB should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information LLRIB may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways LLRIB may want to participate</b>
Project Description Review and Scoping Decision  <i>(Completed in 2019-20)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for LLRIB to provide comments on the Project Description – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNSC notification to LLRIB of the project and project description review process - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>PFP offering - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>Early information sharing and offers of consultation meetings – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide comments on the project description - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Review  <i>(Initiated 2022 – complete as of December 24, 2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for LLRIB to provide comments on draft EIS – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>Denison to revise documentation to address comments and concerns raised by LLRIB. - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>Denison expected to discuss with LLRIB how their comments and concerns have been addressed. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity to participate in technical discussions with CNSC staff regarding LLRIB's outstanding comments and concerns, as well as other discussions as necessary (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with LLRIB). - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>Opportunity for direct and continued discussions between LLRIB and the CNSC. – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide LLRIB's views on the accuracy of Denison's information about issues LLRIB have raised and on any proposed ways of addressing those impacts. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a template developed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) (CEAA references the BC First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group Toolkit Workshop as a basis for this document).

<sup>2</sup> Any updates to dates related to the regulatory review process will be communicated to LLRIB.

<sup>3</sup> Denison's activities during this step of the regulatory review process are not specifically steps of the regulatory review process, but these are expectations of Denison, by CNSC staff.

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What LLRIB should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information LLRIB may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways LLRIB may want to participate</b>
<p>Development of draft Consultation Report</p> <p><i>(Current phase – 2025)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Consultation Report includes a summary of consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, potential impacts to potential or established rights of select Indigenous Nations and communities, views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and the CNSC's response to those concerns, and potential mitigation and/or accommodation measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for direct discussions between LLRIB and the CNSC to accurately reflect issues and concerns to LLRIB (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with LLRIB).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide comment on sections of the draft Consultation Report specific to LLRIB.</li> </ul>



<p>EA Report, Consultation Report and Licensing CMD Review</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Commission Public Hearings</p> <p><i>(Hearing date 2025 –2026 TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA Report presents the CNSC staff's views on the findings of the EA, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the adverse environmental effects that are likely to result from the project, appropriate measures that would mitigate those effects, the significance of residual effects after implementation of the mitigation measures, as well as the components of the follow-up and monitoring program.</li> <li>• CNSC staff will submit and make publicly available, for review, the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD in advance of public hearings (timing to be determined by CNSC Registry).</li> <li>• The licensing CMD presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.</li> <li>• The Commission will hold public hearings with opportunities for public and Indigenous Nations and communities to submit oral and/or written interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to review the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD to inform oral and/or written intervention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present LLRIB's views to the Commission by providing information orally and/or in writing.</li> <li>• It is recommended that any diverging views with CNSC staff's analysis and findings in CNSC's reports be captured in LLRIB's written and/or oral intervention to the Commission, if required.</li> </ul>
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Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What LLRIB should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information LLRIB may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways LLRIB may want to participate
<p>Commission's EA and Licensing Decisions</p> <p><i>(Future phase 2025-2026 – Hearing date TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission considers the EA Report, Consultation Report and CMD and interventions from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities and determines whether, taking into account the mitigation measures, conditions, accommodations and commitments proposed, the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and if the duty to consult was met.</li> <li>Should the Commission issue an EA decision statement allowing the Project to proceed, the Commission will also include legally binding conditions with which Denison must comply to implement appropriate mitigation measures and a follow-up and monitoring program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification and sharing of the Commission's Detailed Record of Decisions (EA and licensing).</li> <li>Meetings with LLRIB and the community to discuss the Commission's decision and next steps for ongoing engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback on preferred approach to ongoing engagement, and information sharing.</li> </ul>

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project  
**Sent:** 2025-04-03 9:33:32 AM

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Hi Ashley,

Ryan forwarded along your email – apologies that you didn't get a response, it looks like my email was spelt incorrectly and I never received these!

Today I am free at 11:30 or 12:30, or after 2pm SK time. Let me know if one of these times work and I can set up a teams meeting, or you can just try me at my mobile: 343-540-6213

Thanks,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>  
**Sent:** April 3, 2025 9:18 AM  
**To:** [Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca); Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good morning,

I am just following up on my last email, and want to ensure that this has been received,

Thank you,

**Ashley Carlson, B.S.A**

**Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 La Ronge, SK, S0J 1L0

306-420-6078

[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Ashley Carlson

**Sent:** March 25, 2025 11:28 AM

**To:** [Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project

Hello,

I am just following up on my last email, and wanted to inform you that Lac La Ronge Indian Band intends to participate in the Denison public hearing through intervention by way of oral presentation (in-person) and written submission. We are currently working on our application for participant funding.

Please let me know if you have any upcoming availability for a brief meeting,

Thank you,

**Ashley Carlson, B.S.A**

**Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 La Ronge, SK, S0J 1L0

306-420-6078

[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Ashley Carlson

**Sent:** March 17, 2025 11:45 AM

**To:** [Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project

Hi Jessica,

My name is Ashley Carlson. I am the Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator for Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB). I intend to provide comment on the regulatory review process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project.

Are you able to meet to discuss the remaining steps in the Regulatory Review Process,

Warm regards,

**Ashley Carlson, B.S.A**

**Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 La Ronge, SK, S0J 1L0

306-420-6078

[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Sent:** January 23, 2025 7:14 AM

**To:** Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** Tammy Cook-Searson <[tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)>; Gladys Christiansen <[gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** Fwd: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB - Proposed Wheeler River Project

Morning Ashley,

Can you please respond to CNSC, I'm hoping we can discuss this file at the TLRAC meeting on the 4th as well.

Thanks,

Ty Roberts

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Way, Jessica" <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Date:** January 22, 2025 at 6:07:11 PM CST

**To:** Tammy Cook-Searson <[tcooksearson@llrib.ca](mailto:tcooksearson@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** "Levine, Adam" <[Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Burton, Patrick" <[Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Patrick.Burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Way, Jessica" <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Froess, Ryan" <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Duhaime, Brenda" <[brenda.duhaime@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:brenda.duhaime@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Gorzkowski, Konrad" <[konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:konrad.gorzkowski@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Noakes, Rain" <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Zenobi, Adam" <[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "McKeown, Justin" <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, "Kwamena, Nana-Owusua" <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>, Gladys Christiansen <[gchristiansen@llrib.ca](mailto:gchristiansen@llrib.ca)>, Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Subject: Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with LLRIB -  
Proposed Wheeler River Project**

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Dear Chief Cook-Searson,

I am sending the attached letter on behalf of the CNSC, outlining proposed next steps of the CNSC's consultation process with Lac La Ronge Indian Band for the Wheeler River regulatory review process.

We look forward to hearing back from you and setting up a meeting to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

The discussion centered on the ongoing engagement between the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Denison Mines regarding the Wheeler River project, highlighting significant concerns about the project's impact on traditional territory and environmental safety. Ty Roberts articulated frustrations over Denison's dismissive approach to the Band's concerns, emphasizing the need for meaningful collaboration rather than financial contributions. He called for more thorough environmental assessments, particularly regarding the risks to woodland caribou and potential water contamination affecting the Churchill River. The Band expressed a desire for greater involvement in decision-making processes and the necessity of funding for studies to validate their claims... [View more](#)

## **Chapters & Topics**

### **Copy**

0:05

#### Concerns Regarding Denison Mines and the Wheeler River Project

Ty Roberts articulated the Lac La Ronge Indian Band's frustrations with Denison Mines, emphasizing that their operations are within the band's traditional territory and that their concerns have not been adequately addressed. He noted the outdated land use plan and the perception of being gaslit by Denison representatives. The band seeks to engage more meaningfully in discussions and ensure their interests are represented in the environmental impact assessments.

- Concerns regarding the environmental impact of the Wheeler River project on traditional territory.
- The potential for future collaboration and meetings to address concerns raised by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.
- The need for updated land use plans and proper consultation with the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.
- The relationship and communication issues between the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Denison.

8:48

#### Discussion on Environmental Concerns and Consultation Process

Jessica Way initiated a discussion about the environmental concerns surrounding the Wheeler River Project, noting the lack of detailed information from previous submissions. She suggested that the CNSC could facilitate discussions to address these concerns, particularly regarding the impact on local ecosystems. Sydney Boser agreed and mentioned the importance of understanding these concerns better, as well as the next steps in the consultation process.

12:27

#### Concerns Regarding Denison Mines' Wheeler River Project Engagement

Ty Roberts highlighted the inadequate engagement from Denison Mines, noting that they have only had a couple of meetings over two years, with Denison dismissing their concerns about land and water impacts. He stressed that their focus is not on monetary compensation but on securing environmental protections and reporting requirements to safeguard their traditional territory.

19:38

#### Engagement Concerns Regarding Denison Mines' Wheeler River Project

Ashley Carlson criticized the environmental assessment documentation for being vague and not accurately representing their traditional territory or the commitments made by Denison Mines. Ty Roberts added that despite having multimillion-dollar agreements, they have not been asked about their satisfaction with the engagement process, which he described as strange and hostile. Both emphasized the need for clearer communication and follow-up meetings to address their concerns.

25:10

#### Concerns Regarding Environmental Impacts of the Wheeler River Project

Ty Roberts expressed worries about the environmental impacts of the Wheeler River Project, focusing on woodland caribou and water safety. He noted that while Saskatchewan does not recognize caribou as a species at risk, the federal government does, which raises concerns about their protection. Additionally, he stressed the importance of understanding the potential consequences of water releases on the connected Churchill River and its land users.

28:14

#### Tripartite Meeting Discussion with Denison Mines

Jessica Way suggested that a tripartite meeting with Denison Mines could help address the group's concerns. Ty Roberts highlighted the challenges posed by Denison's belief that their project would not affect anyone outside their immediate area, indicating that this mindset must change for progress to occur. Both Jessica and Ty agreed to follow up on scheduling future discussions.

[View less](#)

#### **Action Items**

##### **Copy**

30:17

Sydney Boser and Jessica Way will organize a follow-up meeting with Ty Roberts and Ashley Carlson to discuss the concerns raised about the Wheeler River project in more detail. Ask Copilot

30:57

Ty Roberts will present the concerns regarding the Wheeler River project to the Lac La Ronge Indian Band committees and follow up with a meeting to discuss further. Ask Copilot

#### **Key Questions**



## **Copy**

24:14

What specific concerns does the Lac La Ronge Indian Band have regarding the Wheeler River project? Ask Copilot

Proposed answer: The main concerns include impacts on woodland caribou and potential water contamination from the project.

26:36

What specific data is needed from Denison to address the concerns of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band? Ask Copilot

Proposed answer: Denison has not provided sufficient data regarding the impacts on woodland caribou and water sources.

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-05-07 5:25:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Ty,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.5 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with LLRIB related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on LLRIB, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by LLRIB related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without LLRIB's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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and Homeland of the Métis*

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Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [Ashley Carlson](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [LLRIB Consultation Report Section 4.5 - For Review.docx](#); [LLRIB\\_EA\\_Content\\_For\\_Review.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-05-26 3:18:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Ty,

I am following up on LLRIB's review of the Consultation and EA Report content for the Wheeler River Project for accuracy as the deadline of May 23<sup>rd</sup> has now passed and we haven't received any input from LLRIB. We can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without LLRIB's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 7, 2025 3:25 PM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Ty,

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We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without LLRIB's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Ashley Carlson](#); [Ty Roberts](#);  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [LLRIB Consultation Report Section 4.5 - Final June 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-05 3:45:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Ashley,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, for the EA report all edits were accepted. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information, where possible. CNSC is committed to working with LLRIB on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage LLRIB to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 5:49 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

---

Hello,

Please see the attached files with comments from LLRIB.

Thank you,

**Ashley Carlson, B.S.A**

**Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 La Ronge, SK, S0J 1L0

306-420-6078

[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** May 26, 2025 3:19 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;

McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Good afternoon Ty,

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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 7, 2025 3:25 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** [ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca); Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin

<[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & LLRIB Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Ty Roberts](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Ashley Carlson](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [LLRIB Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.5 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-17 3:32:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Ty,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:38 PM  
**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Ty,

Please see attached the LLRIB's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that LLRIB has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without LLRIB's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Ashley Carlson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 2:39:00 PM

---

Hi Ashley,

No I didn't receive an email from you on this but thank you for confirming.

Cheers,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Ashley Carlson <ashley.carlson@llrib.ca>  
**Sent:** July 30, 2025 1:26 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Hi Sydney,

I have been having some issuers with my new laptop here, I am not sure if my last email went through as I did not receive a response but we saw no issues with this file.

Thank you,

**Ashley Carlson, B.S.A**

**Traditional Lands and Resources Coordinator**

Lac La Ronge Indian Band

Lands & Resources

PO Box 480 La Ronge, SK, S0J 1L0

306-420-6078

[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** July 17, 2025 3:32 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

[EXTERNAL EMAIL: Be suspicious of content, links, and attachments.]

Good afternoon Ty,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:38 PM

**To:** Ty Roberts <[ty.roberts@llrib.ca](mailto:ty.roberts@llrib.ca)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ashley Carlson <[ashley.carlson@llrib.ca](mailto:ashley.carlson@llrib.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & LLRIB - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Ty,

Please see attached the LLRIB's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that LLRIB has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without LLRIB's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## **B.7 Key Correspondence with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation**



June 17, 2022

e-Doc: 6814098

Chief Karen Bird  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
[karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca)

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application**

Dear Chief Karen Bird:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage and use of natural uranium in laboratory studies, for a 60 day feasibility field test that Denison are planning to conduct in August 2022. Following completion of the test, the recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project, led by CNSC staff. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC as necessary.

It is important to note that the proposed feasibility field test is not within the scope of the CEAA 2012 EA, as this is a distinct project. The field test could therefore proceed prior to an EA decision.

**Feasibility Field Test**

Through the feasibility field test, Denison intends to validate previous testing and determine the feasibility of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This test requires no new clearing of land or new drilling, only the construction of limited temporary surface facilities.

During the planned test, mineralized material will be removed from the ground through a process that includes injecting a solution into test wells, separating liquids from solids, and collecting the resulting materials for further analysis. These materials are expected to contain elevated levels



natural uranium, and samples will be analysed for general chemistry at the on-site chemical laboratory and later transported to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for further analysis. Once all analysis is complete, materials will be placed in above ground storage tanks, and will remain the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

In March 2022 an application was also submitted to the SMOE, as Denison requires a permit to construct and operate a pollutant control facility prior to conducting the proposed feasibility field test. This permit is required under Saskatchewan's *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations, 1996*, and the application remains under provincial review.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licences have a service standard of 80 business days for a DO decision, from the date a complete application has been received. DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

**As an Indigenous Nation and/or community with a potential interest in Denison's licence application, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views or receiving any additional information you may have with respect to Denison's application to the CNSC for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence, for this proposed project.**

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a licence be granted to Denison for the proposed field test.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence application or the ongoing EA for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

If you wish to receive e-mail notifications related to the EA process and other updates on this licensing process, please let us know and we can add you to the project distribution list.

You may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nana Kwamena

Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: B. Merasty, T. Merasty  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, S. Akhter, J. Way, W. Yen, A. Levine, R.  
Froess, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** August 5, 2022 11:30 AM  
**To:** karenbird@pbcn.ca  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Akhter, Salman; Yen, Wish; Levine, Adam; Froess, Ryan; Aimann Sadik; England, Brianne ENV; tmerasty@pbcn.ca; bmerasty@pbcn.ca  
**Subject:** Notice of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence issued to Denison Mines Corp.

Dear Chief bird,

In follow up to our email and letter from June 17<sup>th</sup>, this email is to inform you that a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence has now been granted to Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) by a CNSC Designated Officer.

Denison applied for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation licence for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan in order to complete a feasibility field test of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This licence, which is valid from August 3, 2022 to December 31, 2023, authorizes Denison to temporarily store and use natural uranium in laboratory studies above ground.

As always, we remain available to discuss in more detail. To obtain more detailed information or for any questions, please contact Jes Way at [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or Ryan Froess at [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 4:15 PM  
**To:** 'karenbird@pbcn.ca' <karenbird@pbcn.ca>  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Faille, Sylvain <sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Babcock, Neil <neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick <patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Akhter, Salman <salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam <adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Aimann Sadik <aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca>; England, Brianne ENV <brianne.england@gov.sk.ca>; 'tmerasty@pbcn.ca' <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; 'bmerasty@pbcn.ca' <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application

Dear Chief Bird,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substance and Radiation Device licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** November 21, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission complete. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**  
**Environmental Assessment Officer**  
Email: [wheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM

**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** January 18, 2023 7:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** Reminder: Wheeler River Project Public and Indigenous Comment Period

Hi Everyone,

Just sending a reminder that if you would like to provide comments on the Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement, they are due on **February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Please feel free to share with anyone that would be interested in providing a submission during this comment period.

If you have any questions about the information in these emails, please don't hesitate to contact me at the information below.

Thanks,

**Jes Way**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission **complete**. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.



The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

**Jes Way**

**Environmental Assessment Officer**

Email: [wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Wheeler River Project and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
**Sent:** 2023-02-10 12:28:36 PM

---

FYI.

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <patti@mccunn-miller.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Constance Agnew <cagnew@lgl.com>; Chani Campbell <ccampbell@arlaw.ca>; Ali Adams <aadams@arlaw.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Jessica,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this application with me yesterday. As indicated on our call, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) has limited resources and is addressing a number of matters that require regulatory engagement. Therefore PBCN is requesting a 2-week extension, past the current public review deadline of February 19, to provide its comments to the CNSC.

Can you confirm that PBCN can provide its comments to CNSC by March 3rd? Please let me know if you require any additional information.

We look forward to your response. All the best,

Patti

--

**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**  
Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)  
Phone: (403) 990-8784

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** February 10, 2023 3:03 PM  
**To:** patti@mccunn-miller.com  
**Cc:** Constance Agnew; Chani Campbell; Ali Adams  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Hi Patti,

I am writing to inform you that an extension has been granted to Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation for the Wheeler River EIS comment period. A final version of the comments will be due on March 3rd, 2023.

Please note, the 90 days allotted for this comment period are already an extension to our usual time frame for this step of the process, and no further time can be granted. We thank you for your understanding and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <patti@mccunn-miller.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Constance Agnew <cagnew@lgl.com>; Chani Campbell <ccampbell@arlaw.ca>; Ali Adams <aadams@arlaw.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hello Jessica,

Thank you for taking the time to discuss this application with me yesterday. As indicated on our call, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) has limited resources and is addressing a number of matters that require regulatory engagement. Therefore PBCN is requesting a 2-week extension, past the current public review deadline of February 19, to provide its comments to the CNSC.

Can you confirm that PBCN can provide its comments to CNSC by March 3rd? Please let me know if you require any additional information.

We look forward to your response. All the best,

Patti

--

**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** FW: PBCN Comment Letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission -  
Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [DENISON MINE.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2023-03-03 4:22:08 PM

---

FYI

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**From:** Candace Beatty <cbeatty@pbcn.ca>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 5:08 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>; patti@mccunn-miller.com; Ted Merasty <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** PBCN Comment Letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission - Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Good afternoon,

Please attach letter signed by Mr. Ben Merasty, thank you.

Candace Beatty, Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 306.960-7508  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)

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# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 • Fax: (306) 922-1450



March 03, 2023

Ms. Jes Way  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca

**Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project**

## **Comments of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation on Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Dear Ms. Way,

### **Preliminary Issue**

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) has had a limited opportunity to conduct an initial review of the Denison Mines Ltd (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (Wheeler or Project) draft Environmental Impact Statement (dEIS) due to the fact that it was initially excluded from consultation. Although PBCN acknowledges and appreciates the opportunity to submit its views on the adequacy of the information presented in the Wheeler dEIS it has concerns regarding the adequacy of the aboriginal consultation undertaken to date by Denison and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in respect of Wheeler.

It is understood that cooperation with Canada's Indigenous peoples with respect to Environmental Assessment (EA) is one of the purposes of the CEAA 2012. The CNSC ensures that its EA and licensing decisions uphold the honour of the Crown and consider Indigenous peoples' potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights pursuant to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

Both Denison and CNSC indicate they have fulsome aboriginal engagement policies and guidelines and appear to be undertaking their delegated Crown duty to consult in good faith, as informed by those policies, principles, legal and regulatory requirements. However, there has been an initial error in the assessment, by both Denison and CNSC, of the indigenous communities that should be considered an indigenous community of interest for purposes of consultation on this Project. PBCN was erroneously excluded from indigenous engagement, ostensibly due to distance from Wheeler and a lack of understanding of PBCN lands and indigenous activities potentially impacted by the Project.

PBCN is an Indigenous community that must be consulted having regard to the decided law, the provisions of CEAA 2012 and Dennison's own criteria. PBCN meets nearly all of Denison's stated criteria to evaluate Indigenous communities located in the Saskatchewan Northern Administration District that would be engaged by Denison. Wheeler falls within PBCN traditional territory, where traditional land use activities have historically been and are currently practised. For the record:

- PBCN territory encompasses Treaty 10.



- PBCN has potential or established Indigenous Rights within the Project Area.
- PBCN community of Southend is proximate to the Project having regard to conditions and the geography of Northern Saskatchewan. Southend is 185 km away, in a straight line, from the Project.
- PBCN has known traditional territory and has exercised aboriginal rights in and around the Project site.
- PBCN not only has the potential to exercise its Indigenous/Treaty Rights in proximity to the Project but is currently doing so.

PBCN is of the view that this lack of understanding, among Denison and CNSC, concerning PBCN's territory and the exercise of its Indigenous rights has impeded engagement during the early stages of the Wheeler regulatory process. This may be due in part to the Covid-19 pandemic challenges or misplaced reliance on communication with an umbrella organization like the Prince Albert Grand Council, that does not have authority to outline individual First Nation lands and interests and potential impacts. Regardless of the reason, the engagement process must be honoured to ensure that the PBCN is properly consulted with respect to the proposed Project.

One starting point to redress a failure of engagement is to assist Denison and the CNSC to better understand the nature and scope of PBCN lands and treaty and aboriginal rights and uses. To this end we have attached a map indicating the traditional territory and some uses by PBCN. This document is a working draft and we request that you retain it in confidence consistent with CEAA guidance to protect the Indigenous knowledge and to allow us to jointly discuss management and disclosure of this information.

Although the Wheeler regulatory review is underway, the PBCN intends to engage with CNSC and Denison to share our perspectives on how PBCN interests may be impacted by Wheeler and how the impacts can be addressed.

PBCN's goals are to:

- Work together with Denison in a spirit of mutual respect to cooperate to collectively identify means to avoid, mitigate, or otherwise address potential negative impacts of the Project on PBCN's territory and the exercise of its Indigenous rights and interests.
- Participate in a funding agreement with Denison to facilitate and support PBCN participation and meaningful engagement in the EA process.
- Meet with CNSC and Denison to share PBCN knowledge of its land, and Indigenous uses, and how these may be impacted by the Project and methods to address any adverse impacts.
- Explore employment and job opportunities related to the Project.
- Establish a shared understanding of how PBCN would like to be engaged in the regulatory review including, but not restricted to, timely project updates, information and an opportunity to discuss concerns throughout the EA process, including the review of the dEIS, CNSC staff's EA Report, and other project-related documentation.

We understand that the CNSC, with the support of the federal-Indigenous Review Team, will engage in an EIS technical review. PBCN's intention is to participate fully in the ongoing Wheeler regulatory review.

The following PBCN comments are in response to the 90-day public comment period on the dEIS. They provide background on PBCN and our initial perspectives, as a treaty and aboriginal rights holder, on issues arising from Denison's dEIS.

### **PBCN Background, Rights, and Interests**

The Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation has a number of concerns about Denison's proposed uranium mine development that it would like to discuss with Denison and CNSC. These include potential adverse environmental and socio-economic impacts to PBCN members, lands and uses, including hunting, fishing, and gathering, in all seasons, throughout its territory.

The PBCN has occupied lands and waters in Northeastern Saskatchewan and Northwestern Manitoba since time immemorial. PBCN is a signatory to Treaty 6 and its traditional territory spans all of Treaty 10 and a portion of Treaty 6. The Project is located on Crown land with the nearest PBCN community located at Southend Saskatchewan (approximately 185 km, in a straight line).

Within Saskatchewan, PBCN traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering territory extends from the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border west to Trade Lake, north to Reindeer Lake and south to Sturgeon Landing. The PBCN territory located within Saskatchewan is critical to sustaining the culture, lifestyle and traditions of PBCN and its members. Not only do PBCN members currently rely on the right to harvest fish, wildlife and plants for subsistence purposes, our members have harvested wildlife as a traditional economic resource activity in all seasons throughout our territory.

Under our treaty, PBCN members also have the right to sustain cultural practices, lifestyle and traditions by preserving and accessing heritage resources such as: access to migration routes, waterways; trap lines and/or subsistence trapping of fur-bearing animals; traditional medicines; raw materials such as bark, wood, stone, bone, fibers and dyes; place names, stories and where they connect with the land; preservation of camps, trails, caches, sacred and burial sites; traditional knowledge; and archaeological and historical sites.

A full and accurate description of PBCN's rights and interests is an essential part of the Wheeler dEIS and is necessary to ensure a fulsome environmental assessment. PBCN is interested in the opportunity to collaborate with Denison Mines to comprehensively identify PBCN's rights and interests that may be impacted by the Project.



### Engagement with PBCN

It is PBCN's expectation that inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in the EIS should not be limited to a description of land uses but should contribute to all valued components where relevant information is shared or provided. The Wheeler dEIS, as submitted, fails to include PBCN territory or land uses proximate to the project and regional study areas.

Meaningful engagement requires an "exchange of views" (R. v. Sparrow, 1990, SCC 104, at 1114). CNSC and Denison must provide a reasonable amount of time for the identification and analysis of potential adverse impacts of the Project including cumulative effects on PBCN territory and PBCN members exercise of their Indigenous rights. This must include adequate engagement with PBCN on mitigation strategies to address these impacts. Currently neither Denison, the CNSC or PBCN have the necessary information to adequately, and mutually, understand the potential adverse impacts, the severity of those impacts, proposed mitigation, and residual effects.

We ask the CNSC to ensure that its review timelines be adjusted, as required, to ensure fulsome participation by PBCN with the proponent and the regulator, going forward.

### Preliminary Concerns

PBCN has concerns regarding potential impacts to Valued Components including but not limited to water quality, fish, wildlife, aquatic vegetation, Human health, country food consumption, resource use, and socio-economic factors.

Areas of specific concern are:

- Potential impacts to the landscape as a whole, including aquatic and terrestrial environments.
- Effects on the growing/carrying capacity of both aquatic and terrestrial environments for Country Foods because of potential changes to the landscape including the risk of introduction of contaminants.
- Potential accident/spills impacts on the harvesting of plant specific country foods.
- Limitations to access lands for country food harvesting due to mining traffic or operation of the mine.
- Denison's proposed use of freshwater from Whitefish Lake.
- Potential impacts to boreal shield woodland caribou.
- Treatment of mine contact effluent associated spills containment, and the anticipated downstream impacts. PBCN has a specific interest in the potential impacts to the interconnected waterbodies that PBCN relies on in the exercise of its indigenous rights.
- Socio-economic impacts that may result from the Project, including a 300-person construction camp, and a 180 person operations camp and related impacts to vulnerable populations.
- Lack of detail on the proposed means and haul route of yellowcake product to market.
- Employment opportunities for PBCN members and procurement opportunities for PBCN Group of Companies.
- Ensuring PBCN participation in the development and execution of the long-term environmental effects monitoring and follow up programs.

PBCN would like to work collaboratively and efficiently with Denison to develop a shared understanding of PBCN impacts and interests. Our common goal is to ensure that the Wheeler regulatory review will result in an environmentally responsible and sustainable Project. This cannot be accomplished without active engagement with PBCN including appropriate capacity funding. Though Northern Saskatchewan is often characterized as remote, it is de facto an interconnected ecosystem that PBCN relies upon for its continued environmental, social, and economic wellbeing. We look forward to working together with Denison and the CNSC to build mutual understanding and support for the Project.

Sincerely, 

Signature Redacted

Ben Merasty,

Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN

Patricia McCunn-Miller, President Blue Bridge Energy Ltd

**From:** [Patricia McCunn-Miller](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Subject:** Re: PBCN Comment Letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission -  
Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** [PBCN Territory.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2023-03-04 12:49:03 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

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Hello Jes,

I just noticed that Candace Beatty, Ben's EA, forgot to attach the map of the PBCN territory. We would like to provide the map to the CNSC and Denison but want to maintain its confidentiality. Can you advise what the process is under CEAA 2012 or the CNSC rules to maintain confidentiality? It would be our intent to have a discussion with you about how to proceed with this Indigenous information. I have attached the map referred to in our PBCN letter, for your reference. Perhaps we could discuss this early next week.

All the best,

Patti

On Fri, Mar 3, 2023 at 3:27 PM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Candace,

Thank you for the submission of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation's comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Denison's proposed Wheeler River project. These will soon be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) for the project.

I will add you (and those in CC) to our project distribution list for the project, but if you are also interested in keeping up to date with all CNSC news and updates such as upcoming public outreach sessions, public comment periods on documents (including EA documents for all projects), CNSC hearings and meetings, etc., you are welcome to subscribe to our public mailing list here: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada

[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Candace Beatty <[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 5:08 PM

**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** PBCN Comment Letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission - Wheeler River Project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Good afternoon,

Please attach letter signed by Mr. Ben Merasty, thank you.

Candace Beatty, Executive Secretary

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201

2300 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, P.O Box 2320

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 6Z1

Ph: 306.953.4400

Cell: 306.960-7508

Fax: 306.953.4420

Email: [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Yen, Wish](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: PBCN  
**Sent:** 2023-05-08 3:30:15 PM

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Hi Patti,

Thanks for confirming. Wish, Ryan and Sydney will all be attending in person, and I will be virtual.

I know you had talked about attendees driving out for the meeting, wondering a 10am start time would give them enough time to get there. If so, perhaps we could meet from 10am to noon?

What would you think about the following tentative agenda?:

- Introductions (15 mins)
- CNSC to present on "What we do" (30 mins)
- CNSC to talk about regulatory process for the project, and the steps we've been through to date (30 Mins)
- PBCN to talk about interest in project and area (30 mins)
- Wrap up (15 mins)

Happy to edit as you see fit, but my thoughts as a start.

Have a good evening.

Jes

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 3, 2023 11:55 AM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: PBCN

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

Thank you for that information on funding. The PBCN team has confirmed its availability to meet on Friday morning, the 23rd, in Saskatoon. I will provide a complete list of attendees closer to that date. I expect we will have Chief Karen Bird, Executive Director Ben Merasty and Director of Lands and Resources Ted Merasty. We look forward to meeting in person,



All the best,

Patti

On Wed, May 3, 2023 at 9:16 AM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Patti,

Yes, there will be an additional opportunity for funding in the next stage of the regulatory process. This is a little later down the line, but an offering of participant funding will be announced once the EA report has been developed and the hearing scheduled, in order for those that are interested to review the documentation submitted for the hearing, and prepare an intervention to present to the Commission (or provide a submission in writing).

In follow up to our conversation last week, have you talked with PBCN at all about meeting the morning of June 23<sup>rd</sup>?

For your reference, I have cc'd others that are working on this file with me: Wish Yen, who is also from the CNSC's Environmental Reviews Division, as well as Ryan and Sydney, from our Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division. Just keeping them in the loop.

Happy to talk more on the above.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 2, 2023 8:41 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** PBCN

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

Since I sent that question to you, I have located the funding agreement with the CNSC for PBCN's review of Denison's draft EIS for Wheeler River. It's my understanding that the funding was for a total of \$45,000. Will there be any available funding for the next stage of the regulatory process? Thank you for your assistance. All the best,

patti

--

**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <patti@mccunn-miller.com>  
**Sent:** August 22, 2023 4:58 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty; Chief Karen Bird; Constance Agnew; Froess, Ryan; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Levine, Adam; Nickolet, Sydney; Skmerasty@pbcn.ca; Yen, Wish; tmerasty@pbcn.ca  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project - Revised

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hello Jes,  
I will be reviewing the amended version of the minutes and will let you know if we have any edits as well.  
Thank you,  
Patti

On Tue, Aug 22, 2023 at 1:42 PM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi All,

This is a bit late in coming, but we noticed a couple of administrative edits were required in the meeting minutes below and are sending this revision to update the record. Since we are updating, I have also added some additional minutes that I had from the meeting, given that I was out of office when these were updated and sent out. Edits in red.

Please note, the action items have been updated, noting which are open/completed. I've also included an action around information sharing, as PBCN noted that they were assessing Denison's documentation with their leadership, to supplement detailed information to the CNSC and Denison. As we mentioned in the meeting, any additional information PBCN can provide to CNSC staff regarding land use will help CNSC better understand the potential impacts to PBCN. I raised this to Patti in another recent communication, but we look forward to anything additional that can be shared, and any future discussions.

Please discard the previous version of the minutes and retain this instead.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 29, 2023 5:57 PM

**To:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>

**Cc:** Chief Karen Bird <[karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [Skmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:Skmerasty@pbcn.ca); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); Constance Agnew <[cagnew@lgl.com](mailto:cagnew@lgl.com)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the meeting minutes from our semi-virtual meeting last week below as well as the CNSC presentation attached. Please don't hesitate to update the meeting minutes with any missed information or remarks.

Thank you and have a wonderful long weekend,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission/Government of Canada

[wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



## PBCN-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

June 23, 2023 9:30AM-12:00PM CST

Attendees: PBCN (all in person) – Patti McCunn-Miller, Chief Karen Bird, Ben Merasty, Ted Merasty, Constance Agnew, Rose Morin; CNSC (in person) - Nana Kwamena, Ryan Froess, Sydney Nickolet, Wish Yen, (Virtual) - Adam Levine, Jes Way

### **PBCN presentation**

- PBCN is the largest First Nation in Saskatchewan with approximately 12 000 band members and up to 5 000 unregistered members in 8 communities. PBCN is a signatory of Treaty 6 with a majority of community members present in Treaty 10 and a few members in Sturgeon landing under Treaty 5. Treaty 6 boundaries are not indicative of the PBCN's traditional lands as it was designated by fur blocks set by the Province.
  - PBCN's territory is indicated by the evergreen map shared with the CNSC. This map is a living document and continues to be updated with new information shared by band members. PBCN is currently updating a more detailed map with harvesting and hunting locations, trap lines, cabins of members and other culturally sensitive information. This information will be shared once available, but specific locations and GPS coordinates will not be shared.
  - PBCN lands extend south to Sturgeon Landing and north to Reindeer Lake with PBCN members who have indicated that they continue to hunt caribou as far north as the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
  - Members of PBCN still hunt in the area for the proposed Wheeler River project, **and their members are located down stream of the project development site.**
- PBCN proposed to purchase lands in the Southend fur block (near Cigar Lake) in 1976 under the Treaty Land Entitlement process which to this day remain unresolved. A land claim was also requested approximately 10 years ago, adjacent to Areva's proposed mine, which requires follow-up with the Province of SK
- **PBCN adopted a new resource development strategy in 2022, and has since had more capacity to engage:**
  - **Now has a Land and resources committee which reports into Chief and Council; blended review team – consultants hired for review, but also has a technical team.**
  - **Water is a significant concern for PBCN, using water expert for advice on water topics**
  - **Want early engagement with government and proponent - two pronged engagement:**
    - **Regulatory engagement - with the CNSC**
    - **Proponent commercial agreements – IBA or commercial agreement on how will work together for life of the project, economic benefits, and impacts of project**
    - **PBCN noted that this work all informs conditions for approval; it is critical to get conditions in place so that all permitting happens within these conditions. All starts with the regulatory process**

- PBCN has been excluded from engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project by Denison and CNSC and wishes to be engaged on the project moving forward.
  - PBCN notes that Denison's approach to determining duty to consult focused on the western regions of the site and neglects the areas east of the proposed project site.
  - PBCN wants to ensure Treaty Rights of members are protected (with a focus on water) and to ensure that an impact benefit agreement is reached with Denison to protect the socio-economic and cultural rights and well-being of PBCN members. This should include a consistent Duty to Consult with early and active engagement that is funded.
  - PBCN wants to ensure that have agreements on valued components, and understand how they may be impacted in order to avoid these impacts

### **PBCN-Denison**

- PBCN and Denison met in May to discuss ISR technologies and engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project
- PBCN has indicated that they were excluded and want to reset the engagement for the project through a MOU with Denison:
  - PBCN wants to rectify any lack of understanding that Denison has with PBCN land use and potential impacts of the project on PBCN
  - CNSC staff noted that it would be important for PBCN to share any information that they have, in order to Denison to have the information that they need to consider these potential impacts

### **PBCN-CNSC**

- PBCN wants to understand the CNSC's regulatory process as well as the risk management for decommissioning of uranium mines. Focus will be on projects that could impact Treaty 6, Southend and Reindeer Lake such as the Wheeler River project.
- PBCN wants to re-iterate that CNSC should not assume that PBCN isn't interested in being consulted and not to assume impacts by projects are localized. PBCN cannot confirm there are no impacts to band members if they are not engaged.
- PBCN submitted the initial review through the public comment period to CNSC and will reassess with leadership to supplement detailed information to the CNSC and Denison.
- CNSC noted that we are always open to engaging more with PBCN, and would like as much precision as possible, particularly focused on project proposed; the more information provided, the better we can support engagement with Denison.

### **PBCN-Province of SK**

- PBCN has reached out to the Province, but have not heard back

## Action Items

- PBCN will share a copy of the PBCN presentation deck with CNSC (**open action**)
- PBCN has completed a review of the EIS and will share supplementary detailed information to the comment period submission, as well as any additional land use information, as noted above (**open action**)
- CNSC will share a copy of the CNSC presentation with PBCN (attached, July 29<sup>th</sup>)
- CNSC will update the Wheeler River EA distribution list to ensure Ben, Ted, Seth and Constance are included in future updates (**completed, July 29<sup>th</sup>**)
- CNSC will follow up on the PFP funding release to PBCN (CNSC will share a follow up email once we have the detailed information) (**completed, July 29<sup>th</sup>**)
- CNSC will share the hearing documents for the Near Surface Disposal Facility EA and licensing hearings from 2022 (below)
  - Hearing interventions: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing interventions](#)
  - Archived videos of the hearing: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing](#)

--

**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784



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Safety Commission

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# The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

## *An Overview of Canada's Independent Nuclear Regulator*



Presentation for the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
June 2023

E-DOC: 7066061





# Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)



**Canada's Nuclear Watch Dog for Over 75 Years**



## CNSC – What We Do (And Don't Do)



### WHAT WE DO

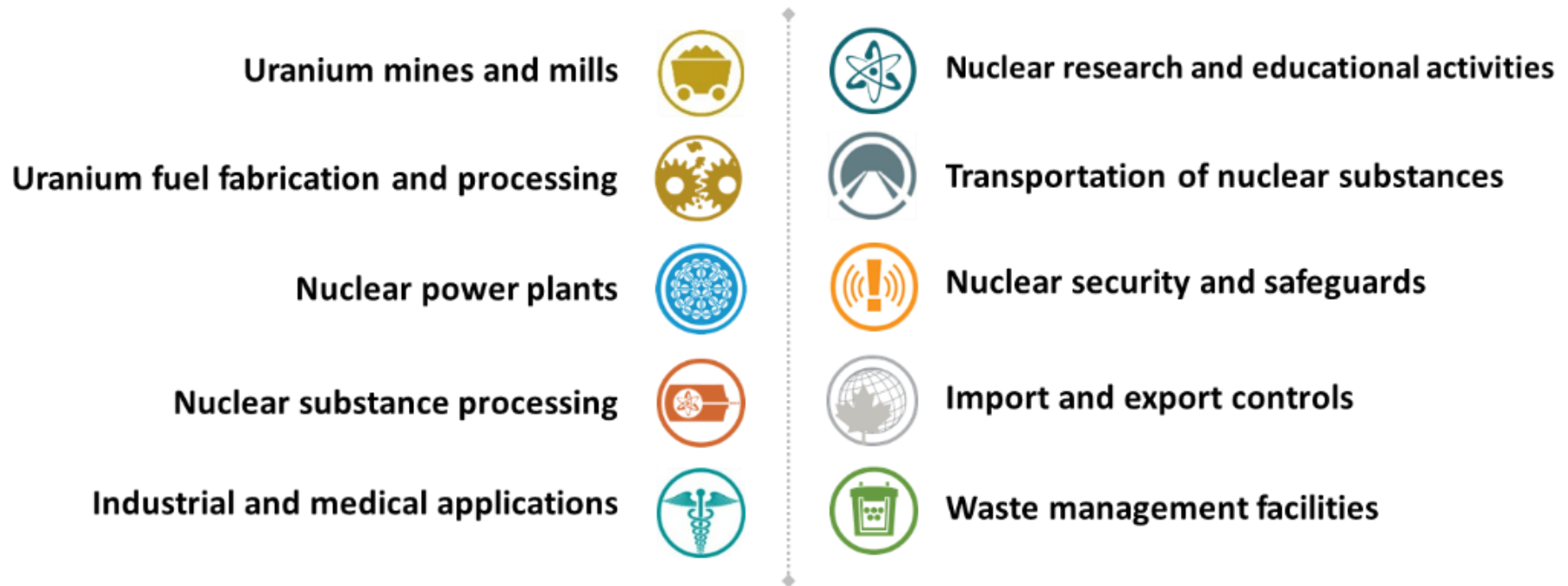
- Work for Canadians
- Regulate the use of nuclear energy and materials
- Disseminate information to the public
- Value Indigenous knowledge
- Make evidence-based decisions
- Review applications/ issues licences to qualified applicants
- Verify safety and compliance
- Shut down any activity we think is unsafe

### WHAT WE DON'T DO

- Do not promote the nuclear industry
- Do not create energy policy
- Do not own, manage, construct or operate nuclear projects
- Do not have a role in revenue sharing, employment or economic development
- Do not select sites
- Not responsible for exploration of uranium deposits



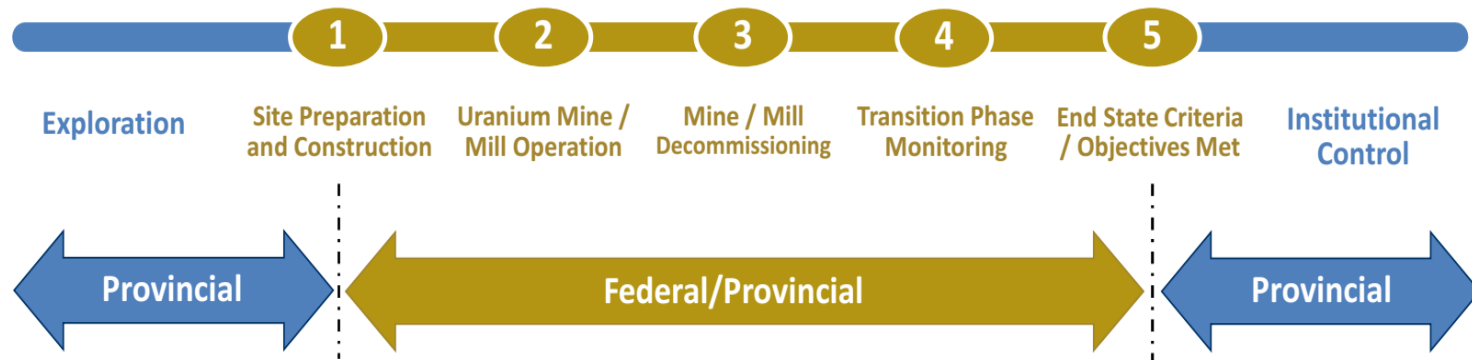
# Regulate all Nuclear-related Activities in Canada



## Lifecycle Oversight



# Saskatchewan Uranium Mines and Mills Life Cycle



Responsibility begins with the province and  
returns to the province after decommissioning



## Independent Commission

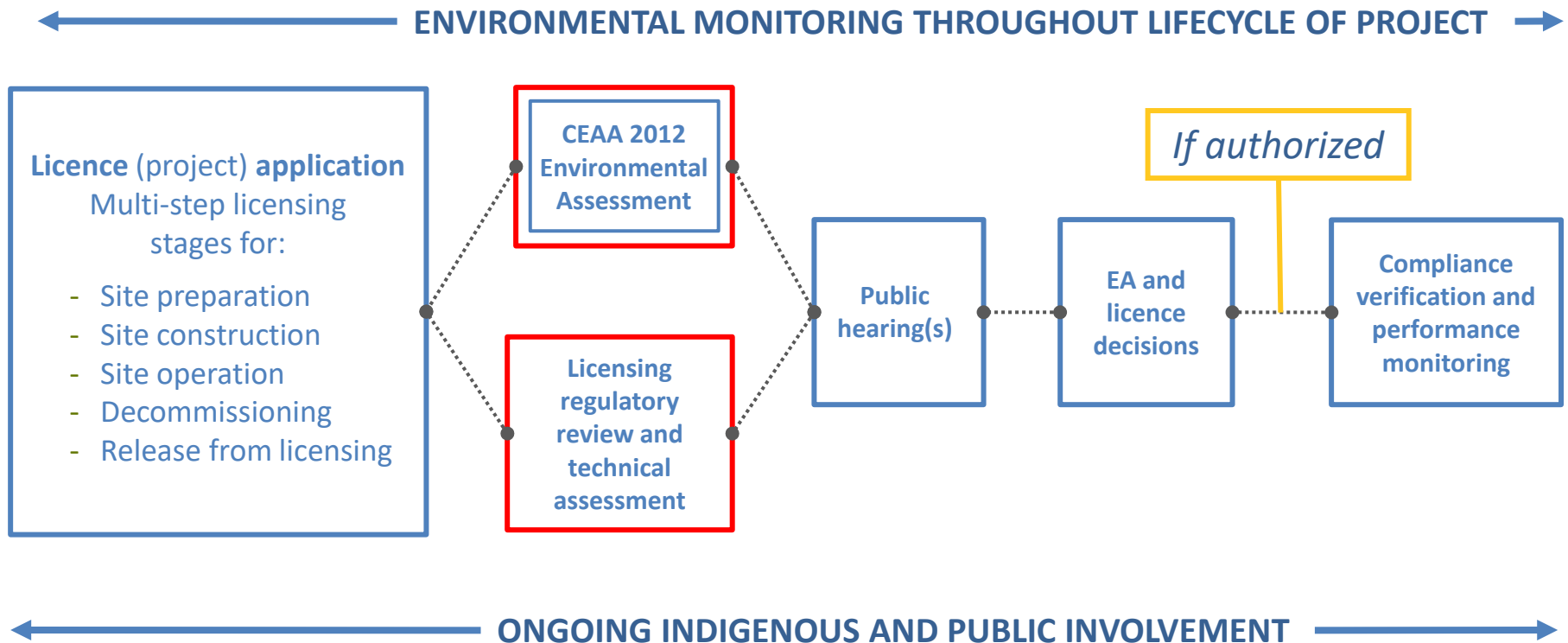


- Quasi-judicial administrative tribunal
- Agent of the Crown (Duty to Consult)
- Reports to Parliament through Minister of Natural Resources
- Considers the public and Indigenous communities' concerns and knowledge in decisions
- Commission members are independent and part-time
- Commission hearings are public and Webcast
- Staff presentations are public
- Decisions are reviewable by Federal Court

## Transparent, Evidence-based Decision Making



# Environmental Protection Framework



Proponents must demonstrate that they have made adequate provisions for the protection and health and safety of people and the environment



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## Environmental Assessment Processes at the CNSC





# Purpose of Environmental Assessments

An environmental assessment is a process to identify, predict and evaluate the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. This process happens before decisions about a proposed project are made.

Additionally:

- Opportunities for public engagement and Indigenous consultation are continuous
- Federal and provincial agencies are involved and contribute their expertise in Impact Assessments and Environmental Assessments
- Decisions are independent, transparent and evidence-based





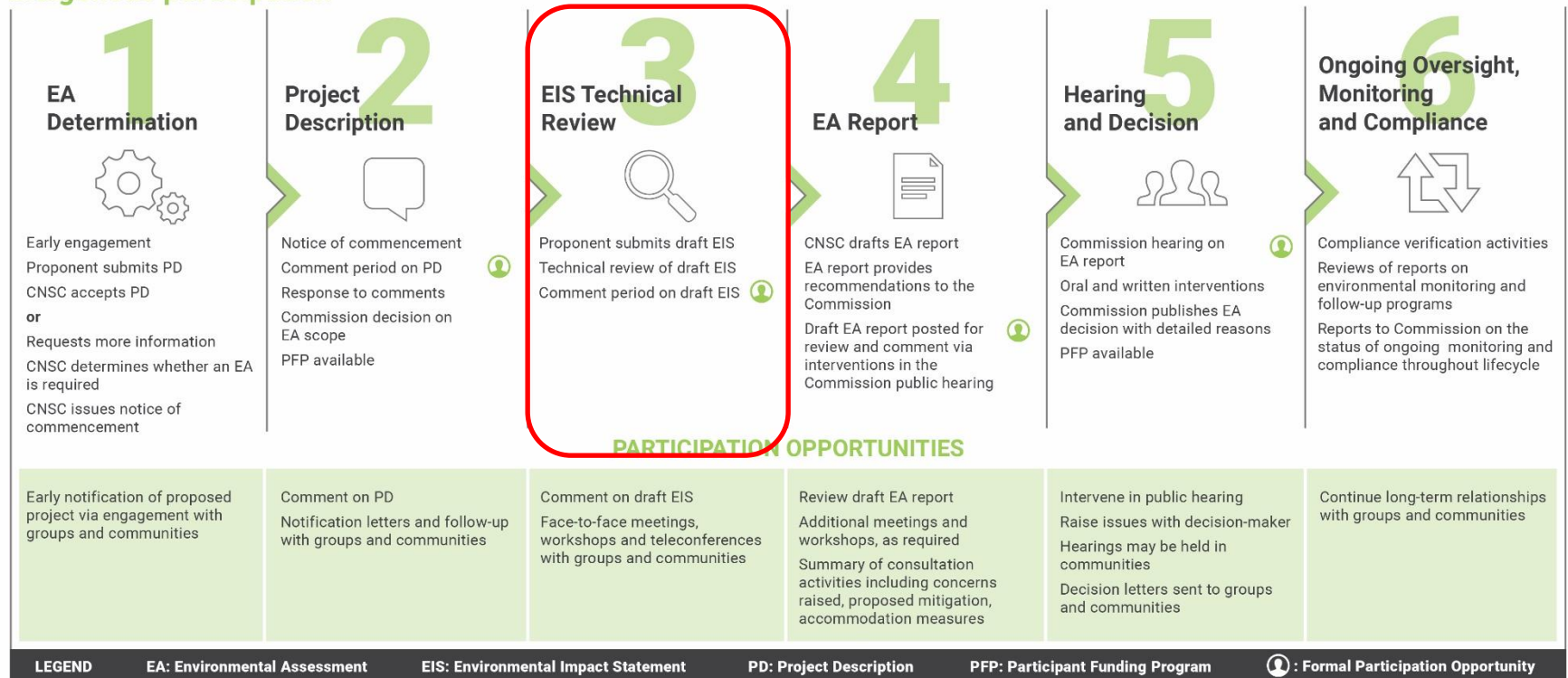
## Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

# Environmental Assessment Process

under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*

### Indigenous participation

CNSC engages with Indigenous groups and communities throughout the EA process





# Indigenous Engagement and Consultation

## Engagement

- CNSC requires licensees to engage with potentially affected Indigenous peoples early in the development and throughout the life of their project

## Consultation

- As an agent of the Crown, CNSC consults with potentially impacted Indigenous peoples to understand and address potential impacts to Indigenous and/or treaty rights from a project

**Building long-term positive and trusted relationships with  
Indigenous peoples in Canada**



# Importance of Indigenous Participation in the EA Process

***Incorporate  
traditional  
knowledge***

Understand the effects and potential impacts of the project on potential or established Indigenous or Treaty Rights

Ensure mitigation and accommodation is considered to address effects and potential impacts

Determine significance of adverse effects

*The CNSC looks at potential impacts on the ability to exercise potential and established Indigenous and Treaty Rights in the future, should the project be allowed to proceed.*



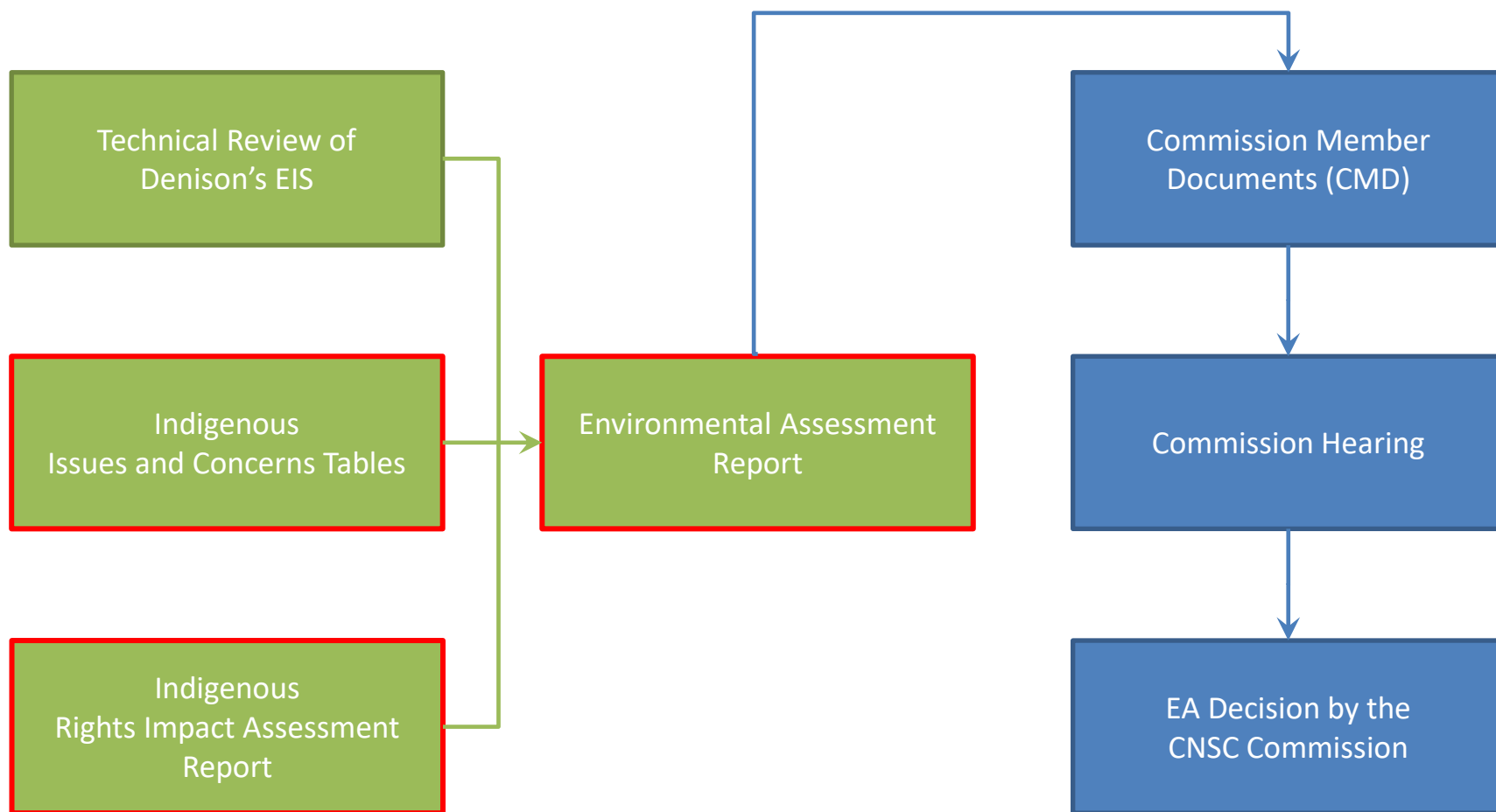
# Indigenous Participation in the EA Process and EA Report

- Regular correspondence and meetings to provide project updates throughout
- Public comment periods (on the project description, draft EIS)
- Consultation on CEAA 2012 section 5(1)(c) effects due to the project
- Issues and Concerns Tables

**Funding is available for the activities listed above**



# Inputs and Outputs of the CEAA 2012 EA process





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# Wheeler River Project

## Introduction and Update





# Wheeler River Project

- Proposed uranium mine and processing plant in the eastern area of the Athabasca Basin region
- *In situ* recovery mining process and precipitation processing plants
- Closed loop process reusing water from precipitation process to re-inject into *in situ* recovery mining





# Wheeler River Project – EA Update

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

## Environmental Assessment Process

under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012

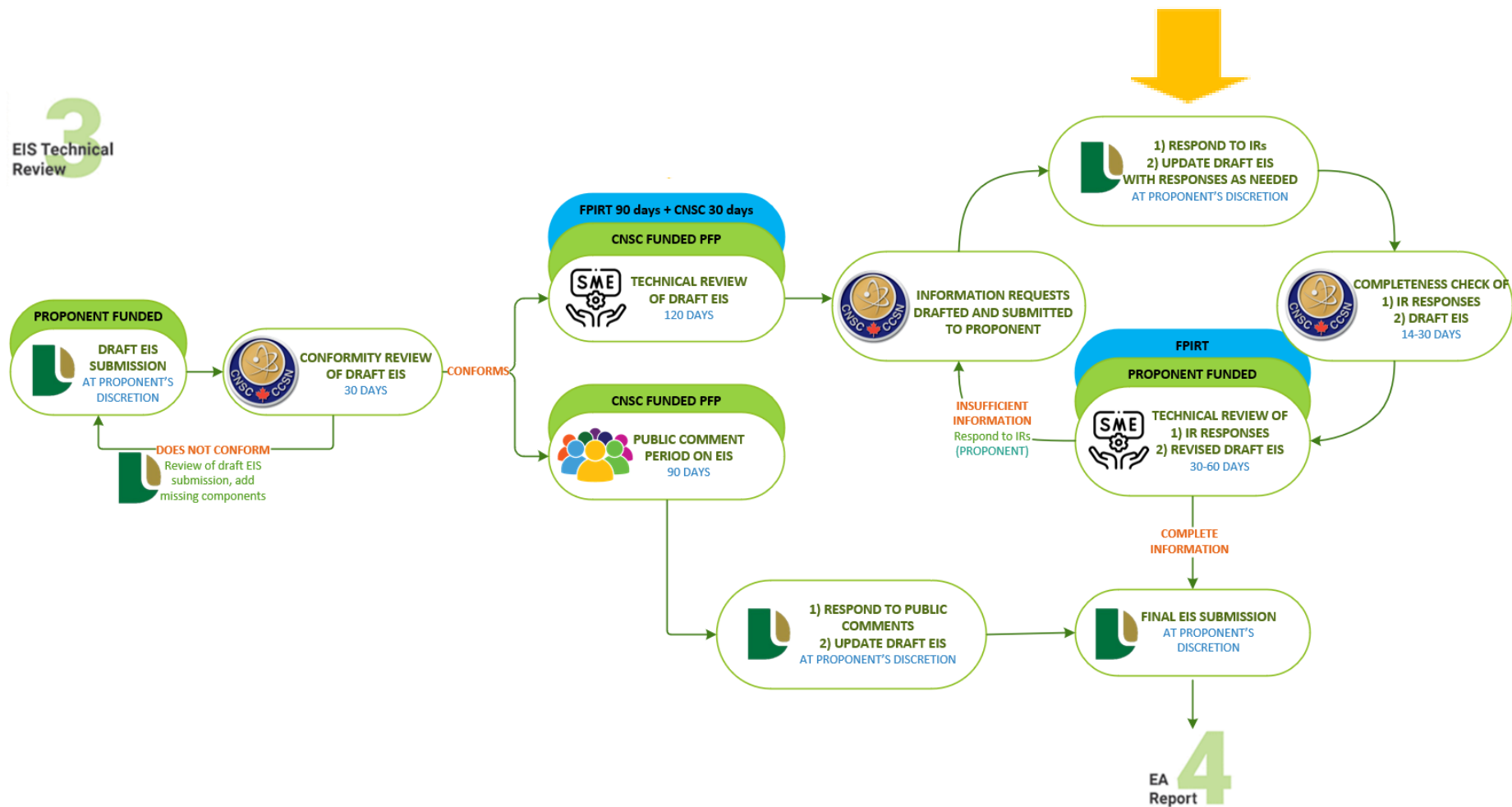
### Indigenous participation

CNSC engages with Indigenous groups and communities throughout the EA process





### 3 EIS Technical Review





## Next Steps of the EA Process

- Discussions on impacts, related to: health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, or structures and sites of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance.
- Review Issues and Concerns Tables drafted by CNSC
- Regular correspondence and meetings to share project updates and discuss



## Participate and Be Heard

- Stay up to date on latest updates for the Wheeler River Project on the CIAR (reference number [80178](#))
- Questions about the project can be emailed to Jes Way, EA Lead at: [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)



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**We will never compromise safety**



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Contact us

**[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)**

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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** July 6, 2023 1:07 PM  
**To:** Patricia McCunn-Miller  
**Cc:** Chief Karen Bird; Ben Merasty; Skmerasty@pbcn.ca; tmerasty@pbcn.ca; Constance Agnew; Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica; Yen, Wish  
**Subject:** RE: 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

Hello Patti,

I wanted to thank PBCN for taking the time to meet with CNSC on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. I wanted to follow up with you on the funding that PBCN received for the Denison Wheeler River EIS comment period. It looks like PBCN was awarded \$45,000 to review Denison's draft EIS and were provided a \$22,500 advance. The agreement on the funding was signed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by Ben Merasty and the advance was given to PBCN in January of this year. Please let me know if you have were able to track down the funding or if you have any questions!

Hope you have a great rest of your day!  
Best,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis  
Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 29, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <patti@mccunn-miller.com>  
**Cc:** Chief Karen Bird <karenbird@pbcn.ca>; Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Skmerasty@pbcn.ca; tmerasty@pbcn.ca; Constance Agnew <cagnew@lgl.com>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the meeting minutes from our semi-virtual meeting last week below as well as the CNSC presentation attached. Please don't hesitate to update the meeting minutes with any missed information or remarks.

Thank you and have a wonderful long weekend,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission/Government of Canada

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

## Algonquins of Ontario/AOO-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates

June 23, 2023 9:30AM-12:00PM CST

### **PBCN presentation**

- PBCN is the largest First Nation in Saskatchewan with approximately 12 000 band members and up to 5 000 unregistered members in 8 communities. PBCN is a signatory of Treaty 6 with a majority of community members present in Treaty 10 and a few members in Sturgeon landing under Treaty 5. Treaty 6 boundaries are not indicative of the PBCN's traditional lands as it was designated by fur blocks set by the Province.
  - PBCN's territory is indicated by the evergreen map shared with the CNSC. This map is a living document and continues to be updated with new information shared by band members. PBCN is currently updating a more detailed map with harvesting and hunting locations, trap lines, cabins of members and other culturally sensitive information. This information will be shared once available, but specific locations and GPS coordinates will not be shared.
  - PBCN lands extend south to Sturgeon Landing and north to Reindeer Lake with PBCN members who have indicated that they continue to hunt caribou as far north as the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
  - Members of PBCN still hunt in the area for the proposed Wheeler River project
- PBCN proposed to purchase lands in the Southend fur block (near Cigar Lake) in 1976 under the Treaty Land Entitlement process which to this day remain unresolved. A land claim was also requested approximately 10 years ago, adjacent to Areva's proposed mine, which requires follow-up with the Province of SK
- PBCN has been excluded from engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project by Denison and CNSC and wishes to be engaged on the project moving forward.
  - PBCN notes that Denison's approach to determining duty to consult focused on the western regions of the site and neglects the areas east of the proposed project site.
  - PBCN wants to ensure Treaty Rights of members are protected (with a focus on water) and to ensure that an impact benefit agreement is reached with Denison to protect the socio-economic and cultural rights and well-being of PBCN members. This should include a consistent Duty to Consult with early and active engagement that is funded.

### **PBCN-Denison**

- PBCN and Denison met in May to discuss ISR technologies and engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project
- PBCN has indicated that they were excluded and want to reset the engagement for the project through a MOU with Denison

### **PBCN-CNSC**

- PBCN wants to understand the CNSC's regulatory process as well as the risk management for decommissioning of uranium mines. Focus will be on projects that could impact Treaty 6, Southend and Reindeer Lake such as the Wheeler River project.
- PBCN wants to re-iterate that CNSC should not assume that PBCN isn't interested in being consulted and not to assume impacts by projects are localized. PBCN cannot confirm there are no impacts to band members if they are not engaged.
- PBCN submitted the initial review through the public comment period to CNSC and will reassess with leadership to supplement detailed information to the CNSC and Denison.

## **PBCN-Province of SK**

- PBCN has reached out to the Province, but have not heard back

## **Action Items**

- PBCN will share a copy of the PBCN presentation deck with CNSC
- CNSC will share a copy of the CNSC presentation with PBCN (attached)
- CNSC will update the Wheeler River EA distribution list to ensure Ben, Ted, Seth and Constance are included in future updates (complete)
- CNSC will follow up on the PFP funding release to PBCN (CNSC will share a follow up email once we have the detailed information)
- CNSC will share the hearing documents for the Near Surface Disposal Facility EA and licensing hearings from 2022 (below)
  - Hearing interventions: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing interventions](#)
  - Archived videos of the hearing: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing](#)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River  
**Sent:** 2025-07-31 11:31:59 AM

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**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 2:43 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

Thanks for this information. I have communicated with Brianne, Ken and Jeff and will arrange a meeting. Brianne and I have worked together on another mine application over the last year and a half. I will update you after I have met with SK ENV. Have a great weekend,

Patti

On Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 11:58 AM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Patti,

I have been in contact with the province today and provided Brianne England with your email address. She mentioned that she has been working with PBCN on other projects. The lead on this project from the province is Jeff Dereniwski: [Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca). He is on vacation in the coming weeks, and his back up is Ken Scott: [Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca).

The FIRT is our federal review team (Federal Indigenous Review Team), which performs the EIS technical review. It's not separate from the CNSC, but led by the CNSC as the Responsible Authority under CEAA 2012, and other Federal Authorities provide their expertise where warranted / mandated. This means the FIRT includes subject matter experts from CNSC, as well as experts from Health Canada, Transport Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and Natural Resources Canada. There is also a member of English River First Nation sitting on the team.

Each member of the team reviews the EIS and its supplementary documents from their respective area of expertise, and the outcome of this will inform CNSC's analysis, conclusions and recommendations to the Commission, which will be documented in the EA report.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.



Thanks,  
Jes

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Jes,

Yes please, that would be helpful. Also can you clarify what the FIRT is? Is it separate from the CNSC?

Patti

On Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 9:52 AM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Great, thanks. Enjoy your time off.

I did reach out to the province who noted that they had not heard from you. Can I provide them with your contact information, if you are still having trouble getting in touch?

Thanks,  
Jes

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Jes,

Now, it's my turn to apologize for the delay! I was doing some summer travel. I want to follow up on the questions in your email:

1. I will update you after our Denison Mines meeting September 20 in Saskatoon with .
2. I will share a clean copy of the PBCN presentation with CNSC
3. The new distribution of your update on Wheeler River was received by all parties.

4. We will provide additional information on PBCN as soon as it is available.

I will be away from August 29 to September 15 but will be checking my email if you have any further questions. Thanks again for your patience. All the best,

Patti

On Fri, Aug 18, 2023 at 12:37 PM Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Patti,

I apologize for the extremely delayed reply. The summer is indeed flying by!

Regarding your comments below, the process will continue for some time so I wouldn't expect that this delay should impact PBCN's ability to participate in this process. With this in mind, keep us posted on how this goes. I was also wondering, did you ever hear back from the province of Saskatchewan?

In follow up to our June meeting, there were a couple of action items that I thought I'd take this opportunity to follow up on:

- PBCN will share a copy of the PBCN presentation deck with CNSC – **We don't seem to have ever received this document. Please share when you can, and if this should be protected as confidential information, let us know and we will provide the appropriate confidentiality forms.**
- CNSC will update the Wheeler River EA distribution list to ensure Ben, Ted, Seth and Constance are included in future updates (complete) – **Can you please confirm that they received the update we sent out today?**
- CNSC will follow up on the PFP funding release to PBCN (CNSC will share a follow up email once we have the detailed information) – **We provided an update in the attached thread. Were you able to track down the funding that was granted? Is there anything more we can do to assist with this?**

Also, it wasn't formally included as an action item, but during the meeting also PBCN noted that they were assessing Denison's documentation with their leadership, to supplement detailed information to the CNSC and Denison. As we mentioned in the meeting, any additional information PBCN can provide to CNSC staff regarding land use will help CNSC better understand the potential impacts to PBCN. This too is information that can be protected. We look forward to anything additional that can be shared.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any updates, or want to meet and discuss.

Have a great weekend,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 5:03 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

The summer is flying by. We appreciated the discussion with you and your team at our meeting in late June. I booked an in-person meeting with Denison Mines in Saskatoon at the beginning of August. Due to some vacation absences and scheduling problems, we must reschedule for mid-September. We are anxious to agree on a capacity funding agreement with Denison. Hopefully, this brief delay will not hinder our participation in the Wheeler Project review.

Please let me know if you have any questions. All the best,

Patti

--

**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

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Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | Blue Bridge Energy Inc.**

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Phone: (403) 990-8784

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | Blue Bridge Energy Inc.**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

---

**From:** [Patricia McCunn-Miller](#)  
**To:** [Zenobi, Adam](#)  
**Cc:** [Levine, Adam](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Yen, Wish](#);  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project  
**Sent:** 2023-10-18 11:36:29 AM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Thanks Adam for your email. I will speak with PBCN about the current spending status on Wheeler River and let you know. PBCN looks forward to a further discussion with CNSC in support of appropriate engagement between Denison and PBCN. All the best,

Patti

On Tue, Oct 17, 2023 at 1:51 PM Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hello Patti,

Regarding the CNSC funding, can you let us know how much has been spent to date from the \$45,000 awarded to review the draft EIS (see attached contribution agreement)? The remaining funding can support PBCN's work and ongoing engagement with the CNSC on the Wheeler River Project. According to our records, an advance of \$22,500 was provided back in January, so there is still \$22,500 remaining on our end.

Sydney and Ryan will be in touch regarding proposed next steps in the engagement process. Let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance, thanks!

Adam Zenobi

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 613-415-2814

Agent principal en politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell. : 613-415-2814

---

**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 4:30 PM

**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Thank you, Sydney, for this helpful information. PBCN met with Denison on September 20th and reiterated that it requires capacity funding from Denison to support meaningful engagement on Wheeler River. We continue to be met by resistance on this issue. PBCN must be able to independently and objectively review the Wheeler River application, in support of an exchange of views with Denison, to determine potential impacts to PBCN aboriginal and treaty rights. Denison has simply stated its conclusions. That is not meaningful engagement. PBCN lacks the internal capacity and resources to review the application on its own and needs to retain external advisors. PBCN is mindful that the regulatory timeline is underway and does not want to cause delay, however, Denison's refusal to provide capacity funding is a significant impediment.

I am not sure if there are residual available funds to meet again with CNSC. I do think that such a meeting would be beneficial to all parties.

All the best,

Patti

On Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 10:44 AM Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Patti,

Thank you reaching out regarding PBCN's PFP funding for the Denison project. Has PBCN exhausted all of the \$45,000 for the Denison EIS review? If PBCN has used all the funding, we will send you a final financial report which includes asking for the receipts/invoices in relation to the funds that were spent and once provided, CNSC will transfer the remaining funds to PBCN. If the funding hasn't been fully used up, then PBCN could use the remaining funding for future engagement activities with CNSC on the Denison project. If that is the case, CNSC would recommend using some of the remaining funds to organize a meeting between PBCN and CNSC to talk through where things are at on the Denison project, get an update from your meeting with Denison, and then walk through the next steps of the project. We could also use that time to discuss any information that PBCN is willing to share on land use related to the Denison project. Let me know how you would like to proceed and we could look at getting something set up.

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

New Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

New Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*

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**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 5:13 PM  
**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Sydney,

What steps must PBCN take to access the remaining \$22,500 of participant funding?  
We look forward to your guidance.

Patti

On Thu, Jul 6, 2023 at 11:07 AM Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hello Patti,

I wanted to thank PBCN for taking the time to meet with CNSC on Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup>. I wanted to follow up with you on the funding that PBCN received for the Denison Wheeler River EIS comment period. It looks like PBCN was awarded \$45,000 to review Denison's draft EIS and were provided a \$22,500 advance. The agreement on the funding was signed on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by Ben Merasty and the advance was given to PBCN in January of this year. Please let me know if you have were able to track down the funding or if you have any questions!

Hope you have a great rest of your day!

Best,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)



Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

New Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées

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**From:** Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** June 29, 2023 3:57 PM

**To:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>

**Cc:** Chief Karen Bird <[karenbird@pbcn.ca](mailto:karenbird@pbcn.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Skmerasty@pbcn.ca; tmerasty@pbcn.ca; Constance Agnew <[cagnew@lgl.com](mailto:cagnew@lgl.com)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** 2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project

Good afternoon everyone,

Please find the meeting minutes from our semi-virtual meeting last week below as well as the CNSC presentation attached. Please don't hesitate to update the meeting minutes with any missed information or remarks.

Thank you and have a wonderful long weekend,

**Wish Yen** (she, her, elle)

Environmental Review Officer

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission/Government of Canada

[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | 343.553.2233

Algonquins of Ontario/AOO-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Monthly Project Updates  
June 23, 2023 9:30AM-12:00PM CST

### **PBCN presentation**

- PBCN is the largest First Nation in Saskatchewan with approximately 12 000 band members and up to 5 000 unregistered members in 8 communities. PBCN is a signatory of Treaty 6 with a majority of community members present in Treaty 10 and a few members in Sturgeon landing under Treaty 5. Treaty 6 boundaries are not indicative of the PBCN's traditional lands as it was designated by fur blocks set by the Province.
  - PBCN's territory is indicated by the evergreen map shared with the CNSC. This map is a living document and continues to be updated with new information shared by band members. PBCN is currently updating a more detailed map with harvesting and hunting locations, trap lines, cabins of members and other culturally sensitive information. This information will be shared once available, but specific locations and GPS coordinates will not be shared.
  - PBCN lands extend south to Sturgeon Landing and north to Reindeer Lake with PBCN members who have indicated that they continue to hunt caribou as far north as the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
  - Members of PBCN still hunt in the area for the proposed Wheeler River project
- PBCN proposed to purchase lands in the Southend fur block (near Cigar Lake) in 1976 under the Treaty Land Entitlement process which to this day remain unresolved. A land claim was also requested approximately 10 years ago, adjacent to Areva's proposed mine, which requires follow-up with the Province of SK
- PBCN has been excluded from engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project by Denison and CNSC and wishes to be engaged on the project moving forward.
  - PBCN notes that Denison's approach to determining duty to consult focused on the western regions of the site and neglects the areas east of the proposed project site.
  - PBCN wants to ensure Treaty Rights of members are protected (with a focus on water) and to ensure that an impact benefit agreement is reached with Denison to protect the socio-economic and cultural rights and well-being of PBCN members. This should include a consistent Duty to Consult with early and active engagement that is funded.

## **PBCN-Denison**

- PBCN and Denison met in May to discuss ISR technologies and engagement on the proposed Wheeler River project
- PBCN has indicated that they were excluded and want to reset the engagement for the project through a MOU with Denison

## **PBCN-CNSC**

- PBCN wants to understand the CNSC's regulatory process as well as the risk management for decommissioning of uranium mines. Focus will be on projects that could impact Treaty 6, Southend and Reindeer Lake such as the Wheeler River project.
- PBCN wants to re-iterate that CNSC should not assume that PBCN isn't interested in being consulted and not to assume impacts by projects are localized. PBCN cannot confirm there are no impacts to band members if they are not engaged.
- PBCN submitted the initial review through the public comment period to CNSC and will reassess with leadership to supplement detailed information to the CNSC and Denison.

## **PBCN-Province of SK**

- PBCN has reached out to the Province, but have not heard back

## **Action Items**

- PBCN will share a copy of the PBCN presentation deck with CNSC
- CNSC will share a copy of the CNSC presentation with PBCN (attached)
- CNSC will update the Wheeler River EA distribution list to ensure Ben, Ted, Seth and Constance are included in future updates (complete)
- CNSC will follow up on the PFP funding release to PBCN (CNSC will share a follow up email once we have the detailed information)
- CNSC will share the hearing documents for the Near Surface Disposal Facility EA and licensing hearings from 2022 (below)
  - Hearing interventions: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing interventions](#)
  - Archived videos of the hearing: [May 30-June 3, 2022 NSDF Public Hearing](#)

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**

Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

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Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)

Phone: (403) 990-8784



# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



October 5, 2023

Ms. Jes Way  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project**

Dear Ms. Way,

We write as a follow-up to our letter dated March 3, 2023 and our meeting with you on June 23, 2023 in Saskatoon, SK to propose next steps with respect to engagement on the Wheeler River Project (the "Project").

## Background

As you are now aware, the Project is located within the traditional territory of PBCN. PBCN has expressed that it is deeply concerned that it has not had the opportunity or been provided adequate resources to meaningfully engage with either the Crown or Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) and understand the potential impacts on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights. While PBCN appreciates the preliminary funding provided by CNSC, this funding is insufficient to support a robust and technical review to ensure PBCN has the resources to fully understand the Project and the potential impacts to PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights. PBCN is concerned that the Project will:

- have a negative impact on the abundance of wildlife in the area, including fish, game and furbearers;
- have a negative impact on PBCN members gathering medicinal plants;
- increase access by non-PBCN members to our remote hunting and trapping lands;
- negatively impact the PBCN furblock located proximate to the Project; and
- disturb, pollute or interrupt the interconnected waterbodies in the area, including impacts to rivers, lakes, wetlands and streams ;

Since we met with you, PBCN has pursued a meeting with Denison Mining Ltd. on September 20, 2023 (the "Denison Meeting"). Prior to and during that meeting, PBCN requested capacity funding on a cost-recovery basis from Denison so that PBCN could retain subject matter experts to support PBCN on this highly specialized and technical multi-phased Project to ensure that PBCN not only understood the Project but could communicate this understanding to PBCN members by holding community meetings, as well as, collectively identify means to avoid, mitigate, or otherwise address potential negative impacts of the Project on PBCN's territory and the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights.

Denison agreed to cover the onetime costs of PBCN representatives traveling from their respective communities to attend the Denison Meeting but has rejected all PBCN efforts to develop a workplan and to meaningfully engage with a funding agreement. PBCN has expressed to Denison that the lack of PBCN capacity in its Lands and Resources Department, coupled with the failure of Denison to financially support PBCN retaining experts to assist PBCN in gaining the necessary capacity to understand the Project and its potential impacts, has left PBCN in a position where it cannot meaningfully participate in the Crown's consultation framework because it simply does not have the capacity or the financial resources to retain the experts required to facilitate an informed discussion and identify appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures. Meaningful engagement with PBCN requires that PBCN have the capacity and resources to review the Project so that it can independently review and determine potential impacts to treaty and aboriginal rights.

PBCN's experience is that Denison is unwilling to engage with PBCN unless specifically directed to do so by CNSC. Denison is taking an unreasonably narrow view of the potential impacts as only being site-specific. The ISR technology, selected by Denison for the Project, is new and novel mining technology in Canada. PBCN must have appropriate support to allow it to develop its understanding of ISR and the related processing for the Project. While Denison has reached its own conclusions about potential impacts to PBCN, it has not appropriately engaged with or provided the funding to support meaningful engagement with PBCN. Absent meaningful engagement, including an informed exchange of views between the parties, PBCN cannot determine whether the Project is likely to cause environmental and socio-economic impacts to PBCN and its constitutionally protected aboriginal and treaty rights.

#### Proposed Next Steps

Because PBCN was erroneously excluded from the initial assessment of the indigenous communities that should be considered for purposes of consultation on this Project, Denison has stated that it is unwilling to:

- i) scope PBCN into this list unless required by and directed to do so by CNSC, and
- ii) provide PBCN with capacity funding to support a meaningful assessment of the Project and its impact on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights.

PBCN respectfully requests that,

1. CNSC add PBCN as an indigenous community of interest for the purposes of consultation on the proposed Project,

2. CNSC require Denison to amend the draft Environmental Impact Statement to reflect the addition of PBCN as an indigenous nation with an interest in this CNSC-regulated facility,
3. CNSC require Denison to provide an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Project on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights. This information should include:
  - a. how Denison made its preliminary assessment of potential impacts on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights in respect of the proposed Project,
  - b. what specific information it considered in making such a determination (we note that Denison may have to conduct a Traditional Land and Resource Use Study to understand the full extent of PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights in the Project area),
  - c. the specific types of disturbances to land, water, fish and wildlife resources Denison identified, and
  - d. how the proposed Project may potentially limit PBCN's exercise of its aboriginal and treaty rights, and
4. Upon receipt of the foregoing information, PBCN would be willing to work with CNSC and Denison to identify ways to minimize the impact of the proposed Project activities on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights or, where mitigation is not possible or adequate, to develop appropriate accommodation strategies for such unmitigated impacts.

#### Duty of the Crown

As you know, The Crown has an obligation to meaningfully consult with PBCN and such consultation cannot occur until CNSC understands the potential adverse impacts of the Project on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights.

Any CNSC EA and licensing decision regarding the Project must be done in a manner which reconciles the exercise of treaty and aboriginal rights by PBCN and, where appropriate, accommodates PBCN and its members for these impacts.

PBCN's cultural identity and community wellness is inextricably linked to environmental sustainability and resiliency by PBCN members to meet their current subsistence needs while ensuring the needs of future generations will also be met. PBCN has codified some of its beliefs in the following proclamation which all PBCN leaders adhere to,

*"The foundations of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation are rooted in the sacred gifts from our Creator, our culture and Elders' teachings, our faith and knowledge of our inherent and Treaty rights. It is therefore essential to declare:*

*Our Creator put us here as the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and He gave us laws that govern all of our relationships so that we may live in harmony with nature and mankind. Our Creator also gave us a place on earth to provide us with all our needs so that we may live and prosper.*

*Our Creator granted us governmental and jurisdictional rights, including the inherent right to govern our Peter Ballantyne territories which include our lands, resources, air ...*

PBCN remains committed to participating in the CNSC-led consultation process and engaging in ongoing dialogue with CNSC so as to foster a transparent, enduring relationship built on trust, but PBCN cannot

do this until Denison and CNSC have recognized PBCN's lands, aboriginal and treaty rights and have gathered the information necessary to understand and assess the potential impacts the Project will have on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty interests. The CNSC must ensure that its environmental assessment and licensing decisions uphold the honour of the Crown and consider PBCN's potential or established Indigenous and treaty rights pursuant to section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. This requires that PBCN be scoped into the Project consultation as an Indigenous community that must be consulted having regard to the decided law, the provisions of CEAA 2012 and the potential impacts of the Wheeler River Project, the largest undeveloped uranium project in the Athabasca Basin in Northern Saskatchewan. Meaningful engagement with PBCN on the Wheeler River Project must be underpinned by a capacity funding agreement with Denison to support PBCN participation in the EA process.

Sincerely,



Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Patricia McCunn-Miller, President Blue Bridge Energy Ltd



Ben Merasty, Executive Director  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer Reserve  
2300 – 10th Avenue  
PO Box 2320  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1

November 22, 2023

**Re: Engagement between Denison Mines Corp. and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation in respect of the Wheeler River Project**

Dear Mr. Merasty,

We write in response to your letter dated October 5, 2023 (received by our offices on October 20, 2023) and the recent engagement between Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) and Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) in respect of the Wheeler River Project (the Project).

We are pleased to learn we share a positive view of our recent meeting on September 20, 2023. That meeting provided an important opportunity for PBCN and Denison to meet in person and to better understand one another and the Project. As I noted in my email of October 10, 2023, Denison heard a number of questions from PBCN regarding the location and footprint of the Project site, water use and potential impacts, and monitoring results. It also provided Denison an opportunity to better understand how PBCN's Lands and Resources Committee supports the nation's participation in project development, and the Committee's interest in developing a workplan and/or engagement agreement. We note that our discussions to date have not been focused on these approaches, but Denison has not refused to discuss them.

We understand that PBCN continues to be concerned that it has not been identified as an Indigenous Community of Interest in respect of the Project. By way of background, Denison has been the operator of the Wheeler River property since 2004, and its predecessors have been in the area since the 1980s. Denison followed a systematic and comprehensive process to identify Indigenous communities who may be impacted by the Project, informed by a wide variety of information, such as the wildlife and fur block management administration areas, existing traditional land use information (particularly information made available through the Key Lake and McArthur River public review processes), access restrictions on Highway 914 north of Key Lake, anticipated impacts to water, anticipated transportation routes, and publicly available descriptions of Indigenous Nations' traditional territories, including that of PBCN. Our approach was further informed by our discussions with those Indigenous Nations with the potential to be adversely by Project activities, as well as Indigenous organizations in the region, and supported by information from and interactions with representatives of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

This approach ensures consideration of potential impacts beyond the Project site, where appropriate. All of this information, along with our long experience in the region, has informed our approach, confirmed by both regulators, to identifying Indigenous communities to whom a level of deep consultation or engagement is owed. However, this does not preclude, nor has it precluded, Denison from engaging and sharing information where requested.

Denison remains committed to conducting meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project and to understanding how the proposed development of the Project may affect the ability of Indigenous peoples to exercise collective Indigenous and Treaty Rights. We believe that consultation and engagement is an iterative, two-way process, such that as we learn about the Project, its potential impacts, and the interests of Indigenous peoples in the region, we will continue to tailor our approach to engagement. It is in this spirit that we have continued to engage with PBCN to better understand the Nation's interests and land uses in the vicinity of the Project, and offered to reimburse PBCN for its costs incurred in attending the September meeting.

The only information which Denison has received from PBCN regarding PBCN's interests in the Project includes the recently updated draft traditional territory map, which shows the Project on the edge of PBCN's traditional territory. We understood that Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources, was going to provide further information regarding PBCN's traditional land use in the Project area during our previous meeting, but was unable to attend due to illness.

Denison is ready and willing to continue these discussions with PBCN. We would be pleased to arrange another meeting to receive further information regarding PBCN's interests in the Project area, and to provide further information and answer questions regarding the Project. We remain committed to engaging in a spirit of mutual respect in accordance with our Indigenous Peoples Policy. We confirm we have and will continue to follow directions from regulators regarding consultation and engagement.

Following the September meeting, we provided PBCN with information in response to the comments submitted by PBCN on the Project's draft Environmental Impact Statement to CNSC. If PBCN has questions about that information, or the Project more generally, we would appreciate receiving those questions in advance of our next meeting so that we can ensure appropriate Denison representatives are available to participate. In light of timing constraints, we would propose our next meeting be virtual at a mutually acceptable time. We remain interested in learning more about the potential for the Project to potentially impact PBCN land uses and rights and/or PBCN's interests in the Project area, and look forward to working with you further.

Yours truly,



Carolanne Inglis-McQuay  
Director, Corporate Social Responsibility



November 24, 2023

Ben Merasty,  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN)  
Chief Joseph Custer Reserve – 2300 – 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O. Box 2320  
Prince Albert, SK  
S6V 6Z1

**Subject: Response to Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation's October 5th Letter Regarding the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Ben Merasty:

Thank you for your letter dated October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 [1], received on October 20th.

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff are committed to ongoing consultation, relationship building, and engagement with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) in relation to Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project). The purpose of this letter is to respond to PBCN's letter, as well as share a proposed consultation approach for the remainder of the environmental assessment (EA) process for the Project.

**Consultation Process to Date**

In March 2022, PBCN indicated its interest in the Project through an application for funding from CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP) to review the draft environmental impact statement [2]. Since this time, CNSC staff have endeavored to build a positive, constructive relationship with PBCN to ensure meaningful involvement in the regulatory review process for this Project. Activities to date have included:

- awarding of Participant Funding to help support PBCN's participation in the regulatory review process, on June 3, 2022 [3-4]
- providing formal notification letter of Denison's proposed field test and application for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence on June 17, 2022 [5]

- providing formal notification of Denison's draft EIS submission to the CNSC on October 21, 2022 [6], and later inviting members of the public and Indigenous Nations and communities to comment during a 90-day comment period on the draft EIS on November 21, 2022 [7]
- incorporating PBCN's March 3<sup>rd</sup> comments [8] on the draft EIS into the consolidated public comment tables, for response by Denison [9] and the CNSC [10]
- meeting with PBCN leadership and representatives in person to discuss PBCN's comments on the Project and interest in the area, on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 [11]
- ensuring ongoing phone and email correspondence with PBCN representatives, on various topics and offering to meet to learn more about PBCN's specific concerns
- sending periodic email updates on the progress of the EA process and iterative EIS technical review

### **Participant Funding and EIS Comment Period**

In June 2022, CNSC awarded \$45,000 through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP) to PBCN in order for PBCN to:

- hire environmental consultants to review Denison's draft EIS and related documentation;
- engage legal consultants to review Denison's draft EIS and related documentation and conduct an analysis;
- host community meetings and gather feedback on the Project from PBCN member communities, inviting CNSC staff, where appropriate; and,
- submit a written report to the CNSC summarizing comments from the review of the draft EIS and community meetings.

In June 2022, an advance of \$22,500 in PFP funding was provided to PBCN, and an additional \$22,500 is remaining on the Contribution Agreement and available for PBCN to use for ongoing technical reviews related to the EIS, as well as engagement and discussions with the CNSC regarding the Wheeler River Project. The 90-day public comment period for Denison's draft EIS was held from November 21, 2022 to February 18, 2023. As requested, a two-week extension was granted to PBCN, and on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, PBCN provided a 5-page letter of comments on the draft EIS. This letter asserted that Wheeler River falls within PBCN's traditional territory, expressed an interest in sharing information to help CNSC and Denison better understand PBCN land use and territory, and highlighted several concerns related to potential environmental and socio-economic impacts to PBCN members, lands and uses, throughout its territory. This submission included a confidential map showing the Project located on the north westernmost edge of PBCN's traditional territory [12].

In a follow-up phone conversation with Patti McCunn-Miller on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, CNSC staff offered to meet with PBCN in order to share information on the CNSC, the EA and regulatory processes, and to hear more from PBCN about the potential for impacts to Treaty and Aboriginal rights arising from the proposed Wheeler River Project.

During our in-person meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> [13], PBCN presented to CNSC staff [14] and shared background on the PBCN, including PBCN's traditional territory map [12], noting that it continues to be

updated with new information shared by members, as well as expected next steps of the process. In this meeting, PBCN indicated that the community would be submitting additional technical comments on the draft EIS, and that a more detailed map with harvesting and hunting locations, trap lines, cabins of members and other culturally sensitive information is being developed. PBCN informed CNSC staff that this information would be shared once available. PBCN has yet to follow-up on this specific commitment and CNSC staff encourages PBCN to share this important information with the CNSC and Denison Mines as soon as possible.

### **October 5<sup>th</sup> Letter and Concerns**

In its October 5<sup>th</sup> letter, PBCN expresses the concern that it has not had the opportunity or been provided adequate resources to meaningfully engage with the Crown or Denison, in order to understand the potential impacts of the Project to PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights. PBCN has indicated that the funding provided by CNSC is insufficient to support a robust and technical review.

We also understand that PBCN is concerned about potential impacts from the proposed Project, to wildlife, including fish, game and furbearers; members gathering medicinal plants; increase in access by non-PBCN members to hunting and trapping lands; the PBCN fur block located proximate to the Project; as well as the potential to disturb, pollute or interrupt water bodies in the area.

PBCN indicates in this letter that Denison is unwilling to provide any additional funding above and beyond what was provided to meet with PBCN on September 23, 2023, rendering PBCN unable to meaningfully engage in this process, due to lack of financial capacity. PBCN further requests in this letter, that CNSC:

- add PBCN as an Indigenous community of interest for the purposes of consultation on the proposed Project;
- require Denison amend the draft EIS to add PBCN as an Indigenous Nation with an interest in this proposed Project; and,
- require Denison to provide an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

Since learning of PBCN's interest in the project in 2022, CNSC have engaged with PBCN as a community of interest in order to learn more about potential impacts from the proposed Project. As CNSC staff, we remain committed to working and collaborating with PBCN over the remaining steps of the ongoing EA and regulatory process for the Project. It is important that we learn more about PBCN's current land and water use, territory, and rights (and other relevant information) in proximity to the proposed Project, including the PBCN fur block in proximity to the Wheeler River project site referenced in PBCN's letter, as PBCN had previously committed to providing in the June 23, 2023 meeting. These additional details and information would assist the CNSC in being able to further understand and assess the specific impacts of the proposed Project on PBCN's rights and interests. This information and any other specific details regarding PBCN's rights, interests and land use in relation to the Project will be important for CNSC staff to have before we will be able to fully action and specifically respond to

PBCN's requests outlined in the letter, and we look forward to our upcoming discussions to better understand PBCN's specific concerns in relation to the Project.

### **Next Steps**

CNSC look forward to discussing next steps with PBCN on how we can work together to collaborate over the remainder of the regulatory review process for the Project and address the concerns raised by PBCN to date. There is still time for PBCN to contribute information related to the technical review of the EIS, and there will be future opportunities to review CNSC staff's EA Report, as well as to participate in the public Commission hearing process. We invite PBCN to share their consultation objectives with the CNSC and work with us to establish a mutually agreeable approach that is meaningful and addresses PBCN's concerns, comments and requests.

In addition to the funding already awarded to PBCN to date, there will be a second phase of funding through the CNSC's PFP to assist with the review of CNSC staff's EA Report and participation in the public Commission hearing process for the Wheeler River Project, which will be announced at a later date and shared with PBCN directly.

If you have any questions or comments regarding PBCN's participation in the EA process for this project, or the consultation that has occurred to date, please reach out to Jessica Way by email at [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or phone at 343-540-6213, or Ryan Froess by email at [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or phone at 306-914-7892.

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a positive relationship with PBCN and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Yours sincerely,



Nana Kwamena  
Director, Environmental Review Division

Cc:

PBCN: T. Merasty, P. McCunn-Miller

CNSC: J. Way, R. Froess, A. Levine, C. Cattrysse, P. Burton

References:

- [1] PBCN Letter, Ben Merasty (PBCN) to Jessica Way (CNSC), *Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project*, October 20, 2023 (e-doc: 7165835)
- [2] Email, Joel Russel (PBCN) to Adam Zenobi (CNSC), *Re: Wheeler River PBCN PFP Application*, March 15, 2022 (e-doc: 6756584)
- [3] *Participant funding to review the draft environmental impact statement for Denison Mines Corp.'s Wheeler River project - Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission*, posted January 5<sup>th</sup>,

- 2022: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>
- [4] CNSC Agreement, *PBCN Participant Funding Contribution Agreement: PFP 2022 DEN02*, June 3, 2022 (e-doc: 6828942)
  - [5] Letter, Nana Kwamena (CNSC) to Chief Karen Bird (PBCN), *Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application*, June 17, 2023 (e-doc: 6814098)
  - [6] Email, Jes Way (CNSC) to Chief Karen Bird, *Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway*, October 24, 2022 (e-doc: 6943194).
  - [7] Email, Jes Way (CNSC) to Chief Karen Bird, *Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins*, November 21, 2023 (e-doc: 6943429).
  - [8] Letter, Ben Merasty (PBCN) to Jes Way (CNSC), *Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project: Comments of the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation on Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, March 3, 2023 (e-doc: 6987941)
  - [9] Comment Table, *For Denison Response: Consolidated comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS), for the proposed Wheeler River Project*, June 27, 2023: <https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/152190>
  - [10] Comment Table, *For response by regulators: Consolidated comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the draft environmental impact statement (EIS), for the proposed Wheeler River Project*, June 27, 2023: <https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/152359>
  - [11] Meeting and Agenda, *CNSC-PBCN Meeting in Saskatoon*, June 23, 2023 (e-doc: 7165843)
  - [12] *PBCN Confidential Traditional Territory Map*, March 3, 2023 (e-doc: 7064043)
  - [13] Meeting Minutes, *2023-06-23-PBCN and CNSC introductions meeting for the proposed Wheeler River project – Revised*, August 22, 2023 (e-doc: 7165826)
  - [14] Presentation, *PBCN Powerpoint Presentation June 23, 2023 Saskatoon*, August 26, 2023 (e-doc: 7165830)

Although references are made to e-docs in the above list, these are all correspondence that that PBCN should have. If there is anything that you do not, please let us know and we will share upon request.





# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



December 13, 2023

Ms. Nana Kwamena  
Director, Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project**

Dear Ms. Kwamena,

Thank you for your response of November 24, 2023 to PBCN's request dated October 5, 2023 that it be scoped in as a First Nation potentially impacted by the Wheeler River Project (Project).

As discussed, CNSC and PBCN have agreed on the following next steps:

- (1) PBCN will provide CNSC with *preliminary* information regarding PBCN's traditional land and resource use, as discussed at our meeting in June. We note that this information will be provided on a map and the work to finalize this map is underway. PBCN is only developing this map for internal federal government purposes. Developing a map of this nature is antithetical to PBCN's approach to governance and culture as PBCN's leaders have historically relied completely on sharing oral stories. It is our expectation that we may be able to provide additional fur block, wildlife usage, camp and cabin locations and medicine use. The production of this map further underscores the necessity of adequate capacity funding as PBCN intends to use the second portion of the CNSC capacity funding to support our work on this map.
- (2) PBCN and CNSC will meet to review the additional information and deepen CNSC's understanding of PBCN lands, resources and uses.
- (3) PBCN will again request capacity funding from Denison to retain external experts to assist PBCN in the preparation of a Traditional Land, Resources and Uses (TLRU) report. Importantly, we note that the map that we are currently preparing will provide only high-level preliminary information. A TLRU would provide critical information for the record of proceedings and assist Denison in assessing the potential impacts of the Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and interests. As discussed, the capacity funding provided by the CNSC is not sufficient to complete this TLRU and will likely all be used to develop the high-level, preliminary map and ongoing engagement with the CNSC. Further, it is our view that without the TLRU, the proponent cannot meaningfully assess the potential impacts of the Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and



interests and therefore, without such information, no decision should be made on the project.

PBCN urgently requests that the CNSC advise Denison to negotiate capacity funding with PBCN for the preparation of the PBCN TLRU. As noted above, without a TLRU, Denison does not have sufficient information to properly assess the impacts of the Project on PBCN's rights and interests and discharge its delegated Indigenous consultation under the Crown duty to consult.

PBCN reiterates that the Crown duty to consult has not been discharged by the CNSC and its delegate Denison as it relates to PBCN's treaty and Aboriginal rights and interests potentially impacted by the Project. PBCN has directly expressed to the regulator and to Denison that it requires capacity funding, separate from the CNSC Participant Funding Program, to support its review, analysis, and exchange of views on the Project. Denison opining that there are no potential impacts to PBCN is not a meaningful exchange of views, particularly in the absence of a PBCN TLRU. There is an unfair asymmetry in financial and professional resources between Denison and PBCN. Denison offering to meet with PBCN but not providing capacity funding to equip PBCN to meaningfully engage in such meetings, is a hollow offer.

We would like to meet with CNSC as soon as possible to execute on the agreed next steps and urge the CNSC to actively support our request for capacity funding for the preparation of a PBCN TLRU.

Finally, we note that the CNSC should have received a report from PBCN on its expenditures related to the first tranche of capacity funding provided by the CNSC. We respectfully request that the second tranche of capacity funding from the CNSC be provided to PBCN as soon as possible to support our engagement with the CNSC on the Project and the completion of the map referred to above.

Yours very truly,



Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Patricia McCunn-Miller, President Blue Bridge Energy Ltd  
Chani Campbell, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Brienne Paulin, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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**From:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua  
**Sent:** December 13, 2023 4:32 PM  
**To:** Candace Beatty  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty; Ted Merasty; Chani Campbell; Way, Jessica; Brianne Paulin; Froess, Ryan; Levine, Adam; Cattrysse, Clare  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River - Letters to CNSC and Denison

Thank you for your December 13, 2023 letter. This e-mail is to acknowledge receipt.

We look forward to receiving information regarding Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation's (PBCN) traditional land and resource use. Once we've received this information, we can work toward setting up a meeting to discuss the information and next steps as outlined in your letter.

We look forward to continuing to work with and learn from PBCN.

Kind regards,  
Nana

*Nana Kwamena*  
(she, her, elle)

Director, Environmental Review Division | Directrice, Division d'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-543-6760

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**From:** Candace Beatty <cbeatty@pbcn.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 5:26 PM  
**To:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Ted Merasty <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Chani Campbell <CCampbell@arlaw.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Brianne Paulin <BPaulin@arlaw.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River - Letters to CNSC and Denison

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Ms. Kwamena,

On behalf of Ben Merasty, PBCN Executive Director, please review attached letter, thank you.

Candace Beatty, Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2300  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400

Cell: 306.960.7508

Fax: 306.953.4420

Email: [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)

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**From:** Zenobi, Adam  
**Sent:** January 5, 2024 11:45 AM  
**To:** Candace Beatty; Ben Merasty  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica; Levine, Adam; Boser, Sydney; Froess, Ryan  
**Subject:** RE: Capacity Funding for CNSC  
**Attachments:** RE: Wheeler River - Letters to CNSC and Denison

Hello Ben and Candace,

Thank you for providing those invoices! The only deliverable we need before we can release the remainder of the awarded funding is more information on PBCN's current land and water use, territory, and rights (and other relevant information) in proximity to the Wheeler River Project, as discussed at the June 23, 2023 meeting between CNSC staff and PBCN, as well as per the correspondence between Nana Kwamena and PBCN on December 13, 2023 (attached).

We can provide PBCN with an advance of payment of \$11,250 should you be interested. All we need is a brief email confirming that PBCN would like the advance and what it will be used for, we can then process the advanced payment and then payout the remaining funds once the final agreed upon deliverable is completed and submitted to the CNSC.

Let me know if you have any questions, thanks!

Adam Zenobi

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca | Cell: 613-415-2814

Agent principal en politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca | Tél. Cell. : 613-415-2814

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** December 12, 2023 2:16 PM  
**To:** Candace Beatty <[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)>; Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Capacity Funding for CNSC

Hi Ben and Candace,

Thank you for your email. I am looping in Adam Zenobi who is responsible for CNSC's participant funding program. He is the one who manages and reviews these documents coordinates the funding, so he will reach out regarding next steps on the remaining funding.

Also, I wanted to flag that we have two Jessica's at the CNSC with very similar last names. I am working on Wheeler so you've got the right one here (Way), but we work in similar departments and Jessica Wray has also been involved in other Environmental Assessments by the CNSC. In case you have also worked with her, I just wanted to make sure you know we are two different people, as we get mixed up a lot and it sometimes leads to communications landing in the wrong place!

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Have a good afternoon.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

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**From:** Candace Beatty <[cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 12, 2023 12:53 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>  
**Subject:** Capacity Funding for CNSC

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Dear Ms. Wray,

On behalf of Ben, please find enclosed a confirmation of the subject matter expert invoices which PBCN has paid using the initial tranche of capacity funding. We look forward to receiving the remaining capacity funding so that we can prepare and meet with you and your team regarding PBCN's Treaty and Aboriginal rights within the Wheeler River project area.

Regards,  
Ben Merasty

Candace Beatty, Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2300  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 306.960.7508  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [cbeatty@pbcn.ca](mailto:cbeatty@pbcn.ca)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Subject:** RE: November 27th Minutes from PBCN Meeting and Jan 11th Discussion  
**Sent:** 2025-07-31 12:47:07 PM

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <[patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Levine, Adam <[adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** November 27th Minutes from PBCN Meeting and Jan 11th Discussion

Hi Patti,

Thanks for your call this morning. As promised, further below are the notes I took from our meeting back on November 27<sup>th</sup>. I apologize that I didn't send these out. I realize they are quite repetitive, but I think this is useful, as many of the concerns you raised today were received clearly in this meeting.

As I mentioned, one of the major actions from this meeting was for you to go back to PBCN and see what information they can provide us. I highlighted some bullets below in red that relate to this request, in hopes that this will be helpful in your discussions with PBCN.

For our records, some of what we also discussed today:

- PBCN received responses to their letter from both EASB and Denison this week
  - The province has indicated a willingness to work with PBCN and learn more about the concerns they have, while Denison has repeated many of the same points they have previously shared
  - Patti raised concerns about how Denison has used the territory map (confidential), given that this map is in draft and is not wholly indicative of PBCN's land use and was intended to share initial information. There were also concerns about whether this might be posted publicly; I indicated that CNSC will not be, and Denison has not indicated as such
- PBCN is interested in learning more about the Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity funding offered by the CNSC - Patti found this on the CNSC's website and wondered if it could be an option
  - Jes indicated this was not EA specific funding and some of the funding streams may be closed – see action below
  - Jes also indicated that when Adam made mention of potential financial support in our previous meeting, this isn't funding that is advertised and accessed through application on the CNSC's website, and that there is an outstanding action on PBCN

related to the sharing of information; I apologize again for not having shared these minutes, which documents the discussion on this topic

- If the information PBCN has to provide is not formally documented, perhaps a virtual teams meeting with PBCN for them to orally share information could be a first step (although we acknowledge that virtual is not ideal, and the preference would normally be for in person)
- A joint meeting with PBCN, the province and CNSC could be much more efficient for all parties, so that PBCN can share the information they have and both groups can ask questions, and all can hear responses
- Ted Merasty has been working on pulling together some information on PBCN's land use

**Actions:**

- Jes to send minutes from Nov 27<sup>th</sup> discussion (below)
- Jes to follow up with Ryan and team to share some information on Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity funding advertised on the CNSC's website
- Patti to follow up with Ted on the status of his information gathering
- Once Patti has had a chance to review the notes, follow up with Ted and PBCN, we will reconvene and set up a meeting for PBCN to share the information they have committed to sharing

Looking forward to discussing next steps.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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Meeting date/time: Nov 27, 2023 from 1:30 to 2:30 EST

Attendees: Patti McCunn Miller (PBCN); Jes Way, Ryan Froess, Adam Levine (CNSC)

**Meeting Minutes:**

- PBCN received CNSC's response to the letter:
  - PBCN are unhappy about response to letter and consider there to be an asymmetry of power (between regulator, proponent and those that are impacted)
  - Fundamental issue is that for consultation and engagement to be meaningful, it needs to be resourced; a lack of willingness to provide funding puts PBCN in a difficult position, as they have no technical or funding capacity
  - Particularly frustrated that Denison is not showing more willingness to support PBCN, given the risks of not doing so:

- If they can't even fund a discussion, going to be a risk the proponent needs to shoulder and pay for down the road. Doesn't understand why Denison would be redescent to gain this information to ensure that have done due diligence.
- PBCN had a good meeting with the province; admission by province that so much of identification of Nations and communities to consult with are based on existing or past knowledge.
  - There has been no funding for TLU which would have assisted in driving out the information that Denison, the province and CNSC are looking for.
  - When one looks at the criteria, based on wildlife hunting and fur blocks – this is old information. PBCN haven't been a player in the north; the information is not current
- Issues with Denison's process:
  - Denison's engagement process equates to a communication register; pales in comparison when have a FN having stating explicitly what needs are – PBCN are making a very specific request to be properly resourced to do proper technical, legal and regulatory review and are being told that there is no support to obtain this. Understands the documentation part of this, but it's not meaningful engagement.
- PBCN want to understand how CNSC got it's decision on how to consult. How are they different from ERFN?
  - CNSC explained that we have information from ERFN that has helped CNSC understand their concerns about the project on the areas that they are using; ERFN's traditional territory and land use in the area
  - Other nations have shared this information with us, so we have a good understanding of how use land, the reserve lands, a number of examples and TLU that demonstrates use in the area. Some of it's on the record, some is in the EIS.
- Discussion on funding and sharing of information:
  - Patti is surprised that given the explicit request for support, PBCN are not getting any more assistance from regulator
  - CNSC: we are interested in understanding what the impacts are to PBCN from the project, and how PBCN are using the area around wheeler river site.
  - Patti: for PBCN this is an iterative process. Part of what PBCN is looking for funding for, is ability to do TLRU and update draft TL map, and to further be able to engage with PBCN members to drive out information that requesting. Existing map is missing treaty settlement and title that needs to be reflected on that land.
    - In absence of capacity funding, can't take next steps. PBCN needs capacity funding to get to level that others have shown.
    - PBCN would like to do the same – in terms of sharing the information that CNSC has from other Nations - but needs external experts to assist.
    - If doing TLU, would be able to produce compelling information, but would require external advisors, then conduct interviews, document and create a report to provide to regulator and proponent.
  - CNSC: PBCN received some money to raise concerns in public comments – CNSC is trying to understand the concerns the people from PBCN have and how exactly they might be impacted by the project, and potential impacts to rights. What are the issues?
  - Patti: PBCN has done this type of work in the past, and needs to retain expert advisors in the various areas and this costs money.



- Patti sees the PFP funding as routine application; what PBCN is looking for requires a Deeper dive, from a regulatory perspective. The willing party needs to have tools in the tool box. Needs regulatory support, money wise, for proponent to engage.
- PBCN is also acutely aware that regulatory clock is ticking, providing less time to have discussions. Don't want to wait until 11<sup>th</sup> hour to change direction or make a recommendation – this is performative engagement.
- Patti: CNSC says that PBCN has not articulated case, but it's a chicken and the egg thing. With good indigenous engagement practices, should be trusting that PBCN is unable to articulate this need. Good engagement practice to provide funding to at least get into first level of analysis on EIS. This is a grey area. Paternalistic approach.
  - This project carries risk; nothing is a sure thing and everything can fail. PBCN wants funding to review with own experts: the risk of potential failures, longer implications for ground water and interconnected water ways.
  - This is the first ISR project of it's kind in Canada, and CNSC needs to do it's own due diligence – not enough to say that other jurisdictions have proven the method, requires a higher level of regulatory oversight and information on how it will be managed in SK and Canada
  - CNSC has an obligation to go one step further. Any process can fail. PBCN needs to understand how, and longer term implications. Need to understand impacts of freeze wall, and when removed. Reasonable questions that are unanswered for PBCN by someone working on behalf of PBCN, and have to appreciate that any part needs independent advice on this, and not just the part that is trying to get the process approved.
- CNSC: CNSC's role and commitment is to be fair and support the Nation, and find a path forward to ensure everyone is working well together.
  - We understand PBCN's position and request, but is there anything else that PBCN can with us at this point in terms of PBCN's use of the land, water use, trap blocks, sites of interest, areas of cultural importance, etc. that are of specific concerns? PBCN indicated in our last meeting that more was coming on this front, and anything else that could be shared on this topic could help us in discussions with Denison (does not need to be formally documented, and can be information that PBCN Chief and council provide to Patti or the team, and CNSC has mechanisms to protect this information).
  - For example: which fur block is impacted? Are there cabins or land users already there that can be referenced to share what they already know about rights and interests? Any lakes, hunting areas, where trapping and fishing occur. Aside from the broader level issues provided in the EIS Comment submission, what are PBCN actually concerned about? Are there lakes, water ways, etc. that PBCN are using that are down stream?
  - Role as a regulator to support PBCN to do own review, so if PBCN shares this information with us, blocks or trap blocks, any additional more detailed maps,

info on areas of concern, etc. then this gives CNSC information to go back to Denison and say, PBCN are showing that these are areas of concern that we need to address – but we need PBCN to come to the table to work with us.

- Other Points from PBCN:
  - Denison says will meet, but won't fund anything. Woefully insufficient; it's easy when dealing with a project when a super obvious FN is impacted; by nature of the project, PBCN is potentially impacted, but need capacity funding to identify the impacts – PBCN wants to get it done early, but feel like getting steam rolled, PBCN wants to catch up.
  - When PBCN organizes to be a strong counterparty on a project, can get organized to drive out information that need. PBCN wants to drive the principle that if have engagement in SK, there are a particular set of steps that will lead to the ability of discharging the duty adequately.
  - PBCN is looking for regulatory heft, a nudge to Denison that there is a FN that is potentially impacted, and need CNSC to convince them to fund PBCN to get the information. Denison doesn't feel any regulatory pressure. Will only respond to regulatory pressure.
  - Lack of funding and progress in discussions with Denison sets a precedent that a proponent can hold back and stall out FN, as continue to progress application, and precedent for the wrong type of regulatory practice.
  - Duty to consult is CNSC responsibility, doesn't think it's good enough to let a proponent push back like this. We need the Crown to say – this is not good enough.
- CNSC Points:
  - CNSC agrees that when we have information on specific concerns, and it's our duty to hold proponents accountable. At the moment, we don't have a lot to go from; PBCN highlighted general concerns in their EIS Comment submission and shared a territory map, but since PBCN is not as obviously impacted by the project, whatever PBCN can do to help CNSC make this case, we will leverage to support PBCN. We ask that Patti bring this back to PBCN to request sharing of anything that hasn't been shared yet.
    - PBCN's desire to be involved is based on something: what is driving the concern? and if it's rights based concern, this is based on knowledge that PBCN has. Please share to help us make the case to Denison, as we don't have enough to make this nudge.
  - If industry isn't ready to support PBCN and PBCN can provide something to demonstrate what the concerns are, as we've outlined in this meeting, CNSC can look at the situation and how we might be able to provide funding to support collection of land use data. But first, we need to go through the process and have discussions and gain additional information before we get there, and need to understand what PBCN is looking for.
  - CNSC won't go to a decision until we are satisfied with Denison's work, but we are looking for reasonableness from all parties; anything PBCN can provide to help advance discussions for us would be helpful to get PBCN what they are looking for.
  - CNSC offered to have technical discussions with SMEs and PBCN, to help share information and answer questions

Actions:

- Patti agreed to follow up with PBCN to see what additional facts / information they can provide, as outlined in the meeting.
- CNSC and PBCN (or Patti) to meet and discuss once PBCN has this information (in person, or less formally with Patti as an impromptu meeting)
- PBCN will be talking to EASB this week, and will get back in touch to share the outcomes of the meeting.

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

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**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** February 6, 2024 10:27 AM  
**To:** patti@mccunn-miller.com; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** RE: PBCN Update

Morning Patti,

Sounds good and thanks for the update, we will wait to hear from back from PBCN and find a time to meet to discuss.

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor/Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Conseiller principal/Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell: 306-914-7892

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**From:** Patricia McCunn-Miller <patti@mccunn-miller.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 4:07 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** PBCN Update

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hi Jes and Ryan,

I wanted to update you that PBCN is working with the Firelight Group to add additional PBCN indigenous knowledge information to the draft map. I will let you know when the additional information is available for review and discussion.  
All the best,

Patti

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**Patricia McCunn-Miller | President | [Blue Bridge Energy Inc.](#)**  
Email: [patti@mccunn-miller.com](mailto:patti@mccunn-miller.com)  
Phone: (403) 990-8784

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** February 23, 2024 5:27 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Revised EIS and Submission Package - February 2024

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

On February 10, 2024, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a revised draft EIS package for the proposed Wheeler River Project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding information requests (IRs) have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [February 21, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) will run from February 21, 2024 to May 20, 2024. Subject Matter experts will review the responses to IRs provided by Denison, which includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)



# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



October 4, 2024

Ms. Nana Kwamena  
Director, Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Ms. Jes Way  
Senior Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project (the “Project”)**

Dear Ms. Kwamena and Ms. Way,

Further to our letter of December 13, 2023 PBCN wishes to confirm that it has used the capacity funding provided by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (“CNSC”) in January 2024 to partially offset the costs of retaining the Firelight Group to assist PBCN in interviewing PBCN Members and preparing more detailed mapping in and around the Project area (the “Map”).

PBCN has now identified PBCN’s traditional and current land uses in and around the Project area, as well as, the uses by PBCN members for food or cultural practices or for hunting, fishing and trapping in and around the Project area.

Our preliminary review of the proposed Project indicates that the proposed Project will:

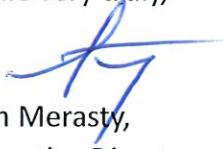
- infringe and unreasonably limit our constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights;
- diminish our ability to exercise our rights by our preferred means;

We would like to meet with you over the coming weeks in Saskatoon to review the Map and supporting materials and discuss the next steps on engagement with the proponent, CNSC, and the Environmental Assessment Branch (Saskatchewan) (“EASB”).

Please be advised that PBCN takes the position that the federal or provincial government may not approve the proposed Project without first understanding PBCN’s interests.

We would like to meet with CNSC and EASB as soon as possible to provide an overview of the Map and PBCN interests, receive an update on the regulatory process for the Project, and determine the agreed next steps.

Yours very truly,



Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Marg Rosling, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Chani Campbell, Aldridge + Rosling LLP

## **PBCN, CNSC & the Province Meeting on the Denison Wheeler River Project**

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024

In-Person – Saskatoon, SK

<b>CNSC and Provincial Attendees</b>	<b>PBCN Attendees</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sydney Nickolet (CNSC)</li><li>• Justin McKeown (CNSC)</li><li>• Jessica Way (CNSC)</li><li>• Raine Noakes (CNSC)</li><li>• Jeff Dereniwski (Province of SK)</li><li>• Candace Piper (Province of SK)</li><li>• Vanessa Boris (Province of SK)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chani Campbell (Legal – Aldridge and Rosling)</li><li>• Ben Merasty (Executive Director PBCN)</li><li>• Ted Merasty (Director of Lands and Resources PBCN)</li><li>• Marg Rosling (Legal – Aldridge and Rosling)</li></ul>

### **Agenda**

1. Update on regulatory review and status of Wheeler River Project – CNSC/EASB
2. Presentation by PBCN
  - Considerations incorporated into producing the map
  - Overview of October 2024 Map
  - Ongoing work and timeline
3. Next steps

### **Meeting Notes**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>PBCN Update on Land Use for the Denison Wheeler River Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Previous legal representative Patti McCunn-Miller is potentially still involved, just not in this meeting today and has reported the information that CNSC has shared with the broader PBCN team.</li><li>• It is of PBCN's view that capacity funding has been limited for PBCN to meaningfully participate in this project and the process but thanks CNSC for their contribution to date as it has supported PBCN's land use data gathering.</li><li>• PBCN has a parcel of land near McLean Lake and Eagle Point – tried to retain the land through Treaty Land Entitlement but this was denied in 2012.</li><li>• PBCN has indicated that Denison representatives have been disinterested in engaging with PBCN to date. PBCN did meet with Denison a year ago, but the meeting did not go well; PBCN found Denison unwelcoming and unopen to considering that PBCN members may be impacted by the Project. PBCN has indicated that Denison stated that they won't consult PBCN unless the federal and provincial governments specifically direct them to, as PBCN was not on either of the consultation lists.</li><li>• The Churchill River and its tributaries are connected to all PBCN communities as the Wheeler River flows into the Churchill River. As such, downstream effects are a concern for PBCN.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBCN is a unique First Nation – comprised of Swampy Cree and Woodland Cree peoples and signatory of Treaty 6. When they signed, they were a part of the same Nation (Montreal Cree Lake and LLRIB) but then were separated in early 1900's. Most PBCN communities are in Treaty 10 territory, however, PBCN is a signatory of Treaty 6 so this makes the Nation unique. There is the small community of Sturgeon landing which is in Treaty 5 territory which also is part of PBCN.</li> <li>• PBCN has 13,000 members from 9 different communities and PBCN's footprint consists of past and current land use. 3 of these communities are downstream from the Proposed Wheeler River Project.</li> <li>• PBCN noted the community of Southend is closer than Patunak or Black Lake to the Denison site.</li> <li>• Ted's grandfather hunted and trapped all the way from Reindeer Lake to Hudson Bay.</li> <li>• PBCN provided their revised traditional territory map to in-person meeting participants.</li> <li>• PBCN is trying to capture land use information with remaining CNSC funding to showcase that information in a digestible format (although it has cost significantly more than what the CNSC has provided). PBCN has contracted Firelight to support this work. PBCN will share this information with Provincial and Federal governments by end of the week of October 28<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• In 1993, PBCN Elders gathered in Pelican Narrows to begin the process for showing traditional land use and to develop land base. Recordings are still available on VHS tapes.</li> <li>• PBCN is reluctant to provide details of this information to industry and government.</li> <li>• PBCN went out to the communities to record information and interviews and went to all 8 communities to gather data. The PBCN map was produced from the information that was provided. The map is a living document and can be changed or updated as time goes on.</li> <li>• This information is being collected in different phases and PBCN are in the beginning phase of this project.</li> <li>• PBCN asked Denison to fund a TLU study over a year ago and this request was denied.</li> <li>• PBCN representatives noted that the Prince Alberta Grand Council (PAGC) did not engage with PBCN on this project, and PBCN has heard that PAGC made the determination that PBCN was not impacted.</li> <li>• PBCN is concerned about the freeze wall and ISR technology and potential contamination into downstream water.</li> <li>• PBCN asked about the consultation list from both the federal and provincial sides for the Denison project and want to be included as a consultation community moving forward. They questioned why they were not originally included in the assessment and why other Nations were. Both CNSC and the Province need further information on PBCN's traditional and current use in the Wheeler River area in order to discern what Impacts to S. 35 Rights are present to consider PBCN an impacted Nation for this project.</li> <li>• PBCN provided some land use information verbally at the meeting including:</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PBCN members fish out of Wollaston Lake and area – species include whitefish, trout, walleye</li> <li>○ PBCN also noted a caribou crossing in the area and a rat route, caribou and moose hunting in the Wollaston Lake area, as well as other harvesting activities, including fungus collection, traditional and medicinal plant collection and there are food storage casts to dry fish along the shores</li> <li>○ PBCN noted there are pictographs on the rocks surrounding Wollaston Lake and a teaching area of significance for hunting and trapping</li> <li>○ General trapping area for PBCN members</li> <li>○ Purple aster and mint tea are gathered in the area</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PBCN will share the information they have documented, and asked that if CNSC/Province need more detail, let PBCN know so that can progress discussions soon.</li> <li>• PBCN also noted significant concerns about the nature of the consultation to date; with limited financial capacity, it has been difficult for PBCN to provide information on potential impacts. Chicken and egg situation, when PBCN need funding to demonstrate how they have been impacted, and CNSC and Denison have been unwilling to provide this adequately, or in Denison's case, at all.</li> </ul>
<b>CNSC Project Update on the Denison Wheeler River Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSC gave a short presentation on the Denison project and our role in the regulatory process</li> <li>• CNSC is currently in the technical review phase of the project with about 12 information requests (IR's) outstanding, and CNSC is aiming to complete our review by mid-Nov. If and once these IRs are resolved, Denison will be informed that they can submit a final EIS.</li> <li>• Once the final EIS is submitted, there is a 30-day review and then if accepted, CNSC would begin writing our EA report. This is potentially where PBCN's information can be incorporated.</li> <li>• It could be approximately one year (potential to change) from when the CNSC accepts the final EIS to when a Commission hearing for the project may be held.</li> <li>• There will be another review period for the EA process, once the CNSC's Environmental Assessment Report and Commission Member Document is drafted and posted, prior to a hearing. Participant Funding will be offered to any interested parties who want to intervene, and PBCN is welcome to do so as well. However, if PBCN is potentially impacted by the proposed project, these are important discussions to have in advance of a Commission hearing.</li> <li>• The process is getting closer to the end, but that doesn't stop the work that CNSC and Denison are doing behind the scenes to consult and engage with Indigenous Nations and communities. If PBCN has information to share, CNSC encourages PBCN to share this as soon as possible with Denison, so that if there are potential impacts to PBCN members, they have an opportunity to address these concerns. Information on potential impacts</li> </ul>

	<p>could help the proponent understand the importance of engaging more directly with PBCN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When CNSC asked PBCN to provide additional information on traditional and current use in the project area that directly impact PBCN's Rights, CNSC staff had indicated to Patti last year that any information that PBCN had in it's possession (i.e. even verbally) could help staff support in progressing these discussions with Denison; we were not awaiting a fully documented TK study.</li> <li>Next Steps: CNSC staff are interested in continuing these discussions and once PBCN has shared the documented land use information, ideally another meeting (virtually) would be organized within the coming month. If PBCN has an interest in the remaining PFP contribution agreement, we can support in helping coordinate this (remaining: \$11,250).</li> </ul>
<b>Provincial Project Update on the Denison Wheeler River Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Province is in a similar stage as the CNSC in getting closer to the end of the provincial process, and have received a final EIS from Denison. This will be posted for public review, and given the alignment of the two process, expect that the same EIS will be accepted through the federal and provincial processes.</li> <li>Once the final EIS is posted for the provincial process, there will be a review period of 30 to 60 days from public and Indigenous communities, and this information will be collected for the Ministers decision on the project.</li> <li>Nov 9<sup>th</sup> is likely when the review for the consultation and engagement will begin for provincial review of the Final EIS.</li> <li>No decision has been made on the project.</li> <li>The Province would be looking to confirm the consultation and engagement that has happened with the Nations is adequate and DTC has been fulfilled.</li> <li>The Province and CNSC expects Denison to engage on the project with anyone who is interested, including PBCN.</li> </ul>
<b>Other discussion Points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNSC and provincial staff both reiterated that no guidance has been provided to Denison that they do not need to engage with PBCN</li> </ul>

### Action Item Summary

<b>Responsible Party</b>	<b>Action Item</b>
PBCN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share land use information with CNSC and the Province that was shared today (PBCN to confirm if any of this information can be shared with the proponent)</li> </ul>
CNSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share confidentiality TLU form with PBCN (complete)</li> </ul>
CNSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To share minutes and organize follow up meeting</li> </ul>



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada

# Wheeler River Project

## Update to PBCN

Jes Way, Sydney Nickolet

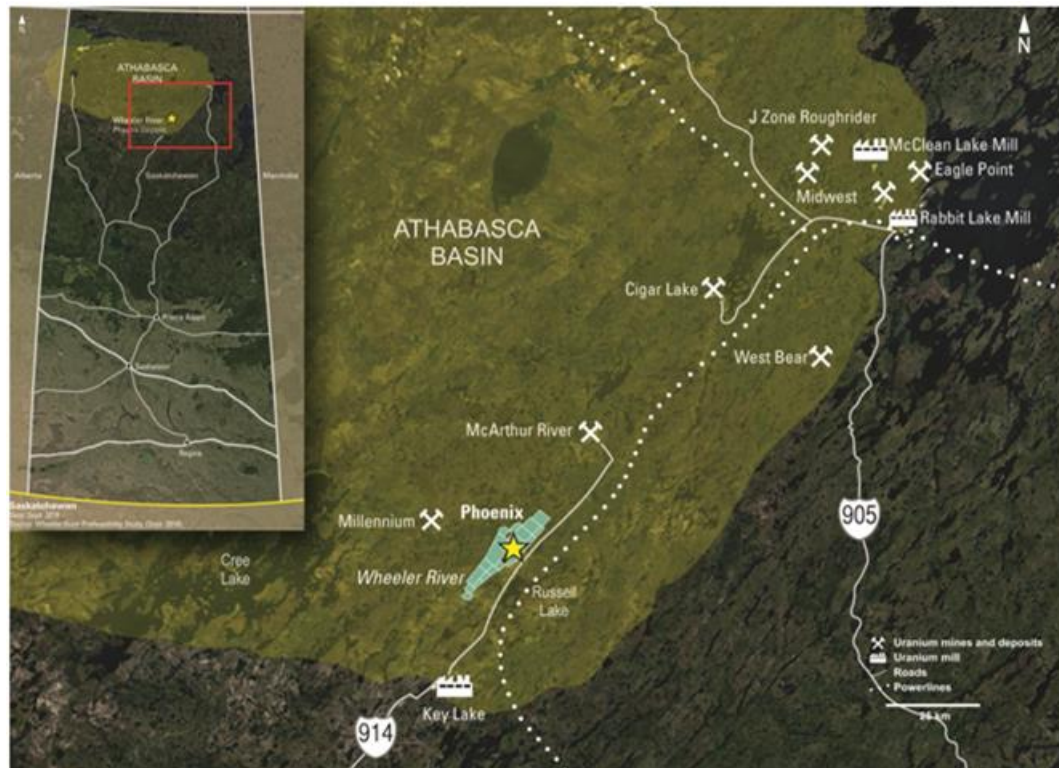


[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



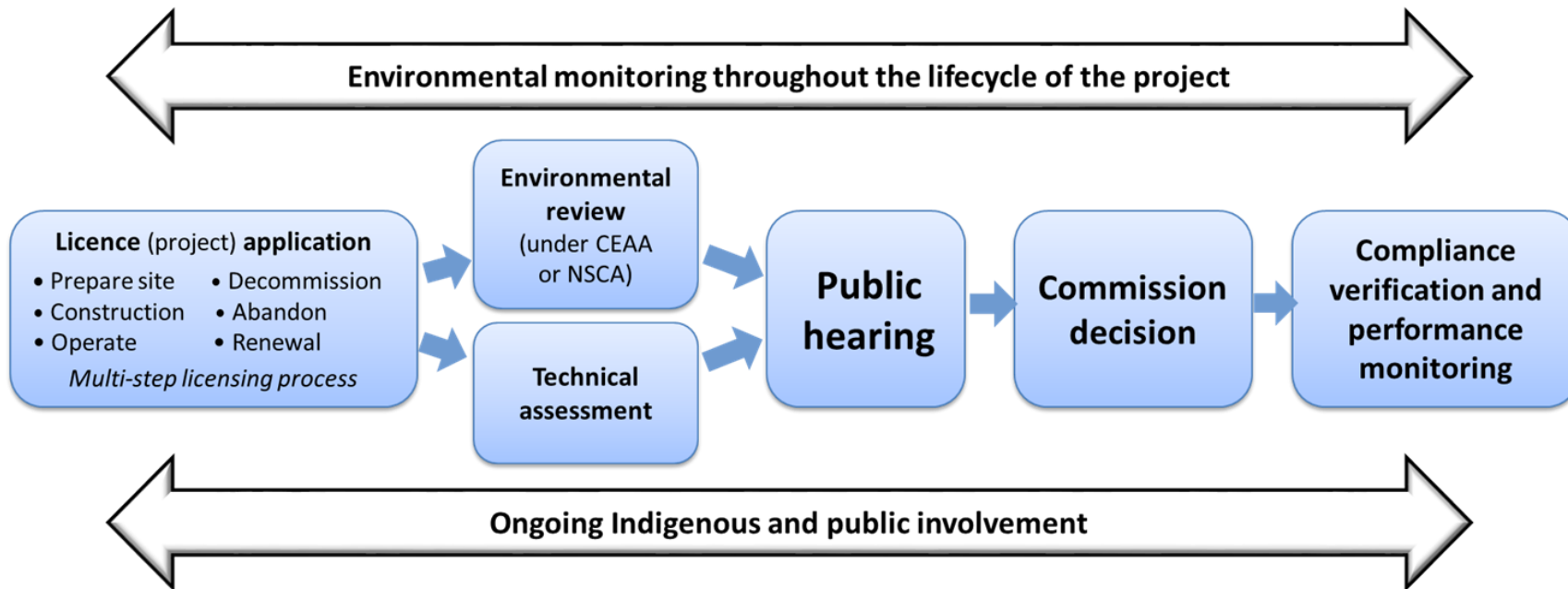
# Wheeler River Project – EA Update

- Proposed uranium mine and processing plant in the eastern area of the Athabasca Basin region
- *In situ* recovery mining process and precipitation processing plants
- Closed loop process reusing water from precipitation process to re-inject into *in situ* recovery mining





# CNSC licensing



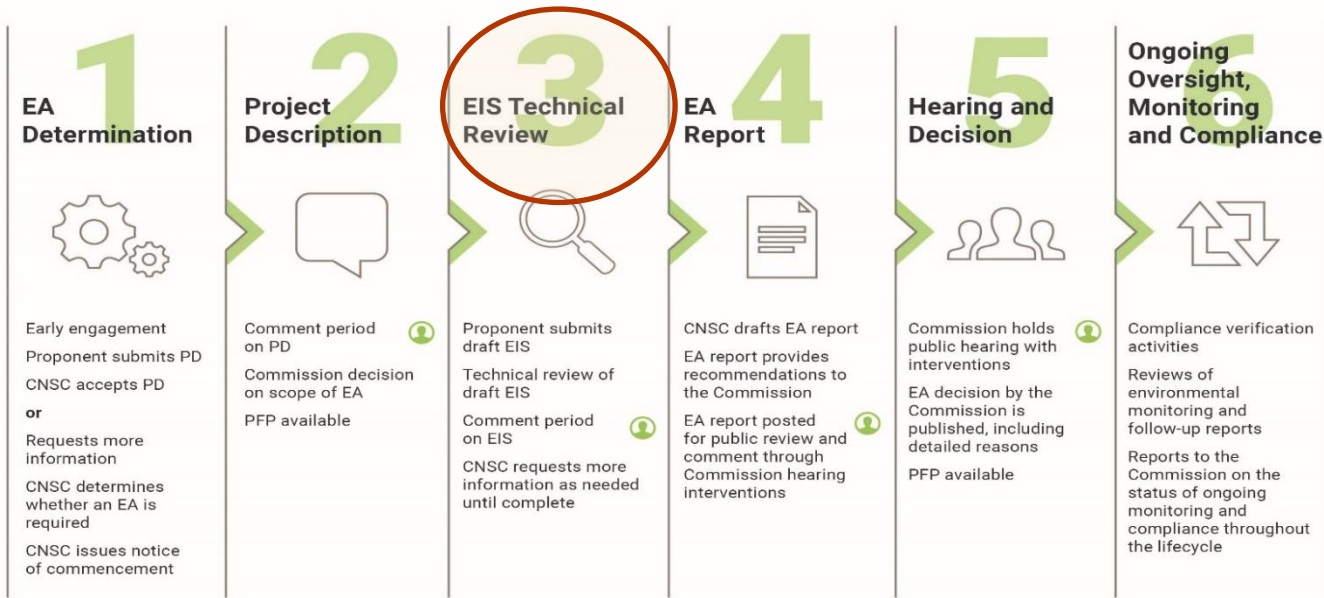


# Wheeler River Project – EA Update

## Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Environmental Assessment Process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012

Ongoing public engagement  
and Indigenous consultation  
throughout the EA process

Current phase of EIS  
technical review is  
expected to conclude  
in **November**.



### Legend

EA: Environmental Assessment  
PD: Project Description

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement  
PFP: Participant Funding Program

: Formal Participation Opportunity





# EA Steps Diagram

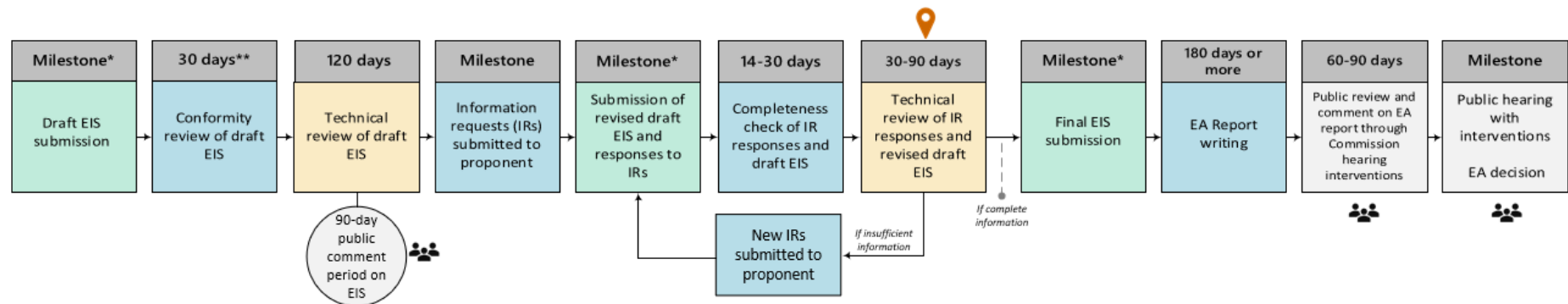
## DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS UNDER THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT, 2012



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

- FROM THE DRAFT EIS SUBMISSION UNTIL THE EA DECISION -



EIS TECHNICAL REVIEW  
PHASE

EA REPORT  
PHASE

HEARING AND  
DECISION PHASE

Ongoing Indigenous consultation and engagement throughout the EA process

### LEGEND

FPIRT task

CNSC staff task

Proponent task

Milestone or  
duration of task



Public and Indigenous  
comment period

\* Proponent led milestones are at the discretion of the proponent and have no specific timeline associated with the task.

\*\* Duration is in calendar days for all steps of the process.





# Indigenous Consultation and Engagement

- The CNSC, as Canada's nuclear life cycle regulator, engages with Indigenous Nations and communities over the life of a project
- As an agent of the Crown, CNSC consults with potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities to understand and address potential impacts to Indigenous and/or treaty rights from a project
- CNSC requires proponents and licensees to engage with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities early in the development and throughout the life of their project



# PBCN Discussions



# Next Steps in EA Process

- Regular correspondence and meetings with PBCN to collaborate and share project updates as requested
- Discussions on impacts, related to:
  - health and socio-economic conditions
  - physical and cultural heritage
  - current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes
  - structures and sites of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance
- Review Issues and Concerns drafted by CNSC
- Incorporation of information shared into our EA report



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

# Questions?

# Thank You!

# Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)



Protect communities, workers  
and the environment



Ensure the peaceful use of nuclear  
energy



Share information



# What the CNSC Regulates in Canada

Uranium mining



Transportation



Dosimetry



Nuclear research



Uranium fuel processing



Nuclear power generation



Radioactive waste management



Nuclear medicine



Nuclear substance processing



# Independent Commission

## Acting President



**DR. TIMOTHY  
BERUBE**



**MS. ANDREA  
HARDIE**



**MR. JERRY  
HOPWOOD**



**MR. RANDALL  
KAHGEE**



**DR. MARCEL  
LACROIX**



**DR. VICTORIA  
REMENDA**



**VACANCY**

- Agent of the Government of Canada (the Crown)
- Independent of Government - Reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources Canada
- Considers the public and Indigenous communities' concerns and knowledge in decisions



# The Role of CSNC Staff

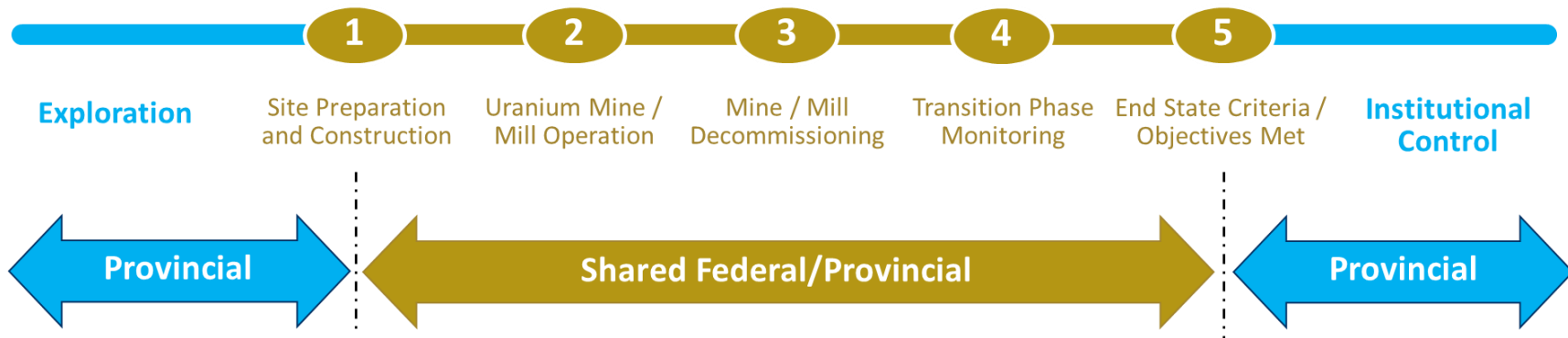
- Conduct assessments on information submitted by applicants and licensees to verify that they meet requirements
- Make recommendations to the Commission and Implement Commission decisions
- Develop regulatory requirements and guidance for Commission approval
- Verify and enforce compliance with regulatory requirements
- Engage the public and Indigenous groups through outreach activities







# Uranium Mines and Mills Regulatory Lifecycle



*Responsibility returns to the province at end of project life*

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**From:** [Chani Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Nickolet, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
[Froess, Ryan](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Margaret Rosling](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Brianne Paulin](#);  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024  
[PBCN executed lettter to CNSC November 7 2024](#)  
**Attachments:** [\(00106413xDD1F1\).pdf](#); [CNSC Request to Protect Confidential Information November 4 2024 \(00106410xDD1F1\).pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2024-11-07 12:25:59 PM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Good morning Jes and Sydney,

Ben is traveling today and unable to send this letter but he has instructed me to send the attached letter and confidentiality agreement for your review and consideration. As discussed, the confidentiality agreement explicitly permits sharing with the province. Please note that PBCN has two outstanding questions of clarification in the researcher and will revise the scheduled information as this information is provided to PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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**From:** Chani Campbell

**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 6:23 AM

**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

Thanks again for traveling to meet with PBCN. I know that PBCN really appreciated the opportunity to meet in person. At your earliest convenience, could you please circulate the minutes from the meeting which Justin advised us he was recording?

[@Nickolet, Sydney](#) thanks for sending the template confidentiality agreement yesterday.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP

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**From:** Chani Campbell

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:57 AM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

The voting took a bit longer than expected so we are running 20-30minutes behind.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 242 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Direct: 604-343-4310  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 27, 2024, at 6:03 PM, Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Chani,

Thanks for confirming, we can plan to start after 13:30.

There should be street parking out front or on the road near the building but if there

floor. He should direct you to where the office is located, but we will be watching for you. If you have any issues or need to get in touch with us, you can call or text me at: 343-540-6213

Safe travels and see you Tuesday.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 25, 2024 2:41 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Great! Thanks for organizing Jes.

Just a minor detail, but PBCN will not be able to start the meeting until 13:30 as there is an election in Prince Albert on Tuesday morning.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary  
<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain  
<[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and  
EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

Thanks for confirming the numbers I think we can make the space work at the CNSC  
office that day, and we have booked the room from 1pm SK time on.

I will chat with Ryan and we can share additional details about meeting you when you  
arrive, visitors in the building, etc., but the office is located at: 101 22nd St E,  
Saskatoon SK S7K 0E1.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:05 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV  
<[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret  
Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper,  
Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary  
<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain  
<[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and  
EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

I think there will be 4-5 participants on behalf of PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

The afternoon of October 29<sup>th</sup> also works for CNSC. We would be happy to welcome you to meet at our office in Saskatoon, but would it be possible to confirm the number of attendees on PBCN's side, just to ensure we have adequate space to accommodate the number of meeting participants?

The initial agenda sounds good to CNSC. We are looking forward to it.

Have a good evening.

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Chani,

I want to confirm that October 29<sup>th</sup> would work for EASB, preferably in the afternoon if possible.

**Jeff Dereniwski**

**Government of Saskatchewan**

Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.  
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6  
Tel 306-787-5971  
[<image001.png>](#)

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---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:18 PM

**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[Ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

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Confirming that PBCN is available to meet on October 29 in Saskatoon. If folks are traveling that morning, I am assuming that the afternoon is a better time for a meeting. Could you please confirm preference? Additionally, any preference on meeting room location? PBCN often meets at the Saskatoon Inn but is happy to meet at a different location if that works better for EASB/CNSC.

A rough agenda is:

1. Update on regulatory review and status of Wheeler River Project – CNSC/EASB
2. Presentation by PBCN
  1. Considerations incorporated into producing the map
  2. Overview of October 2024 Map
  3. Ongoing work and timeline
3. Next steps

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:11 AM

**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached letter and offer to meet with PBCN to discuss the traditional and current land use in proximity to the Denison Wheeler River Project. Due to provincial elections restrictions currently in place, we are unable to meet until after the election on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We would be interested in meeting with PBCN in Saskatoon

**Government of Saskatchewan**

Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.  
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6  
Tel 306-787-5971  
[<image001.png>](#)

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---

**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 4:14 PM

**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; [brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

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Please see the attached document.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201

2300 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2300

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

S6V 6Z1

Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)





# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O. Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



November 7, 2024

Ms. Jes Way  
Senior Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison")– Wheeler River Project (the "Proposed Project")**

Dear Ms. Way,

We appreciated the opportunity to meet on October 29, 2024 to respond to CNSC's request for evidence of PBCN's traditional and current use in the vicinity of the Proposed Project. As you know, PBCN retained the Firelight Group in February 2024 to work with PBCN on developing a preliminary traditional land use map (the "Map").

This preliminary work has taken PBCN over eight months and has included in depth interviews with many PBCN members who have and continue to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights in PBCN territory. In addition to the capacity funding from CNSC, the project has required over \$50,000 of PBCN's own limited financial resources. PBCN's mapping project is ongoing and we expect that the next phase will focus on incorporating historical archival evidence and undertaking more in-depth interviews with PBCN members.

However, in the interests of ensuring that PBCN is appropriately consulted in the regulatory process for the Proposed Project, in addition to the map circulated during our meeting, PBCN wishes to provide CNSC with a summary of the information collected to date in respect of the exercise of rights and interests in the Proposed Project area and surrounding areas. . We are providing this summary on the understanding that this information is preliminary and that PBCN will be refining and building upon this work with the ultimate goal of developing a comprehensive multi-layered map of PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty interests in Northern Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwest Territories. The Map and a preliminary summary of the evidence of PBCN Aboriginal Rights is appended hereto as Schedule "A" and is provided to CNSC on a confidential basis under the confidentiality agreement between CNSC and PBCN dated November 4, 2024 (the "**Confidentiality Agreement**").



As PBCN has indicated on numerous occasions, it is beyond doubt that PBCN has (and always has had) Aboriginal rights in the vicinity of the Proposed Project and in areas that may be impacted by the effects of the Proposed Project. It is also beyond doubt that PBCN members have exercised these rights since time immemorial and continue to exercise these rights. PBCN continues to be deeply concerned that the Proposed Project may have significant adverse effects on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights, and that the regulatory process for the Proposed Project to date has not even begun to assess these potential effects.

PBCN has repeatedly expressed its frustration with Denison's assertion that their Proposed Project will have no potential impacts on PBCN, without a meaningful exchange of information. As we have discussed, there is an unfair asymmetry in financial and professional resources between Denison and PBCN. Denison's offers to meet with PBCN in the absence of capacity funding to equip PBCN to meaningfully engage in such meetings, is a hollow offer. We urge the CNSC to actively support our request for capacity funding for the preparation of a PBCN TLRU and development of mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of the Proposed Project on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights.

Given the foregoing and the summary attached hereto, PBCN respectfully requests that CNSC:

1. require Denison amend the draft EIS to add PBCN as an Indigenous Nation with an interest in this proposed Project;
2. require Denison to provide an assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights in accordance with those rights outlined at Schedule "A" and the TLRU. Information should include:
  - a. how Denison made its preliminary assessment of potential impacts on PBCN's aboriginal and treaty rights in respect of the proposed Project,
  - b. what specific information it considered in making such a determination;
  - c. the specific types of disturbances to land, water, fish and wildlife resources Denison identified, and
  - d. how the proposed Project may potentially limit PBCN's exercise of its aboriginal and treaty rights.
- 3.

advise Denison to negotiate capacity funding with PBCN for the preparation of the PBCN Traditional Land & Resource Use study ("TLRU") and so PBCN can retain subject matter



experts to support the collaborative development of mitigation strategies.

Without the above-noted information being collected and assessed by Denison, it is PBCN's view that the CNSC is unable to properly consult PBCN on the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on PBCN's rights and interests and, where appropriate, accommodate PBCN in respect of those impacts.

We enclose the Confidentiality Agreement which governs the information contained in Schedule "A".

Yours very truly,



Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Marg Rosling, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Chani Campbell, Aldridge + Rosling LLP

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Chani Campbell](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Margaret Rosling](#);  
[Froess, Ryan](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Ted](#)  
**Cc:** [Merasty](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Brienne Paulin](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Nickle](#); [Sydney](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024  
**Sent:** 2024-11-19 1:52:15 PM

---

Hi Chani, Ben and Ted,

Thanks again for sharing the information contained in the emails below. Following our review, CNSC staff have a couple of questions:

- Will PBCN be providing CNSC staff with an updated version of the preliminary results to the CNSC that are project specific to the Denison Wheeler River Project?
- Does PBCN have any TLE claims that they are working on getting approvals on in the immediate or regional study area?
- Is PBCN willing or planning to share their information with Denison so that the proponent can better understand how their project may potentially impact PBCN's rights?

We had discussed in our meeting that it might be possible for the province or CNSC to share PBCN's information with Denison in some form, with redacted information. We note that in your confidentiality agreement it states "PBCN does not want additional information disclosed to Denison or any contractor, consultant or representative of Denison or any affiliate of Denison." If there are any specifics that we can share with Denison in the coming weeks, please let us know. It is CNSC's understanding that Denison is open and interested in receiving any information regarding PBCN's rights and traditional use, in order to best address PBCN's concerns. We encourage you to share this information with Denison. As I noted in the meeting, we are getting closer to a final EIS and it will be important that this information is shared soon, in order for Denison to work with PBCN on these topics.

We'd also like to schedule a follow up meeting, as CNSC staff also want to better understand PBCN's specific concerns with the project. When would PBCN be available to meet next with CNSC staff to discuss next steps to share more about how the Project may potentially impact PBCN's rights? Would it be possible to schedule a follow up call in the coming week or two, virtually by MS Teams? We would be happy to include the province in these calls as well.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2024 2:19 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Brianne Paulin <[BPaulin@arlaw.ca](mailto:BPaulin@arlaw.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Good afternoon Chani,

Thank you for providing CNSC with the information and update. I do confirm that the information has been received by CNSC and we will review internally and get back to PBCN with next steps. In the meantime, if PBCN receives clarification on those questions noted below please do reach out to myself or Jessica at anytime to share that information!

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis  
Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2024 12:24 PM



**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Brianne Paulin <[BPaulin@arlaw.ca](mailto:BPaulin@arlaw.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

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Good morning Jes and Sydney,

Ben is traveling today and unable to send this letter but he has instructed me to send the attached letter and confidentiality agreement for your review and consideration. As discussed, the confidentiality agreement explicitly permits sharing with the province. Please note that PBCN has two outstanding questions of clarification in the researcher and will revise the scheduled information as this information is provided to PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Chani Campbell  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 6:23 AM  
**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

Thanks again for traveling to meet with PBCN. I know that PBCN really appreciated the opportunity to meet in person. At your earliest convenience, could you please circulate the minutes from the meeting which Justin advised us he was recording?

[@Nickolet, Sydney](#) thanks for sending the template confidentiality agreement yesterday.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-  
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---

**From:** Chani Campbell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:57 AM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

The voting took a bit longer than expected so we are running 20-30minutes behind.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 242 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Direct: 604-343-4310  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 27, 2024, at 6:03 PM, Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Chani,

Thanks for confirming, we can plan to start after 13:30.

There should be street parking out front or on the road near the building, but if there isn't, there are buildings with parkades quite close to the office. Worst case scenario, there is also an outdoor parking lot right next to the Hilton Garden Inn Saskatoon.

As a reminder, the CNSC office is at 101-22<sup>nd</sup> street East (Suite 520). When you arrive you can go to the security guard at the front desk and he will let you up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. He should direct you to where the office is located, but we will be watching for you. If you have any issues or need to get in touch with us, you can call or text me at: 343-540-6213

Safe travels and see you Tuesday.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** October 25, 2024 2:41 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper,

Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary  
<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain  
<[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and  
EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE –  
FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Great! Thanks for organizing Jes.

Just a minor detail, but PBCN will not be able to start the meeting until 13:30 as  
there is an election in Prince Albert on Tuesday morning.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2024 4:04 PM

**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV  
<[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret  
Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper,  
Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary  
<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain  
<[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and  
EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

Thanks for confirming the numbers I think we can make the space work at the CNSC office that day, and we have booked the room from 1pm SK time on.

I will chat with Ryan and we can share additional details about meeting you when you arrive, visitors in the building, etc., but the office is located at: 101 22nd St E, Saskatoon SK S7K 0E1.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:05 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

I think there will be 4-5 participants on behalf of PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

The afternoon of October 29<sup>th</sup> also works for CNSC. We would be happy to welcome you to meet at our office in Saskatoon, but would it be possible to confirm the number of attendees on PBCN's side, just to ensure we have adequate space to accommodate the number of meeting participants?

The initial agenda sounds good to CNSC. We are looking forward to it.

Have a good evening.

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours — please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

[ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

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Hello Chani,

I want to confirm that October 29<sup>th</sup> would work for EASB, preferably in the afternoon if possible.

**Jeff Dereniwski**

**Government of Saskatchewan**

Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.

Regina, Canada S4S 5W6

Tel 306-787-5971

<[image001.png](#)>

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---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:18 PM

**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper,

Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary  
<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[Ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>;  
Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain  
<[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and  
EASB on October 29, 2024

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links or open attachments unless you trust the sender's email ID and ensure it is not  
a spam/phishing email.

Good afternoon Jeff and Jes,

Confirming that PBCN is available to meet on October 29 in Saskatoon. If folks are traveling that morning, I am assuming that the afternoon is a better time for a meeting. Could you please confirm preference? Additionally, any preference on meeting room location? PBCN often meets at the Saskatoon Inn but is happy to meet at a different location if that works better for EASB/CNSC.

A rough agenda is:

1. Update on regulatory review and status of Wheeler River Project –  
CNSC/EASB
2. Presentation by PBCN
  1. Considerations incorporated into producing the map
  2. Overview of October 2024 Map
  3. Ongoing work and timeline
3. Next steps

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:11 AM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached letter and offer to meet with PBCN to discuss the traditional and current land use in proximity to the Denison Wheeler River Project. Due to provincial elections restrictions currently in place, we are unable to meet until after the election on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We would be interested in meeting with PBCN in Saskatoon immediately following the provincial election on either October 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, or 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jeff Dereniwski**  
**Government of Saskatchewan**  
Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.  
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6  
Tel 306-787-5971  
<[image001.png](#)>

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---

**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken

ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; [brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca)

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

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Please see the attached document.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201

2300 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2300

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

S6V 6Z1

Ph: 306.953.4400

Cell: 639.533.2510

Fax: 306.953.4420

Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



December 7, 2024

e-Doc: 7421367

Chief Peter Beatty  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
chiefbeatty@sasktel.net

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices  
Licence Renewal Application**

Dear Chief Peter Beatty:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to renew Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence No. 60677-1-24.0, issued for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage of natural uranium collected during the Feasibility Field Test. The recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground while Denison pursues a licence to continue operations at the Wheeler River site.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012), led by CNSC staff, has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project,. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC, as necessary.

**Feasibility Field Test**

The feasibility field test has concluded and the recovered mineralized material containing natural uranium is currently in above ground storage tanks at the Wheeler River site. The material remains the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

Denison's current request to renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence is to permit the mineralized solution to remain at the site and perform sampling of the material for further analysis. There is no change to the design or construction of storage tanks and protective barriers at the site. Likewise, there is no change to the CNSC regulatory requirements imposed through this licence.

The licence is proposed to have a term of two years, expiring December 31, 2026. Denison would be required to either renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, transfer the material to another CNSC licence, or remove the material from the Wheeler River site prior to expiry of this licence.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a renewed licence be granted to Denison.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence renewal application for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

If you haven't already, you may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nicole Frigault

A/Director, Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: B. Merasty, T. Merasty, PBCN  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, N. Kwamena, J. Way, R.  
Noakes, A. Levine, R. Froess, CNSC  
J. Dereniowski, C. Piper, SEASB

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** January 22, 2025 7:00 PM  
**To:** chiefbeatty@sasktel.net  
**Cc:** Levine, Adam; Burton, Patrick; Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Duhaime, Brenda; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Noakes, Rain; Zenobi, Adam; Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; McKeown, Justin; Ted Merasty; Ben Merasty  
**Subject:** Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with PBCN - Proposed Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** 2025-01-22-Letter-CNSC\_to\_PBCN\_-\_Next\_steps\_of\_the\_Regulatory\_Process-Wheeler\_River\_EA.pdf

Dear Chief Beatty,

I am sending the attached letter on behalf of the CNSC, outlining proposed next steps of the CNSC's consultation process with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation for the Wheeler River regulatory review process.

We look forward to hearing back from you and setting up a meeting to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



CIAR NO.: 80178

e-Doc: 7449267

**January 22, 2025**

Chief Peter Beatty  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
[chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net)

**Subject: Proposed Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Peter Beatty:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update and share a proposed consultation and engagement approach with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) on the regulatory review process for Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project).

### **Current Status of the Process of the federal Environmental Assessment**

On December 24, 2024, the federal review of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded, and the Final EIS was accepted by CNSC staff as it meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). As you will have learned from the CNSC's December 24<sup>th</sup> email to the public distribution list, the documents can be found on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry \(the Registry\)](#).

CNSC staff have reviewed the responses Denison provided to comments that were received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS in 2023, and these are now [available on the Registry](#). CNSC staff have also drafted responses comments that were applicable to the CNSC's oversight and responsibilities and look forward to further discussing these in the immediate future. The responses can also be [found on the Registry](#).

### **Proposed Next Steps of Consultation**

Building on the ongoing consultation and engagement that started in 2023 between PBCN and CNSC in relation to this Project, CNSC staff have provided the consultation approach as outlined in Appendix 1. Table 1 of this letter details the suggested consultation activities for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Project.

The CNSC staff will be preparing the following reports and documents to support staff's recommendations to the Commission:

- **An EA Report** which provides information and analysis to assist the Commission in its determination on whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
- **A Consultation Report** which will include details on consultation and engagement activities and perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on Indigenous Nations' rights and interests.
- **A Commission Member Document (CMD)** which presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.

CNSC staff are interested in ensuring that PBCN's perspectives, issues and concerns, and other topics of interest to PBCN are properly reflected in CNSC staff's reports and recommendations. This would involve CNSC staff developing the content as a first step based on information that PBCN has submitted and provided to date to the CNSC and Denison and then providing the draft content for review and comment. CNSC staff will be providing detailed timelines on the remainder of the regulatory process once a Commission hearing date has been identified by the Commission Registry.

The activities outlined in the proposed consultation approach are flexible, and CNSC staff would like to discuss these remaining steps of the regulatory review process. Some potential topics for discussion would include:

- review of the CNSC's assessment of the Project specifically related to PBCN information on community member perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on the PBCN rights and interests
- discussions with the CNSC and Denison, as appropriate, regarding potential commitments, mitigations and accommodations to address potential environmental effects
- awarding funding through the CNSC's PFP to support the review of CNSC staff's Reports and consultation and engagement with the CNSC participation in the CNSC's Commission hearing process through interventions, as determined by PBCN
- discussions with the CNSC on conclusions and recommendations related to topics of concern and interest to PBCN

CNSC staff are committed to continued collaboration with PBCN to ensure that consultation for the Project is meaningful, addresses PBCN's concerns, and upholds the Honour of the Crown. To discuss any matters related to the regulatory review process of the Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



Please review the proposed consultation process for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Wheeler River Project (Appendix 1) and **provide any feedback by February 17, 2025.**

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a long-term relationship with PBCN and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Yours sincerely,



Nana Kwamena  
Director  
Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



Justin McKeown  
A/ Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c. : CNSC: A. Levine, P. Burton, J. Way, R. Froess, B. Duhaime, K. Gorzkowski, R. Noakes, A. Zenobi  
PBCN: T. Merasty, B. Merasty

Enclosure: (1) Proposed consultation process with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation for the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project

**References:**

- [1] CNSC, Regulatory Guide, *REGDOC- 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement*, Version 1.2, February 2022, <https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/published/html/regdoc3-2-2-v1-2/>
- [2] CNSC, *Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement*, May 2016, <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>

## Appendix 1

### **Proposed Consultation Process with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process of the Wheeler River Project**

#### **1. Introduction**

These proposed next steps in the consultation process, which started in 2023, are intended to guide federal Crown (led by CNSC) consultation activities with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project (the Project). They communicate CNSC's objectives for consultation, the proposed structure for integrating consultation into the regulatory review process, and the proposed activities in which the CNSC and PBCN can work together to address PBCN's concerns regarding the Project.

#### **2. Federal Crown's Consultation Objectives**

- To continue the establishment of a positive and productive working relationship with PBCN during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process.
- To communicate with PBCN about the Project and developments during the regulatory review process in a timely manner.
- To work with PBCN to:
  1. identify any potential environmental effects of the Project, including those on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, health and socio-economic conditions, and heritage resources
  2. identify adverse impacts of the Project on your community's potential or established rights
  3. ensure options for avoiding, mitigating, or accommodating adverse impacts are considered
- To work with PBCN and the proponent to respond to specific questions and requests regarding issues raised related to the Project.
- To listen to and understand the concerns raised, and consider the feedback, perspectives, and issues raised by PBCN.

#### **3. Integrating Consultation into the Regulatory Review Process**

Table 1 provides a description of the main remaining steps in the regulatory review process and a description of how the CNSC proposes to integrate consultation activities into those steps. This table describes what PBCN should receive, have access to, or expect from the CNSC, on behalf of the federal Crown, and what PBCN could share and provide to the regulatory review process.

**Table 1: Integrating Consultation into the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What PBCN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information PBCN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways PBCN may want to participate</b>
Project Description Review and Scoping Decision  (Completed in 2019-20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for PBCN to provide comments on the Project Description – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSC notification to PBCN of the project and project description review process - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• PFP offering - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Early information sharing and offers of consultation meetings – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments on the project description - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Review  (Initiated 2022 – complete as of December 24, 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for PBCN to provide comments on draft EIS – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison to revise documentation to address comments and concerns raised by PBCN - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison expected to discuss with PBCN how their comments and concerns have been addressed. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to participate in technical discussions with CNSC staff regarding PBCN's outstanding comments and concerns, as well as other discussions as necessary (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with PBCN). - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Opportunity for direct and continued discussions between PBCN and the CNSC. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide PBCN's views on the accuracy of Denison's information about issues PBCN have raised and on any proposed ways of addressing those impacts. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a template developed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) (CEAA references the BC First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group Toolkit Workshop as a basis for this document).

<sup>2</sup> Any updates to dates related to the regulatory review process will be communicated to PBCN.

<sup>3</sup> Denison's activities during this step of the regulatory review process are not specifically steps of the regulatory review process, but these are expectations of Denison, by CNSC staff.

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What PBCN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information PBCN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways PBCN may want to participate</b>
Development of draft Consultation Report  <i>(Current phase – 2025)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Consultation Report includes a summary of consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, potential impacts to potential or established rights of select Indigenous Nations and communities, views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and the CNSC's response to those concerns, and potential mitigation and/or accommodation measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for direct discussions between PBCN and the CNSC to accurately reflect issues and concerns to PBCN (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with PBCN).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide comment on sections of the draft Consultation Report specific to PBCN.</li> </ul>

<p>EA Report, Consultation Report and Licensing CMD Review</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Commission Public Hearings</p> <p><i>(Hearing date 2025 –2026 TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA Report presents the CNSC staff's views on the findings of the EA, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the adverse environmental effects that are likely to result from the project, appropriate measures that would mitigate those effects, the significance of residual effects after implementation of the mitigation measures, as well as the components of the follow-up and monitoring program.</li> <li>• CNSC staff will submit and make publicly available, for review, the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD in advance of public hearings (timing to be determined by CNSC Registry).</li> <li>• The licensing CMD presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.</li> <li>• The Commission will hold public hearings with opportunities for public and Indigenous Nations and communities to submit oral and/or written interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to review the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD to inform oral and/or written intervention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present PBCN's views to the Commission by providing information orally and/or in writing.</li> <li>• It is recommended that any diverging views with CNSC staff's analysis and findings in CNSC's reports be captured in PBCN's written and/or oral intervention to the Commission, if required.</li> </ul>
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Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What PBCN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information PBCN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways PBCN may want to participate
<p>Commission's EA and Licensing Decisions</p> <p><i>(Future phase 2025-2026 – Hearing date TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission considers the EA Report, Consultation Report and CMD and interventions from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities and determines whether, taking into account the mitigation measures, conditions, accommodations and commitments proposed, the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and if the duty to consult was met.</li> <li>• Should the Commission issue an EA decision statement allowing the Project to proceed, the Commission will also include legally binding conditions with which Denison must comply to implement appropriate mitigation measures and a follow-up and monitoring program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notification and sharing of the Commission's Detailed Record of Decisions (EA and licensing).</li> <li>• Meetings with PBCN and the community to discuss the Commission's decision and next steps for ongoing engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on preferred approach to ongoing engagement, and information sharing.</li> </ul>

---

**From:** [Chani Campbell](#)  
**To:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**Cc:** [Froess, Ryan](#); [Kwamena, Nana-Owusua](#); [Noakes, Rain](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Dereniowski, Jeff](#)  
[ENV](#); [Piper, Candace ENV](#); [Margaret Rosling](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024  
**Attachments:** [Denison Mines - February 19, 2025.pdf](#); [Proposed Denison Mines Corporation - Wheeler River Uranium Mine.pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-02-24 1:19:59 PM

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Good morning Jes,

Apologies, it looks like PBCN forgot to cc you and your team on its letters of December 20, 2024 and February 19, 2025 regarding PBCN's response to EASB's technical comments. As you can see from the attached letters, PBCN is concerned that the province's obligations to meaningfully consult with PBCN have not been discharged. That being said, PBCN wanted to share its responses to the EASB Technical Comments with CNSC and, in particular, the appendices to the December 20<sup>th</sup> letter which PBCN believes are responsive to your earlier request to better understand PBCN's specific concerns with the project. PBCN would really like to engage in a dialogue with CNSC about potential impacts and the mitigation strategies that PBCN outlined in its December 20, 2024. PBCN would also like to hear from you and your team about the consideration which you have given regarding the impacts of the project are on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and how we might work collaboratively together.

Would you and your team be available March 24 (afternoon only), March 25, or March 26 in Saskatoon? PBCN's Chief has recently undergone open heart surgery and we are hopeful that he will have recovered by the end of March. However, if PBCN's Chief is still on medical leave in March, PBCN's Vice-Chief has been fully briefed and is ready to meet with you and your team.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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**From:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <CCampbell@arlaw.ca>; Executive Secretary <executivesecretary@pbcn.ca>; Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Margaret Rosling <MRosling@arlaw.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Noakes, Rain <rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Ted Merasty <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Executive Secretary <executivesecretary@pbcn.ca>; Brianne Paulin <BPaulin@arlaw.ca>; Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024



- Will PBCN be providing CNSC staff with an updated version of the preliminary results to the CNSC that are project specific to the Denison Wheeler River Project?
- Does PBCN have any TLE claims that they are working on getting approvals on in the immediate or regional study area?
- Is PBCN willing or planning to share their information with Denison so that the proponent can better understand how their project may potentially impact PBCN's rights?

We had discussed in our meeting that it might be possible for the province or CNSC to share PBCN's information with Denison in some form, with redacted information. We note that in your confidentiality agreement it states "PBCN does not want additional information disclosed to Denison or any contractor, consultant or representative of Denison or any affiliate of Denison." If there are any specifics that we can share with Denison in the coming weeks, please let us know. It is CNSC's understanding that Denison is open and interested in receiving any information regarding PBCN's rights and traditional use, in order to best address PBCN's concerns. We encourage you to share this information with Denison. As I noted in the meeting, we are getting closer to a final EIS and it will be important that this information is shared soon, in order for Denison to work with PBCN on these topics.

We'd also like to schedule a follow up meeting, as CNSC staff also want to better understand PBCN's specific concerns with the project. When would PBCN be available to meet next with CNSC staff to discuss next steps to share more about how the Project may potentially impact PBCN's rights? Would it be possible to schedule a follow up call in the coming week or two, virtually by MS Teams? We would be happy to include the province in these calls as well.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

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**From:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 7, 2024 2:19 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Brianne Paulin <[BPaulin@arlaw.ca](mailto:BPaulin@arlaw.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

noted below please do reach out to myself or Jessica at anytime to share that information!

Thank you,

Sydney Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agent(e) des politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
**New** Phone Number: 343-596-9556

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis  
Je reconnais que la terre sur laquelle je vis et travaille est le territoire traditionnel du Traité 6 et la patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** November 7, 2024 12:24 PM

**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Brianne Paulin <[BPaulin@arlaw.ca](mailto:BPaulin@arlaw.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good morning Jes and Sydney,

Ben is traveling today and unable to send this letter but he has instructed me to send the attached letter and confidentiality agreement for your review and consideration. As discussed, the confidentiality agreement explicitly permits sharing with the province. Please note that PBCN has two outstanding questions of clarification in the researcher and will revise the scheduled information as this information is provided to PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-  
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**From:** Chani Campbell  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 6:23 AM  
**To:** Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

Thanks again for traveling to meet with PBCN. I know that PBCN really appreciated the opportunity to meet in person. At your earliest convenience, could you please circulate the minutes from the meeting which Justin advised us he was recording?

[@Nicolet, Sydney](#) thanks for sending the template confidentiality agreement yesterday.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-  
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---

**From:** Chani Campbell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:57 AM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merastv <[tmerastv@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerastv@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV

**Subject:** Re: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Jes,

The voting took a bit longer than expected so we are running 20-30minutes behind.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 242 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Direct: 604-343-4310  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 27, 2024, at 6:03 PM, Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Chani,

Thanks for confirming, we can plan to start after 13:30.

There should be street parking out front or on the road near the building, but if there isn't, there are buildings with parkades quite close to the office. Worst case scenario, there is also an outdoor parking lot right next to the Hilton Garden Inn Saskatoon.

As a reminder, the CNSC office is at 101-22<sup>nd</sup> street East (Suite 520). When you arrive you can go to the security guard at the front desk and he will let you up to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. He should direct you to where the office is located, but we will be watching for you. If you have any issues or need to get in touch with us, you can call or text me at: 343-540-6213

Safe travels and see you Tuesday.

Jes

Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE –  
FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Great! Thanks for organizing Jes.

Just a minor detail, but PBCN will not be able to start the meeting until 13:30 as there is an election in Prince Albert on Tuesday morning.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2024 4:04 PM

**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 1:05 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Hi Jes,

I think there will be 4-5 participants on behalf of PBCN.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 5:51 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

<[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

Hi Chani,

The afternoon of October 29<sup>th</sup> also works for CNSC. We would be happy to welcome you to meet at our office in Saskatoon, but would it be possible to confirm the number of attendees on PBCN's side, just to ensure we have adequate space to accommodate the number of meeting participants?

The initial agenda sounds good to CNSC. We are looking forward to it.

Have a good evening.

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Specialist | Spécialiste d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

---

**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 6:06 PM

**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Hello Chani,

.....

Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.  
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6  
Tel 306-787-5971  
[<image001.png>](#)

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**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:18 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[Ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <[Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Nana-Owusua.Kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Noakes, Rain <[rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:rain.noakes@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project - PBCN meeting with CNSC and EASB on October 29, 2024

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Good afternoon Jeff and Jes,

Confirming that PBCN is available to meet on October 29 in Saskatoon. If folks are traveling that morning, I am assuming that the afternoon is a better time for a meeting. Could you please confirm preference? Additionally, any preference on meeting room location? PBCN often meets at the Saskatoon Inn but is happy to meet at a different location if that works better for EASB/CNSC.

A rough agenda is:

1. Update on regulatory review and status of Wheeler River Project – CNSC/EASB



Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 8:11 AM

**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; Piper, Candace ENV <[candace.piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:candace.piper@gov.sk.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

Good morning,

Thank you for the attached letter and offer to meet with PBCN to discuss the traditional and current land use in proximity to the Denison Wheeler River Project. Due to provincial elections restrictions currently in place, we are unable to meet until after the election on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We would be interested in meeting with PBCN in Saskatoon immediately following the provincial election on either October 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, or 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Jeff Dereniwski**

**Government of Saskatchewan**

Senior Environmental Assessment Administrator

Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert St.

Regina, Canada S4S 5W6

Tel 306-787-5971

[<image001.png>](#)

**CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE:**

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**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 4:14 PM  
**To:** Dereniwski, Jeff ENV <[Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Scott, Ken ENV <[Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)>; [brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca)  
**Subject:** RE: Denison Mines - Wheeler River Project

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Please see the attached document.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201

2300 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2300

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

S6V 6Z1

Ph: 306.953.4400

Cell: 639.533.2510

Fax: 306.953.4420

Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



December 20, 2024

Ministry of the Environment  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 5W6

Attn: Jeff Dereniwski, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

**Re: Proposed Denison Mines Corporation ("Denison") - Wheeler River Uranium Mine (the "Proposed Project")**

Dear Mr. Dereniwski

Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation ("PBCN") is writing to express our concerns regarding the Proposed Project.

After more than a year of PBCN insisting that the province consult with PBCN on the Proposed Project,<sup>1</sup> it was not until November 8, 2024 (the "Notification Date") that the province notified PBCN that it had determined that its duty to consult PBCN was triggered in respect of the Proposed Project and PBCN had been identified by the province as a community of interest.

Incomprehensibly, the province set December 22, 2024 – 44 days from the Notification Date – as the deadline for PBCN to review and respond to the province's technical review comments on Denison's Final October 2024 Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for the Proposed Project (the "Technical Comments"). We have now learned that this deadline also applies to other Indigenous groups that have been consulted on the project throughout the provincial regulatory process and tracks the public comment period on the Technical Comments. In light of the context set out below, the province must amend its approach to PBCN and cannot lump it with other groups that have been consulted on the Project for many years now.

Given the short timeframe and the complex nature of both the Proposed Project and the Technical Comments, PBCN requested a deadline extension in its letter of November 25, 2024 (the "November 25 Letter") to ensure meaningful consultation with PBCN in accordance with the honour of the Crown and the province's constitutional consultation obligations owed to PBCN in respect of the Proposed Project.

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<sup>1</sup> PBCN has actively and consistently insisted that the province include PBCN in its consultation on the Proposed Project since March 3, 2023 when PBCN first identified itself as a community of interest in a letter to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.



Despite the context set out below, which the province is well aware of, the province denied this request without providing any rationale.

The province's refusal to consult with PBCN and its position that PBCN be given a mere 44 days to provide meaningful comments on the Technical Comments is unreasonable and not consistent with the province's consultation obligations. PBCN understands that the province and Denison began consulting and engaging with other communities of interest as early as 2019, in order to collect important information to properly assess potential impacts on their Aboriginal and/or treaty rights.<sup>2</sup> Not only did this not occur with PBCN, as further explained below, PBCN had to use its limited resources to *convince* the province to consult with PBCN, despite the province having knowledge of PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights in the Proposed Project and surrounding area and PBCN having identified potential impacts of the Proposed Project on those rights in 2023.<sup>3</sup> This inexplicable course of events has left PBCN in a disadvantaged position in respect of its ability to participate in the consultation process, as compared to other communities of interest.

Because of the province's refusal to agree until very recently that the duty to consult was triggered in respect of the Proposed Project, and to identify PBCN as a community of interest, Denison did not fully and meaningfully engage with PBCN on the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. PBCN was not identified by Denison as a community of interest in the EIS, but rather, as an "other Indigenous community" that it "engaged" with. As compared to other communities of interest, Denison took a very different approach to "engaging" with PBCN, and collected and considered little to no information on potential impacts of its Proposed Project on PBCN's rights (other than information that PBCN provided to the regulators, as explained below) in its EIS.

For example, the EIS does not consider any Indigenous and local knowledge from PBCN, despite an entire section being dedicated to such knowledge provided by other nations consulted on the project.<sup>4</sup> Moreover, the Technical Comments identify that Denison has worked with these communities of interest to identify and address interests and concerns, and states that Denison entered into agreements with these communities whereby traditional studies, among other things, were prepared and incorporated as part of Denison's assessment of potential impacts on their rights and interests. Although it appears that Denison made efforts to engage with those other communities, PBCN was not

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<sup>2</sup> The Technical Comments state that: "English River First Nation, Kineepik Métis Local, and Patuanak Métis Local were notified of the duty to consult on March 29, 2019. On October 7, 2022, Hatchet Lake First Nation and Black Lake Denesuline First Nation were also added to the list of communities".

<sup>3</sup> Throughout 2023 and 2024, by way of letters and meetings, PBCN shared oral evidence of its Aboriginal and treaty rights within the Proposed Project and surrounding area and its serious concerns regarding the impact of the Proposed Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. Notwithstanding these letters and information shared during these meetings, the province already had, or should have had, knowledge of PBCN's rights in the Proposed Project and surrounding area. In fact, as set out in our November 8, 2024 letter, the province knows that the portion of the Athabasca Shield where the Proposed Project is proposed to be located is of particular importance to PBCN. In fact, PBCN worked directly with the province for at least 14 years to create additional reserve land near the Project area as a Treaty Land Entitlement given its importance to PBCN.

<sup>4</sup> See Section 3 – *Indigenous and Local Knowledge* of the EIS.

afforded any of the same opportunities to engage and as a result, Denison's engagement with PBCN falls well short of what it has done with other communities.

Denison's conduct is a direct result of the province's failure to determine that its duty to consult was triggered and identify PBCN as a community of interest for the Proposed Project. As noted above, this finding should have been made years ago, at the same time as the identification of other communities of interest. Because of the province's failure, and despite PBCN's requests, Denison refused to provide capacity funding to PBCN to meaningfully engage with the Proposed Project and undertake the necessary work, including studies, to provide complete information to Denison to allow it to properly assess the potential impacts of its project on PBCN's rights and interests.<sup>5</sup>

In fact, PBCN was required to use its own resources and some minimal funds provided by the federal regulator to ensure that at least some information regarding PBCN's rights and interests and PBCN's concerns regarding the Proposed Project were on the record.<sup>6</sup> As raised before and detailed below, Denison's consideration of such limited information, rather than conducting an assessment based on a full evidentiary record of PBCN's rights, traditional knowledge and uses, is not sufficient and falls short of what is required to determine, and mitigate, potential impacts to PBCN's rights and interests.

Despite the foregoing and the fact that there is no record whatsoever of meaningful engagement by Denison with PBCN, the province found in the Technical Comments that it "was satisfied with Denison's engagement activities" with communities. Respectfully, this conclusion is unfounded in respect of engagement with PBCN. Any reliance by the province on Denison's "engagement" with PBCN as evidence that the province's duty to consult PBCN has been met would be tenuous at best.

The province's actions in respect of this Proposed Project in the time before the Notification Date cannot be ignored. These actions show that, instead of identifying PBCN as a community of interest in 2019 as it should have, the province has, among other things:

1. repeatedly denied PBCN's request for the province to find that its duty to consult PBCN was triggered and to be scoped into the regulatory assessment as a community of interest,
2. failed to direct Denison to engage with PBCN as a community of interest,
3. as referred to below, failed to consider how it must amend its process following its late determination that the duty to consult is triggered in respect of PBCN to ensure that PBCN is properly consulted,
4. relatedly, failed to require Denison to undertake or provide PBCN with an assessment of the likely impacts of the Proponent Project on the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal rights or any

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<sup>5</sup> See also November 25 Letter, which summarizes some of the issues and concerns regarding capacity funding, and see previous letters from PBCN requesting capacity funding from Denison to meaningfully engage on the Proposed Project.

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, PBCN's comments on the EIS.



mechanisms that will be applied to mitigate these potential impacts as is required by the province's Consultation Policy and the duty to consult.

These actions have placed PBCN in an untenable situation where PBCN is being asked to review the province's comments on the EIS that, unlike other potentially affected Indigenous communities, includes incomplete information regarding the exercise of PBCN's Aboriginal rights and the potential impacts of the Proposed Project on these rights. In fact, we note that in the Technical Comments, PBCN is mentioned only once as a community that Denison has "engaged with".<sup>7</sup> PBCN is not even mentioned as being added to the list of communities to be consulted with. Despite its finding that the duty to consult was triggered, the province appears to have given no consideration as to how to properly consult PBCN and any steps it, or Denison, would need to take to ensure that such proper and meaningful consultation occurred.

As noted in our previous letters to the province, PBCN is more than willing to work with the province on an expedited basis, if appropriate capacity funding is provided to PBCN. However, whatever approach is adopted to ensure that PBCN is properly consulted cannot be unilaterally imposed on PBCN and must be developed collaboratively with PBCN, to ensure that it allows for a proper assessment and mitigation of impacts to PBCN's rights and interests.

As requested in our November 25 Letter and on a number of occasions before then, as part of this approach, the province and Denison must undertake, with PBCN, an assessment of the potential impacts – viewed in isolation and on a cumulative effects basis – that the Proposed Project may have on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. This must include, among other things, PBCN members' traditional uses in and around the Proposed Project area as identified in PBCN's letter of November 8, 2024 and any potential cumulative or downstream effects. PBCN reiterates that it is willing to work with Denison and the province on an expedited basis to assist Denison in undertaking such assessment and developing such mitigation and/or accommodation measures, if appropriate capacity funding is provided.

To date, the province has ignored our above-noted request. PBCN notes, however, that it appears as Denison has undertaken such an assessment with all other Indigenous groups identified as communities of interest in order to properly consider and mitigate potential impacts to their rights. It is concerning that, in light of the province's determination that PBCN is one of those communities and the province's silence, the province appears to take the view that Denison is not required to undertake the same for PBCN. Without such an assessment, how can the province confidently find that all potential impacts to PBCN's rights have been mitigated or accommodated and, as a result, that its consultation obligations owed to PBCN have been met?

As noted in the November 25 Letter, following such an assessment, the EIS must be amended (by addendum or otherwise) to reflect and consider PBCN as a community of interest, the assessments undertaken above and any mitigation measures developed by Denison and PBCN. The province's

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<sup>7</sup> As noted in our November 25 Letter, in PBCN's view, this is a complete mischaracterization. See Appendix A for further information.

Technical Comments must also be updated (by addendum or otherwise) to reflect and consider the same and a determination of whether such engagement and assessments by Denison is sufficient in the province's view.

For all of the reasons set out above, including the unreasonable timeframe and the insufficient capacity funding to retain subject matters, PBCN is simply not able to provide a comprehensive response to the Technical Comments by December 22, 2024.

However, without prejudice to PBCN's positions set out in this and previous letters, PBCN has included in Appendix A to this letter preliminary and limited comments on the Technical Comments. We are providing these comments because we are concerned that the province will proceed to approve the Proposed Project in the face of PBCN's deep concerns regarding the Proposed Project and how the province and Denison have consulted and engaged with PBCN on the project. Therefore, we feel as if we have no other choice than to provide these limited comments at this time to ensure that at least some of our concerns are considered by the province.

We trust that our concerns set out in this letter will be addressed by the province as part of your planning and assessment process or otherwise. We look forward to working with you to ensure that any potential impacts are thoroughly understood and mitigated to protect the health, safety, and Aboriginal rights of PBCN members.

Sincerely,



Ben Merasty,

Executive Director

c.c. Chief Beatty  
Portfolio Councillors  
Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources, PBCN



## **Appendix A**

### **PBCN Preliminary Comments on Technical Comments**

#### **1. Territory and Communities:**

- a. The map provided as Figure 1-3 in the October 2024 Final Environmental Impact Statement only includes Southend as a designated PBCN Reserve, but it lacks the inclusion of PBCN's traditional territory and communities. PBCN requests that all eight of PBCN's communities be clearly identified on relevant maps and the map be updated to reflect the map shared with you on October 29, 2024.
- b. The PBCN communities downstream of the mine, including Kinoosao, Southend, and Sandy Bay, must be properly recognized, as they are potentially impacted by mining activities.

#### **2. Water Quality and Freshwater Resources:**

- a. PBCN is particularly concerned about the proposed use of freshwater resources for mining operations and the release of treated effluent into Whitefish Lake. PBCN has specifically identified that PBCN members do fish the lakes surrounding the Proposed Project. PBCN does not see any assurances in the Technical Comments or regulatory documents that the water quality downstream, including water accessed by PBCN communities, will not be compromised. Stringent guidelines must be added as conditions to any environmental regulatory approval, certificate, permit, or licence granted. PBCN would like to review the language of all conditions prior to the province settling these terms with Denison.
- b. PBCN would like to co-develop a water quality monitoring program downstream of Whitefish Lake. Additionally, PBCN would like to receive regular copies of water quality monitoring reports moving forward.

#### **3. Environmental Monitoring and Participation:**

- a. PBCN is concerned about the quality and quantity of resources that PBCN members rely on for subsistence, including wildlife, vegetation, and water.
- b. Given that PBCN members actively fish, hunt, trap and harvest for medicinal and sacred purposes in and around the Proposed Project, and three of our communities are downstream of the Proposed Project, PBCN requests that water quality monitoring stations be set up at Kinoosao, Southend, and Sandy Bay to ensure accurate data is collected. PBCN understands that there is already a commitment to implement a groundwater protection and monitoring plan, including development of a groundwater monitoring well network, and PBCN would like this protection and monitoring plan extended to incorporate the three additional water quality stations at Kinoosao, Southend, and Sandy Bay.



- c. PBCN would like capacity funding to monitor these stations independently.
- d. PBCN is also interested in participating in the environmental committee overseeing this project as well as the BATEA (Best Available Technology Economically Achievable) study.
- e. PBCN also wishes to be kept informed of any spills and be included in all spill contingency planning and responses.
- f. PBCN notes that the potential residual effect on human health from exposure to selenium has been identified by Denison but there is no commitment to any monitoring of selenium or any other contaminants of potential concern (COPC) including, but not limited to, uranium, arsenic, cadmium other heavy metals or chemicals in the accumulation in fish and mammals or the bioaccumulation in plants, berries or fungus. PBCN members derive large portions of their diet from country food. To ensure the safety and well-being of PBCN members who rely on the surrounding ecosystem for subsistence harvesting, it is essential to establish a comprehensive tissue sampling program to monitor COPC downstream of the Proposed Project. PBCN requests Denison commit to long-term monitoring and co-development of the program with the PBCN Lands and Resources Department. The long term tissue sampling program would focus on edible parts of fish and mammals and bioaccumulation in leaf, root and fungal tissue of medicinal plants, berries and fungus which PBCN members collect, harvest, use and ingest. PBCN has included a preliminary framework of a collaborative Indigenous-led monitoring framework at Appendix "A".

#### **4. Technical Concerns and Groundwater Contamination:**

- a. PBCN is concerned about the potential failure of underground freeze wall technology which could lead to the contamination of groundwater and soils.
- b. The Technical Comments do not contain information relating to safety and efficacy of freeze walls. PBCN notes that the utilization of freeze walls is untested in Canada and the PBCN Lands & Resources Department would like all information and studies provided by Denison as well as the corresponding assessment by the province verifying such information and the province's technical review on the efficacy and safety of the use of freeze walls to contain contamination.
- c. PBCN would also like a better understanding of what specific steps the province is taking to monitor any potential failure of the freeze wall and whether the province is requiring financial security from Denison to cover the costs of any required environment remediation.

#### **5. Cultural and Environmental Impacts:**

- a. The development of the Proposed Project site could significantly impact culturally important species, including caribou. Changes to air and noise quality may disrupt wildlife in the area up to considerable distances away from the Proposed Project. PBCN requests an opportunity to review and comment on all caribou mitigation and offsetting

plans to ensure the disruption to the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal rights to hunt caribou is minimized.

- b. PBCN has already advised the province that PBCN members historically and currently use the areas in and around the Proposed Project to fish for Grayling, Walleye, Lake Trout, and Northern Pike, gather medicinal plants and fungus, hunt moose, caribou, duck and geese, and trap lynx, beaver and muskrat.

As noted earlier, both the Consultation Policy and the common law relating to consultation require the province to assess the likely impacts on the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal rights as well as any mechanisms that will be applied to mitigate the potential impacts to PBCN's aboriginal rights to fish, hunt, trap and gather. To date, PBCN has not received any correspondence relating to the assessment of the potential impacts on PBCN's aboriginal rights or any request to meet to provide such an assessment.

- c. PBCN is concerned about the contamination of vegetation, fish, wildlife, water and soil, which would affect the traditional foods and livelihoods of our people. PBCN has advised you that PBCN members hunt, fish and trap areas in and around the Proposed Project as well as dry traditional foods and store such food in and around the Proposed Project area. PBCN's experience on other natural resource development projects is that tainting or perceived diminishment of the quality of the land and resources around the Proposed Project will result in avoidance of harvesting of country foods by PBCN members. Ongoing monitoring of country foods is critical to establish a scientific baseline of contaminants in traditional foods and build the confidence of PBCN members to facilitate the continued exercise of PBCN's Aboriginal rights to hunt, harvest, fish and gather. PBCN would like to co- develop a country foods monitoring plan, participate in such monitoring and receive the results in accordance with the preliminary framework attached at Appendix "A".

#### **6. Loss of Land Use and Treaty Rights:**

- a. In addition to losing access to the areas in and around the Proposed Project, we anticipate PBCN land users will avoid large areas downstream of the mine site due to concerns with contamination. This resultant loss of land and resource use will directly impact the exercise of PBCN's aboriginal rights.

#### **7. Traffic and Safety Concerns:**

- a. Increased traffic resulting from the mining operations poses a risk of accidents, particularly along Key Lake Road/Highway 914. Access to Key Lake Road/Highway 914 are vital routes for PBCN members to access much of PBCN territory and exercise PBCN's Aboriginal rights within the vicinity of the Proposed Project.



- b. PBCN would like to see a traffic monitoring and management plan in place for Key Lake Road/Highway 914.

#### **8. Risk of Forest Fires and Environmental Damage:**

- a. PBCN is concerned about the potential for forest fires during operations. Forest fires could increase the risk of spills and contamination if mine infrastructure is damaged and could cause damage beyond the Proposed Project footprint. None of the fire suppression plans included in the Technical Comments referred to the requirement for the proponent to maintain on site water tanks, portable pumps and hand pumps, weather stations, or to the requirement of all clearing contractors to undergo specific fire suppression, fire behaviours and fire line safety training. PBCN wishes to remind the province that some PBCN communities were evacuated in 2024 due to wildfires and we remain deeply concerned about impact of wildfires if not suppressed in a timely manner.

#### **9. Cumulative Impacts of Neighbouring Developments:**

- a. PBCN is concerned about the future development of the nearby Gryphon deposit, which Denison has identified as one of two target deposits, and the potential cumulative effects on the surrounding environment and those PBCN communities located downstream of the Proposed Project caused by such development.
- b. PBCN would like to see a cumulative effects assessment added as a condition to any certificates, permits or licences granted to the proponent.
- c. PBCN notes that Denison has described this project as the “largest undeveloped uranium project in the eastern portion of the Athabasca Basin region in northern Saskatchewan, Canada. The project hosts two high-grade uranium deposits: Phoenix and Gryphon.”

However, the cumulative impact assessment only provided a cursory reference to the Gryphon deposit and did not adequately evaluate the cumulative impacts of future phases of this Proposed Project and of the neighbouring projects. Given the scale of this multi-phase Proposed Project, the cumulative effects assessment is lacking in the necessary detail for PBCN to actually determine what the extent of cumulative impacts may be to PBCN’s aboriginal rights and the surrounding environment. Has the province assessed the likely impacts on the exercise of PBCN’s Aboriginal rights caused by the cumulative impacts of this large, multi-phase project? PBCN would like to see such cumulative effects assessment and looks forward to meeting with the province to review the cumulative effects assessment.

#### **10. Consultation Record**

- a. The Technical Comments state that Denison has “engaged with PBCN.” With respect, this statement is a complete mischaracterization. Denison provided PBCN with

information in the Spring of 2023 and has had one meeting with PBCN in September 2023 (the “2023 Denison Meeting”). At the 2023 Denison Meeting, the Chief and other members of PBCN provided oral evidence of the nation’s extensive traditional use of the lands in the vicinity of and encompassed by the Proposed Project and of the potential impacts of the project on PBCN’s Aboriginal and treaty rights. Additionally, PBCN indicated in the strongest possible terms that it would require capacity funding to determine the impacts of the Project on its rights and to work with the province and Denison to ensure impacts were fully assessed.

Not a single piece of PBCN’s oral evidence of traditional use shared with Denison at the 2023 Denison Meeting was incorporated into the Wheeler EIS or the Technical Comments, nor has Denison (or the province) made any further efforts to assess impacts or develop mitigation strategies with PBCN or to develop a comprehensive cumulative effects assessment.

Meaningful engagement requires an “exchange of views” (R. v. Sparrow, 1990, SCC 104, at 1114). EASB must provide a reasonable amount of time for EASB, Denison and PBCN to analyze the potential adverse impacts of the Project including cumulative effects on PBCN territory and PBCN members exercise of their aboriginal rights. This must include adequate engagement with PBCN to develop appropriate mitigation strategies to minimize the impacts to PBCN’s Aboriginal and treaty rights (to the extent such impacts on can be mitigated).

To date, none of this engagement and exchange of views has taken place among EASB, Denison and PBCN. Likewise, the Consultation Policy requires the province to assess the likely impacts on the environment and on the exercise of PBCN’s aboriginal rights described above as well as any mechanisms that will be applied to mitigate these potential impacts. PBCN has not received any correspondence from the province relating to the provincial assessment of such impacts.

In your letter of December 6, the province states that “procedural aspects of consultation have not been assigned to Denison; however, the ministry encourages PBCN and Denison to work together to share information, including how the proposed project may affect your community’s rights”. As PBCN has told the province on several occasions, Denison has been unwilling to engage with PBCN. Denison has stated that PBCN has not been identified as a community of interest and therefore Denison does not have to engage with PBCN. The province must direct Denison to engage with PBCN. Without this specific direction, PBCN will not be able to meaningfully engage in the regulatory process and the province will be unable to discharge its obligations to

properly consult with PBCN in respect of the Project. Again, PBCN respectfully asks the province to direct Denison to engage with PBCN.

**11. Meetings and Ongoing Communication:**

- a. PBCN seeks to meet with the Government of Saskatchewan and Denison to discuss these concerns in detail. We also request ongoing community meetings within each of our communities to ensure that voices of PBCN members are heard and PBCN's concerns are addressed.

## **Appendix "A"**

### **Tissue Sampling Framework**



## Introduction

To ensure the safety and well-being of PBCN members who rely on the surrounding ecosystem for subsistence harvesting, it is essential to establish a comprehensive tissue sampling program to monitor contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) downstream of Denison Mines proposed Wheeler River uranium mine. Below is a summary of key details outlining the rationale for why the program is necessary, its implementation considerations, and a request for Denison to commit to long-term monitoring and co-development of the program with PBCN Lands and Resources Department.

### *Implementation of the Tissue Sampling Program*

To effectively monitor and safeguard the health of the PBCN community, a well-designed tissue sampling program must be put in place. Key considerations for implementation include:

#### Fish Monitoring

**Species Selection:** A range of fish species should be monitored, focusing on those most consumed by the PBCN members. This would likely include fish like grayling, walleye, northern pike, and lake trout.

**Tissue Types:** Fish tissue sampling should focus on edible parts like muscle and liver, which are more likely to accumulate contaminants.

**Sampling Frequency:** Sampling should occur annually or biannually, with increased frequency after significant rainfall or spring runoff, when contaminants may more easily flow downstream from the mine.

#### Mammal Monitoring

**Target Species:** Commonly harvested mammals, such as moose, deer, and beaver, should be selected for tissue sampling. The focus should be on organs and tissues that may store contaminants, such as liver and kidney.

**Monitoring Locations:** Mammals from various zones downstream of the mine should be sampled to identify contamination gradients and areas of particular concern.

#### Bioaccumulation in Plants and Fungus

**Selection of Species:** Key medicinal plants, berries, and mushrooms, all of which are crucial for PBCN's traditional health practices, should be included in the sampling program.

**Sampling Method:** Leaf, root, and fungal tissue should be sampled to assess levels of contaminants absorbed from the soil and water.

**Co-Development with PBCN:** PBCN knowledge keepers, elders, and community members should collaborate with environmental experts to identify which plant species and fungal types to focus on for the sampling program. This will help ensure cultural relevance and community involvement in the monitoring efforts.

#### Contaminants of Concern

**Key Contaminants:** The primary contaminants to monitor in all tissue samples would include selenium, uranium, arsenic, cadmium, and any other heavy metals or chemicals that could accumulate from mining activities. The monitoring program should be able to detect both known contaminants and emerging risks.

**Analysis Methods:** The sampling process should utilize advanced techniques, such as mass spectrometry or inductively coupled plasma (ICP) analysis, to accurately quantify contamination levels in tissues. This ensures the most reliable data is collected for decision-making.

#### Long-Term Monitoring

PBCN is looking for Denison to formally commitment to:

1. **Funding and Support:** Provide long-term funding for the tissue sampling program, ensuring its sustainability over time. This funding would support scientific analysis, personnel training, community involvement, and reporting.
2. **Collaboration with PBCN:** Work directly with PBCN to develop the monitoring program and integrate local knowledge. PBCN Lands and Resources Department staff and Land Guardians would be provided the opportunity to participate in the sampling program. PBCN would also receive capacity funding, along with technical support for analyzing and interpreting the results.
3. **Data Transparency and Action:** Share monitoring results with PBCN communities regularly, and take action if contamination levels exceed safe thresholds. This ensures accountability and responsiveness to potential health risks.

#### Co-Developing a Bioaccumulation Monitoring Program

In addition to tissue sampling in fish and mammals, a specific focus on bioaccumulation in plants and fungi is necessary. Denison should work with PBCN to co-develop a monitoring program that:

1. **Engages PBCN Knowledge Keepers:** Include community members and Lands and Resources Department staff in the design and implementation of the monitoring program to ensure it is culturally appropriate and targets the correct species.
2. **Addresses Medicinal and Cultural Uses:** Assess the potential for contamination in plants and fungi traditionally used for medicine and food, which are of particular importance to PBCN health and cultural practices.
3. **Develops Early Warning Systems:** Implement a system for early detection of contaminants in plants and fungi, so that PBCN members can make informed decisions about harvesting practices.





# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



February 19, 2025

Ms. Candace Piper and Mr. Jeff Dereniwski  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch ("EASB")  
Government of Saskatchewan

Email: [Candace.Piper@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Candace.Piper@gov.sk.ca) and [Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Jeff.Dereniwski@gov.sk.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines Corp – Wheeler River Project (the "Project")**

Dear Ms. Piper and Mr. Dereniwski,

We write as a follow-up to our meeting with the EASB on February 7, 2025 (the "**February EASB-PBCN Meeting**") regarding the Project.

As you know, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation ("**PBCN**") has serious concerns about the potential impacts of the Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and the lack of any kind of meaningful consultation on the Project to date. Our concerns were summarized in our letter dated December 20, 2024 (the "**December 20 Letter**") and were reiterated to the EASB during the February EASB-PBCN Meeting.<sup>1</sup>

On January 16, 2025, the EASB requested a meeting with PBCN to discuss the December 20 Letter, including the PBCN Response to Technical Comments. No other response was provided by the EASB to our comments and concerns raised in that letter. Based on this request, it was PBCN's expectation that the EASB would address these concerns and comments at the February EASB-PBCN Meeting.

PBCN came to the meeting prepared to review the December 20 Letter, including the PBCN Response to Technical Comments, and to work with the EASB to collaboratively develop strategies to mitigate the impacts of the Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. To support this work and meaningful consultation, PBCN's Vice Chief, Council members, Executive Director and Director of Lands & Resources attended the meeting, along with PBCN's lead consultant on potential impacts and legal counsel.

Unfortunately, the engaged discussion PBCN expected to have about potential impacts did not take place. Indeed, EASB indicated that it would *not* be responding to PBCN's concerns,

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<sup>1</sup> The December 20 Letter also includes PBCN's preliminary comments on the EASB's technical review comments on Denison's Final October 2024 Environmental Impacts Statement ("**EIS**") for the Project (the "**Technical Comments**") (the "**PBCN Response to Technical Comments**").

including the PBCN Response to Technical Comments, because it was satisfied that the measures set out in the EIS addressed those concerns. The EASB further explained that it will not be requiring the Project proponent to address the PBCN Response to Technical Comments because, as noted above, the EASB saw no gaps in mitigation of impacts in the EIS. The EASB did not provide any rationale for that determination and has not, to date, meaningfully responded to our other concerns set out in the December 20 Letter.

The EASB appears to have given no consideration on what the impacts of the Project are on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights, how the information contained in the PBCN Response to Technical Comments could be incorporated into the regulatory process, what duties it owes to PBCN, or what accommodation measures might be required to offset the impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. To date, the consultation efforts of the EASB do not appear to be grounded in the principles of open-dialogue, respect and reciprocity which is required for the Crown to discharge its consultation obligations to PBCN.

Moreover and with respect, any suggestion that PBCN's comments and concerns do not have to be considered merely because the EIS contains mitigation measures ignores not only Saskatchewan's own policy on consultation but also undermines the fundamental principle of consultation. The mitigation measures set out in the EIS were developed *before* the Crown acknowledged its duty to consult PBCN and, as noted in our December 20 Letter, the EIS does not consider any Indigenous and local knowledge from PBCN in the development of proposed mitigation measures. Mitigation measures developed unilaterally by Denison without consideration of impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights, or input from PBCN, falls well short of the Crown's consultation obligations. PBCN must be directly involved in the assessment of the efficacy of the proposed mitigation measures on reducing the impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights.

So, we find ourselves in the position that, to date, no assessment of potential impacts of the Project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights has been undertaken by either the Project proponent or the EASB. And, no meaningful consultation has taken place. In the absence of this assessment and consultation, we are at a loss as to how the EASB can determine that existing mitigation measures will mitigate any potential impacts to PBCN's rights and interests.

As emphasized to the EASB on multiple occasions, PBCN is more than willing to work with the EASB and the Project proponent, if appropriate capacity funding is provided to PBCN, to assess potential impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and interests and develop appropriate mitigation measures. As we have indicated on many occasions, PBCN continues to stand ready to do this on an expedited basis.



Finally, PBCN again requests that the EASB meaningfully respond to our concerns and comments set out in the December 20 Letter. We trust that these concerns will be addressed by the EASB before any decision is made in respect of the Project.

In closing, PBCN wishes to reiterate its concern that, to date, the EASB has failed to discharge its obligations to properly consult with PBCN in respect of the Project. If the Province proceeds to a decision without properly consulting PBCN, PBCN must consider all remedial options including litigation.

We hope this will not be necessary and look forward to the EASB's response.

Yours very truly,



Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Marg Rosling, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Chani Campbell, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Ken Scott ([Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Ken.Scott@gov.sk.ca)),  
Brianne England ([brianne.england@gov.sk.ca](mailto:brianne.england@gov.sk.ca))

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
[Margaret Rosling; Chani Campbell; Ben Merasty; Ted Merasty; Piper,](#)  
**To:** [Candace ENV; Scott, Ken ENV; McGuire, Collin ENV; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV;](#)  
[Moulding, Tim ENV;](#)  
**Cc:** [Noakes, Rain; Boser, Sydney; McKeown, Justin; Froess, Ryan; Ringer, Ryan;](#)  
[Su, Grant; Duhaime, Brenda; Way, Jessica; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua;](#)  
**Subject:** 2025-02-26 - CNSC Meeting Minutes from PBCN, CNSC & Province of SK Meeting  
**Attachments:** [E-DOCS-#7468751-v6-2025-02-26-Presentation-CNSC\\_to\\_PBCN-Regulatory\\_and\\_Monitoring.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-03-07 5:47:46 PM

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Hi All,

Below are some high level notes that CNSC staff took during the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. We welcome edits or clarifications from the Province and PBCN.

[@Piper, Candace ENV](#) and [@Chani Campbell](#) – Not everyone in the meeting is on the distribution list here as I don't have all of the emails. Please share this with others as needed, and make any corrections to the participants list if we haven't gotten it right.

Thank you for inviting us. We appreciated the opportunity to hear the information shared and present on CNSC's regulatory oversight and monitoring processes.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Jes

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**PBCN, CNSC & the Province of Saskatchewan Meeting – Denison Wheeler River Project: Regulatory Process and Monitoring**

**Participants:**

- CNSC: Jes Way, Rain Noakes, Sydney Boser, Justin McKeown, Ryan Froess, Ryan Ringer, Grant Su and Brenda Duhaime
- Province: Jeff Dereniwski, Candace Piper, Tim Moulding, Brady Pollock, Ken Scott, and Collin McGuire
- PBCN: Margaret Rosling, Chani Campbell, Ben Merasty, Ted Merasty, Francis Highway, Kevin Morin and Seth Merasty

**Overview of Regulatory Processes and monitoring requirements for Wheeler River:**

- Provincial process and discussion:
  - SKEASB provided an overview of regulatory regime and monitoring expectations, noting that no permits will be issued unless Provincial EA approval is granted. There

would be monitoring requirements for the project and oversight by the province to ensure the results of monitoring remain within the bounds of what was predicted / approved.

- PBCN had questions about opportunities for PBCN involvement – SKEASB discussed the EARMP program and opportunities for monitoring and community involvement
- PBCN have asked to be recognized as an impacted community for this project and uranium mines (current and proposed) have downstream effects to PBCN community members (noting that there are PBCN communities with use in the project area)
- SKEASB noted that they are considering all information that was provided by PBCN and their involvement in future monitoring for the Project
- PBCN requested clarification from SKEASB; What information is needed to be considered an affected Nation?
  - SKEASB replied that they are looking for specific use of the Project area.
  - PBCN noted that as previously shared with CNSC and the province, members fish out of Wollaston Lake, collect medicine plants near Wollaston Lake, and hunt and trap in the area
  - SKEASB acknowledged receipt and that this information will be considered in decision-making.
- CNSC (federal) process and discussion:
  - CNSC provided an overview presentation which will be shared with PBCN
  - CNSC indicated that the March 26<sup>th</sup> proposed meeting date should work
  - PBCN would like CNSC to look at the information PBCN has provided and determine whether some of their species/media of concern have been sampled by the IEMP program or others in the past
  - PBCN is interested in better understanding the opportunities that exist for PBCN and what CNSC is already doing (with regards to downstream monitoring)
  - PBCN would like to be involved in existing programs related to downstream oversight / impacts

#### **CNSC Related Actions:**

- CNSC to share presentation with PBCN and province of SK (attached)
- CNSC to confirm timing for meeting end of March (Complete – Booked)
- CNSC to specify any further information that is needed from PBCN prior to the late-March meeting (Open)
- CNSC and PBCN to prepare agenda for March meeting (including requests from today) (In Progress)
- CNSC to review the information PBCN has provided and determine whether some of their concerns have been sampled by the IEMP program or others (In Progress)



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

Canada 



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# CNSC Regulatory Process and Environmental Monitoring

Presentation to PBCN

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## Purpose

- Provide an overview CNSC's role in the regulation of Uranium Mines and Mills
- Detailed regulatory requirements for Environmental Protection including:
  - Environmental Risk Assessment
  - Environmental Monitoring
- Overview of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program



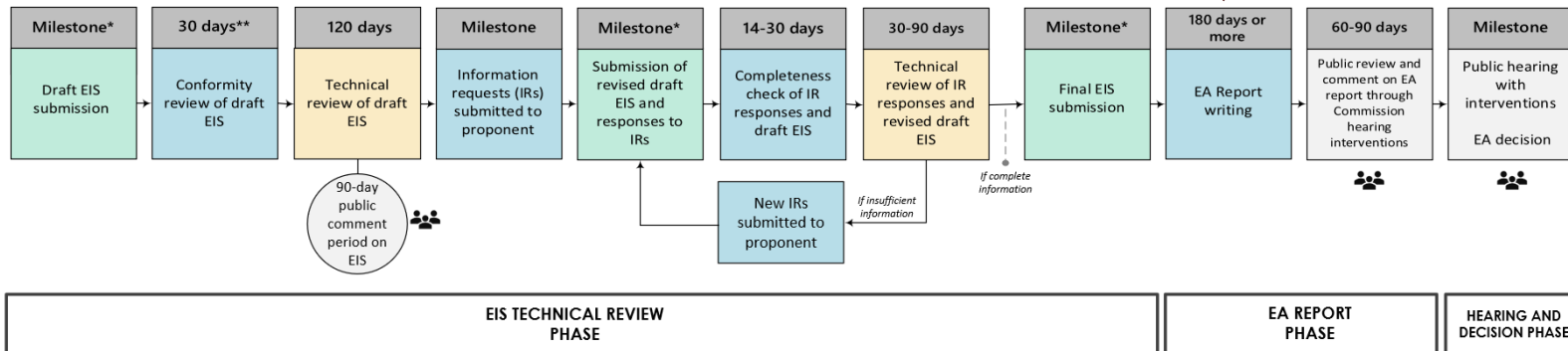
# CNSC EA and Consultation Process

## DETAILED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS UNDER THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT, 2012 - FROM THE DRAFT EIS SUBMISSION UNTIL THE EA DECISION -



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire



EIS TECHNICAL REVIEW  
PHASE

EA REPORT  
PHASE

HEARING AND  
DECISION PHASE

Ongoing Indigenous consultation and engagement throughout the EA process

### LEGEND

FPIRT task

CNSC staff task

Proponent task

Milestone or  
duration of task



Public and Indigenous  
comment period

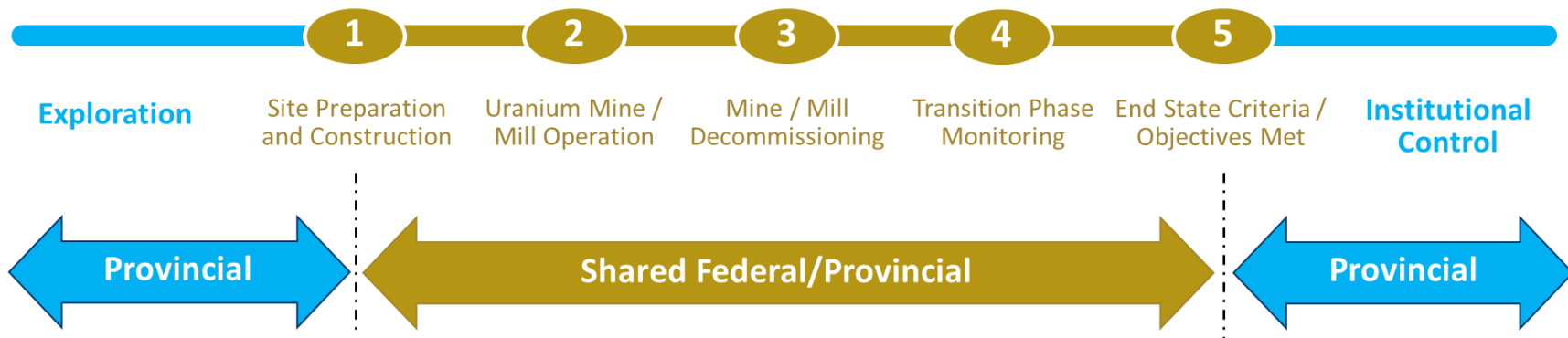




# LIFECYCLE REGULATION



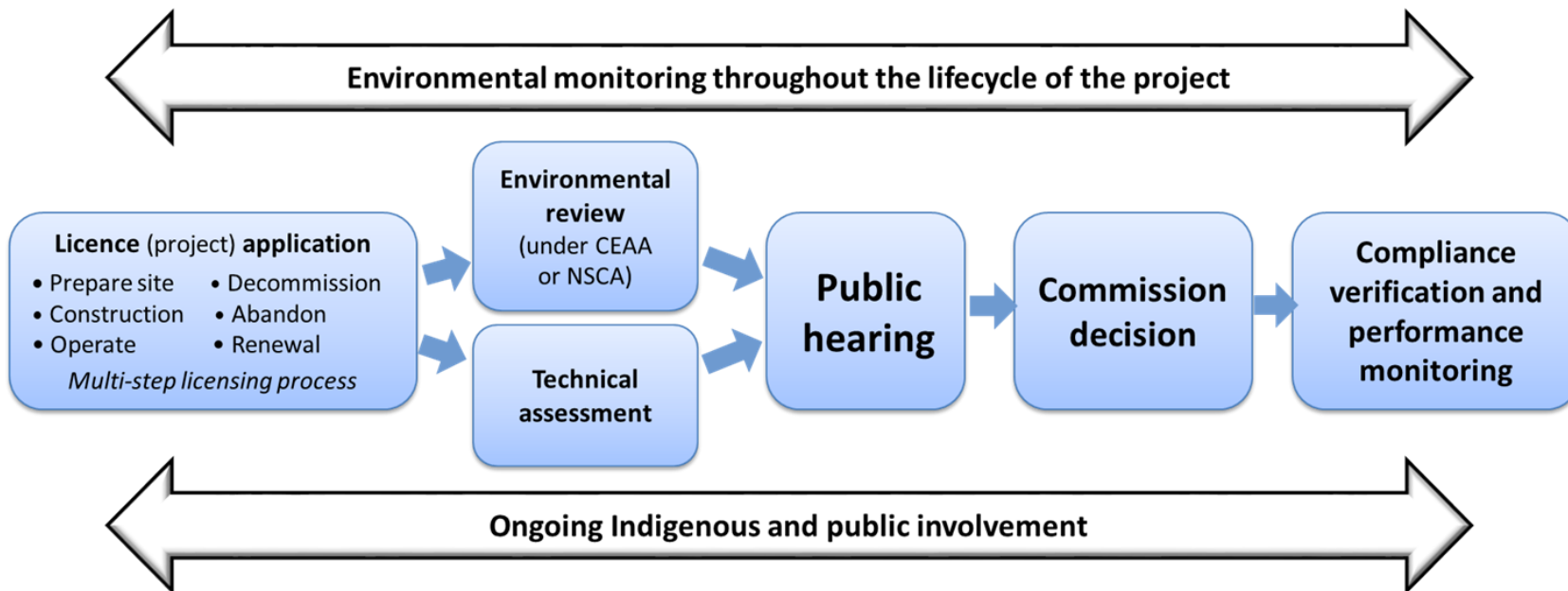
# Uranium Mines and Mills Regulatory Lifecycle



*Responsibility returns to the province at end of project life*



# CNSC licensing



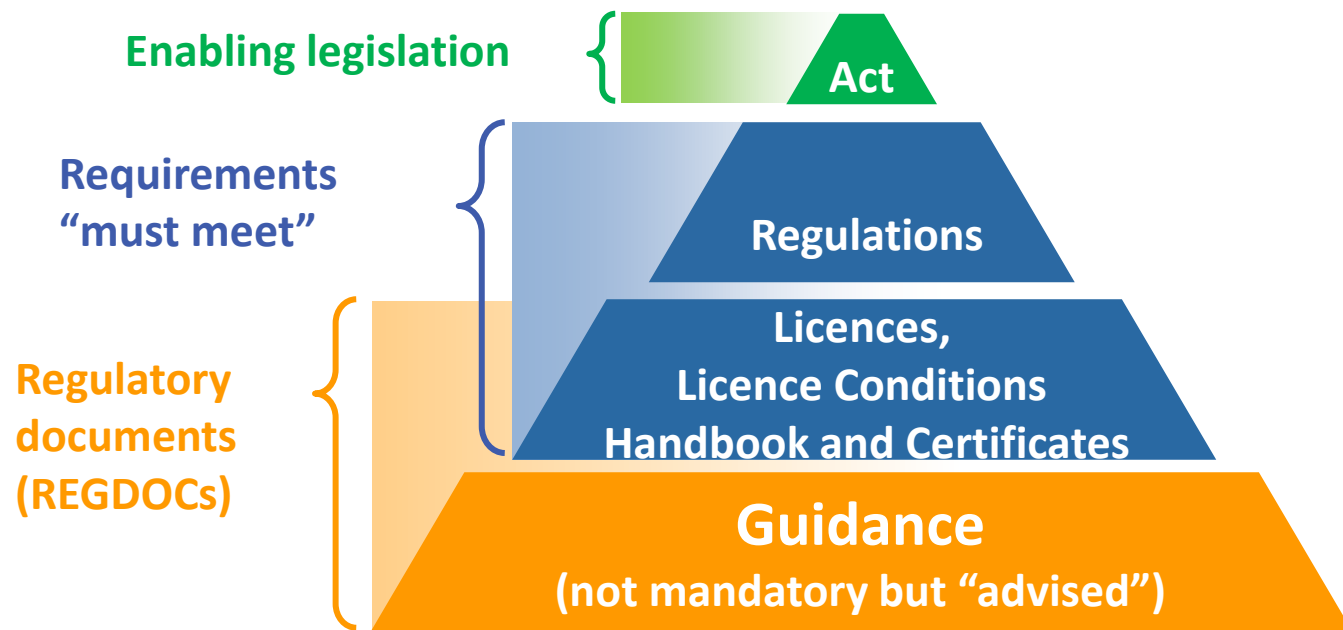
# Licensing under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act

A licence will only be issued when the applicant:

- ✓ Is deemed **qualified** to carry out the activity that the licence will authorize
- ✓ Has demonstrated that they will **protect the health and safety of persons and the environment**
- ✓ Has demonstrated that they will maintain **national security**
- ✓ Has confirmed that they will **adhere to international obligations** to which Canada has agreed



# CNSC REGULATORY FRAMEWORK





# SAFETY AND CONTROL AREAS

Safety and control areas are the technical topics CNSC staff use across all regulated facilities and activities to assess, evaluate, review, verify and report on regulatory requirements and performance.



## Ensuring the safe operation of Canada's nuclear sites

<b>Management</b>	Management System
	Human Performance Management
	Operating Performance
<b>Facility and Equipment</b>	Safety Analysis
	Physical Design
	Fitness for Service
<b>Core Control Processes</b>	Radiation Protection
	Conventional Health and Safety
	<b>Environmental Protection</b>
	Emergency Management and Fire Protection
	Waste Management
	Security
	Safeguards and Non-Proliferation
	Packaging and Transport



**REGULATORY  
FRAMEWORK FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**



# REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

## FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- *General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations*
  - 12 (1) (f) Every licensee shall take **all reasonable precautions to control the release of radioactive nuclear substances or hazardous substances** within the site of the licensed activity and into the environment as a result of the licensed activity
- *Class I Nuclear Facilities Regulations: section (6)*
  - (b) description of systems and equipment, including their **design and their design operating conditions**
  - (g) proposed **commissioning program** for systems and equipment that will be used at the nuclear facility
  - (h) **effects on the environment and health and safety of persons** that may result from operation and decommissioning of nuclear facility, and **measures that will be taken** to prevent or mitigate those effects
  - (i) the proposed location of **points of release, the proposed maximum quantities and concentrations**, and the anticipated volume and flow rate of releases of nuclear substances and hazardous substances into the environment, including their physical, chemical and radiological characteristics
  - (j) **proposed measures to control releases** of nuclear substances and hazardous substances into environment





# REGULATORY DOCUMENT FRAMEWORK

## 1.0 Regulated Facilities and Activities

- 1.1 Reactor Facilities
- 1.2 Class IB Facilities
- 1.3 Uranium Mines and Mills
- 1.4 Class II Facilities
- 1.5 Certification of Prescribed Equipment
- 1.6 Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices

## 2.0 Safety and Control Areas

- 2.1 Management System
- 2.2 Human Performance Management
- 2.3 Operating Performance
- 2.4 Safety Analysis
- 2.5 Physical Design
- 2.6 Fitness for Service
- 2.7 Radiation Protection
- 2.8 Conventional Health and Safety

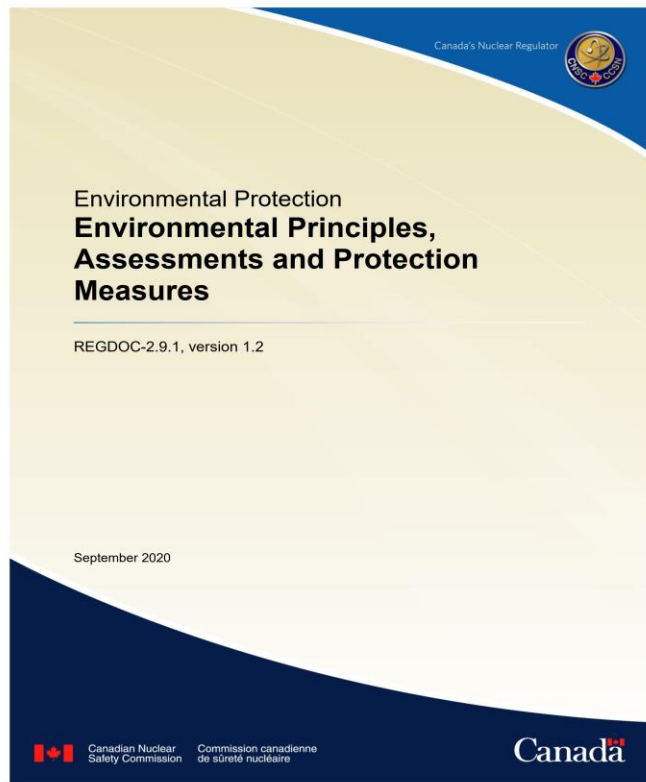
- 2.9 Environmental Protection
  - REGDOC-2.9.1, *Environmental Protection: Environmental Principles, Assessments and Protection Measures*
  - REGDOC-2.9.2, *Environmental Protection: Controlling Releases to the Environment*
- 2.10 Emergency Management and Fire Protection
- 2.11 Waste Management
- 2.12 Security
- 2.13 Safeguards and Non-Proliferation
- 2.14 Packaging and Transport

## 3.0 Other Regulatory Areas

- 3.1 Reporting Requirements
- 3.2 Public & Indigenous Engagement
- 3.3 Financial Guarantees
- 3.4 Commission Proceedings
- 3.5 CNSC processes and practices
- 3.6 Glossary of CNSC terminology



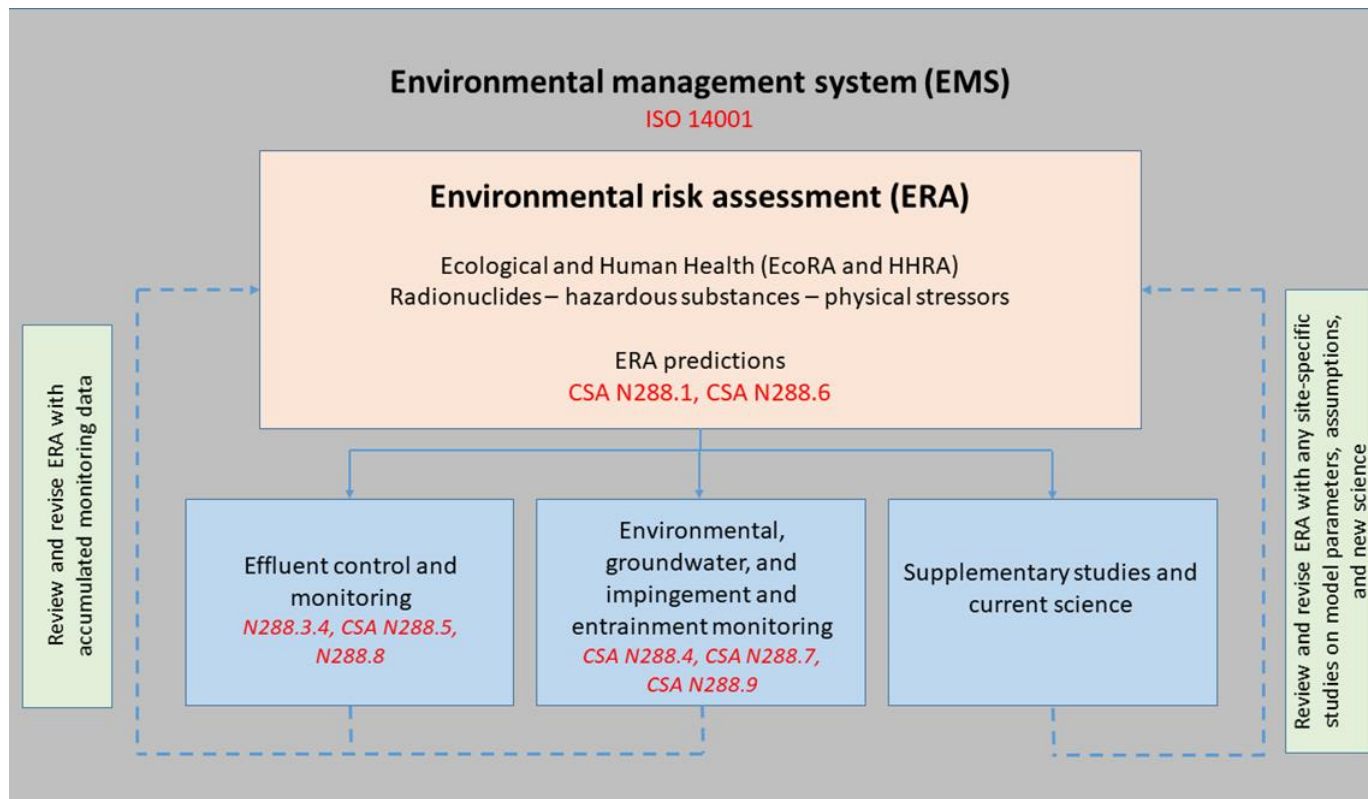
# REGDOC 2.9.1 – ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES



- **Section 2: Key Principles of EP**
  - precautionary approach, pollution prevention, continuous improvement, sustainable development, adaptive management, polluter pays
  - Best Available Technology and Techniques Economically Achievable (BATEA) / As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA)
- **Section 3: Environmental Reviews**
  - Environmental Assessments under CEAA 2012
  - Impact Assessments under Impact Assessment Act
  - Environmental Risk Assessment – supporting document
- **Section 4: Requirements of an EP Program**
  - Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)
  - Control and Monitoring of Releases to the Environment
  - Environmental Monitoring
  - Protection of People
  - Groundwater Protection Programs (mitigation and monitoring)
  - Environmental Management System



# EP FRAMEWORK – HOW EVERYTHING WORKS TOGETHER AND “CYCLES”





# ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENTS



## SO WHAT EXACTLY IS AN ERA?

- A “living” tool used by licensees to assess whether there is any potential for current and future impacts to human health and the environment as a result of the normal operations of a nuclear facility
- Licensees required to review, and if needed, update their ERA on a 5-year cycle, or more frequently if major facility changes are proposed that would trigger a predictive assessment



[View CSA N288.6:22 here](#)

# ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT (CSA N288.6)



- Conceptual Site Model:
  - Source to Receptor(s)
  - Environmental Pathways
- Identify environmental interactions (points of release) and contaminants that are being released
- Screen for Contaminants of Potential Concern (COPCs)
- Evaluate exposure risk to humans and biota
- Science-based decision-making tool to prioritize mitigation measures and monitoring programs



## RISK-INFORMED RECOMMENDATIONS

- The end product of an ERA is a determination of the risk to human and non-human biota
- ERA results provide feedback into a licensee's monitoring programs (e.g., recommending any changes to the monitoring program to focus on new issues or to reduce uncertainties)
- **A licensee's Effluent/Emissions Monitoring Program** and Environmental Monitoring Program are updated following completion of an ERA to address identified data needs
- ERA results are the basis for risk-informed recommendations to the licensee about the need for risk management/adaptive management, mitigation, and/or remediation

**CNSC staff review the licensee's ERA to ensure the recommendations being made are adequate and that they are being implemented**



# General Objectives of an Effluent Monitoring Program (EfMP)

## Demonstrate

Demonstrate compliance with authorized release limits and other regulatory requirements

## Demonstrate

Demonstrate adherence to internal objectives and targets set on release amounts

## Confirm

Confirm the adequacy of controls on releases

## Provide

Provide an indication of unusual or unforeseen conditions

## Provide

Provide data to assess the level of risk to human health and safety, and potential biological effects in the environment

## Confirm

Confirm predictions in the environmental assessment or the environmental risk assessment (ERA)





# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

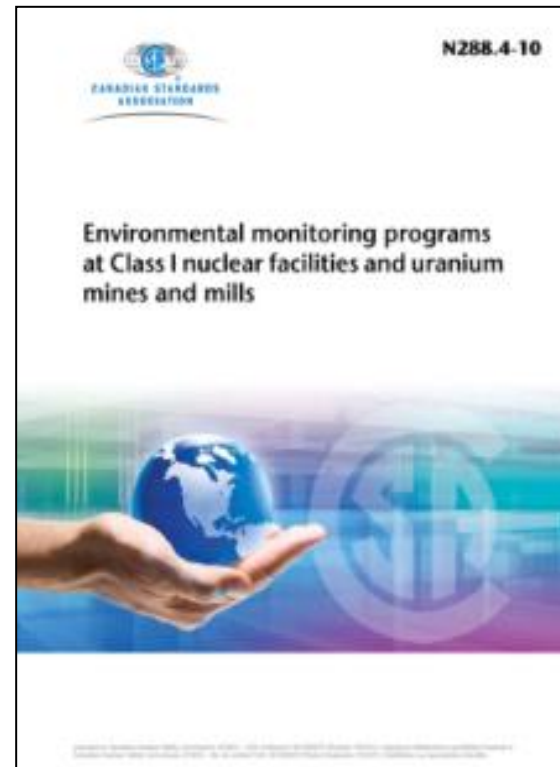
# HOW DOES MONITORING FIT IN?

- Monitoring of Releases (Effluent/Emissions) to the Environment
  - collecting and analyzing samples of treated water/air **at the point of release/final point of control**
  - samples analyzed for those contaminants and/or physical stressors identified as requiring control or identified as a parameter of stakeholder interest (e.g., tritium)
  - compared to licensed release limits, action levels, internal control levels
  - compared to estimated releases used as source-term for the ERA
- Environmental Monitoring
  - collecting and analyzing samples in the **receiving environment**
  - media: surface water, sediment, soil, air, groundwater
  - biota: fish, birds, moose, caribou, other terrestrial animals
  - samples analyzed informed by the ERA and those of stakeholder interest
  - results are compared against local/regional background, protective environmental quality guidelines, and ERA predictions
- Monitoring results are used to periodically update the ERA (i.e., every 5 years)



# ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- **Objectives of EMP:**
  - To assess the level of risk on human health and safety and potential biological effects in the environment.
  - To demonstrate compliance with limits on the concentration in the environment or effects on the environment.
  - To check independently the effectiveness of the effluent monitoring to provide public assurance of the effectiveness of containment and effluent control.
  - To verify the predictions made by the ERA, refine the models used or reduce the uncertainty in the predictions made by the ERA.
- **Reporting:** Licensee shall prepare an annual report summarizing the results of the EMP.
- **Review & Audit:** Licensee required to review and audit, and if needed, update their EMP on a 5-year cycle, or more frequently if condition change.



## DETAILED DESIGN OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAM

Includes:

- contaminants and physical stressors to be monitored
- receptors of interest
- measures of biological effect
- media to be measured or sampled
- monitoring locations
- monitoring duration, frequency, intensity and magnitude
- supplementary studies and other monitoring activities





**CNSC IEMP**

# WHAT IS THE IEMP?

**The objective of the Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP) is to:**

**Build Indigenous and public trust** in the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) regulate the nuclear industry, **via an independent, technical and accessible environmental sampling program** around nuclear facilities, while using CNSC resources effectively and efficiently.



Fish and wild blueberries sampled around Rabbit Lake.

➤ The IEMP does not relieve licensees of their responsibilities

# WHAT THE IEMP IS AND IS NOT

IEMP IS	IEMP IS NOT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A CNSC initiative</li><li>• Conducted outside the perimeter of the site (publicly accessible areas)</li><li>• Complimentary to compliance</li><li>• A “snapshot in time”</li><li>• A mechanism to support CNSC staff’s conclusions on the Licensees’ Environmental Protection Programs</li><li>• A program that encourages Indigenous groups and the public’s participation and involvement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Licensee’s program</li><li>• On-site sampling/monitoring (such as effluent)</li><li>• Compliance or inspections</li><li>• Baseline sampling or environmental characterization</li><li>• A replacement for Licensee’s monitoring programs</li><li>• A community-based monitoring program</li></ul>



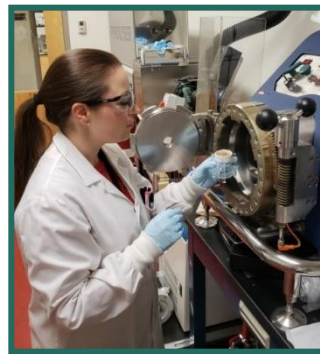
# THE IEMP PROCESS



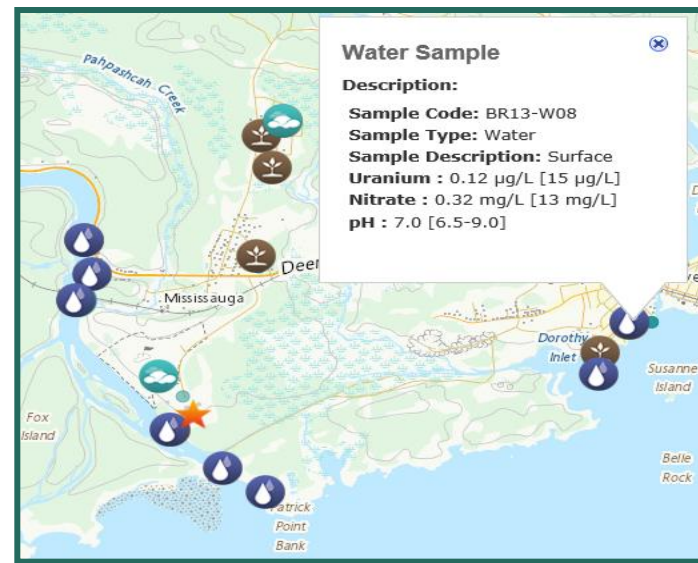
Program and  
sample planning



Sampling



Laboratory  
analysis



Interpretation  
of results

Publication  
of results

➤ Engagement is welcome throughout the process



# FIELD SAMPLING

## Sample media

- Air, water, soil, sediment, sand, vegetation, local food

## Publicly accessible locations

- Parks, recreation facilities, city property, beaches, local farms, cro

## Planning considerations

- Sampling is seasonal (May – October)
- Planned facility shut-downs
- Types of samples required (food? seasonal plants?)
- Coordination with licensees, public and/or Indigenous Nations and



Food sampling in a local garden near  
Point Lepreau, NB



# Thank you, any questions?



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## Participate and Contribute!

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Chani Campbell](#); [Ted Merasty](#);  
[Ringer, Ryan](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Longo, Samantha](#);  
**Cc:** [Zheng, Qinghuai](#); [Lam, Jeffrey](#); [Gorzkowski, Konrad](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Noakes, Rain](#);  
**Subject:** 2025-03-26-Meeting Minutes-CNSC and PBCN  
**Attachments:** [Overview of Freeze Wall for the Wheeler River.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-04-09 4:49:20 PM

---

Hi Ted, Chani,

Below are the minutes from our March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks again to the many attendees from PBCN – please forward our thanks and these notes along to anyone that should receive them. Please also let us know if you have edits.

With regards to the details on the detailed technical topics we discussed during the meeting, we need to get some approvals before we can share them in writing, so more to come on this.

Thanks,  
Jes

---

**Meeting Minutes:** Wheeler River - CNSC and PBCN

**Date:** March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Location:** CNSC Saskatoon Office - Microsoft Teams

**Participants:**

- **Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) Representatives:**
  - Jes Way (Environmental Review Officer)
  - Sydney Boser (Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division)
  - Ryan Froess (Environmental Review Officer)
  - Rain Noakes (Environmental Review Officer)
  - Konrad Gorzkowski (Project Officer and Inspector, Uranium Mines and Mills Division)
  - Jeffrey Lam (Environmental Program Specialist)
  - Samantha Longo (Environmental Risk Assessment Officer)
  - Quinn Zheng (Geoscience Assessment Specialist)
  - Ryan Ringer (CNSC Legal Counsel)
- **Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation (PBCN) Representatives:**
  - Ben Merasty (Executive Director Lands Dept for PBCN)
  - Vice Chief Justin Halcrow
  - Pauline Bedard (Executive Secretary to Chief Beatty)
  - Kevin Morin (Council for Southend)
  - Jeremy Morin (Council for Southend)

- Justin Beatty (Council for Deschambault Lake)
- Timothy Underwood (Council for Sandy Bay)
- Francis Highway (Council for Pelican Narrows)
- Leon Dorion (Council for Pelican Narrows)
- Jeremy Warren (Advisor for PBCN)
- Chani Cambell (Legal Counsel for PBCN)
- Connie Agnew (Senior Planning Ecologist, LG Limited)

## Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Overview of CNSC's Role and Responsibilities
3. Status update on the EA process
4. PBCN's Concerns and Mitigation Strategies
5. Technical Discussions
  - a. Water Quality and Fish Health
  - b. Wildlife and Habitat
  - c. ISR Mining and Freeze Wall
  - d. Transportation and Spill Response
6. Next Steps and Action Items

---

### 1. Introductions

- **CNSC Representatives** introduced themselves and their roles in the Wheeler River Project.
- **PBCN Representatives** introduced themselves and their roles within the community.
- **CNSC** noted that this meeting was organized to focus on the questions that PBCN provided, and that technical subject matter experts were attending to speak on these topics but could not all stay the entire meeting, and to PBCN's questions, these SMEs would not be assessing impacts to rights of Indigenous Nations and communities. Their assessments have been of the likelihood of significant adverse effects.
  - **Chani** asked when assessment to rights would occur / be discussed; **Sydney** noted that we would like to have a separate discussion on this topic and will reach out to set this up between the CNSC Indigenous Consultation and Engagement team and PBCN.

### 2. Overview of CNSC's Role and Responsibilities

- **CNSC** provided an overview of CNSC's role as Canada's nuclear regulator, explaining their responsibilities in regulating nuclear power plants, uranium mines, medical isotopes, and other nuclear substances.
- **CNSC** provided a high level overview of the environmental assessment (EA) and concurrent licensing processes.
- **CNSC** mentioned REGDOC 3.2.2 Indigenous Engagement - [REGDOC-3.2.2, Indigenous Engagement, Version 1.2](#) and that it is guidance that licensees and proponents follow when conducting Indigenous engagement for a nuclear facility. It is currently going through a revision cycle. CNSC also mentioned that the Duty to Consult is CNSC's and that we rely on work done by the licensee but the duty is CNSC's to discharge as the federal Crown.

### 3. Status Update on the EA Process

- **CNSC** provided a status update on the Wheeler River EA process, that since our last meeting with PBCN, in December a Final EIS was accepted from Denison and CNSC staff are beginning to prepare the EA and Consultation Reports, as well as the Commission Member Document (CMD). The licensing technical review is underway, and a two-part combined hearing has been scheduled for October and December of 2025: [Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding - 2025-H-09](#)
- **PBCN** raised concerns about the lack of consultation and the impact of the project on their rights and traditional lands.
- **CNSC** acknowledged the concerns and emphasized the importance of incorporating the information PBCN have shared with the CNSC into the assessment process, including in the EA report.

#### 4. PBCN's Concerns and Mitigation Strategies

- **PBCN** highlighted several key concerns:
  - Impact of the project on water quality and wildlife, particularly caribou migration.
  - Lack of benefits and job opportunities for PBCN communities.
  - Historical lack of consultation and compensation for previous projects.
- **CNSC** discussed the importance of working together to address these concerns, and emphasized the need for PBCN to share their information and traditional knowledge with the CNSC to ensure it is reflected in the EA Report.
- **PBCN** mentioned they are working on finalizing the phase 2 of gathering the information that was previously shared with the CNSC. Once completed, they will then will share with CNSC – hoping to be completed for April.
- **CNSC** mentioned that the drafted documentation for the hearing (EA, Consultation and CMD reports) will be starting to undergo management reviews in early June, and indicated this information would be shared as soon as it's available for discussion.
- **CNSC** noted the importance of sharing this information with Denison. **PBCN** indicated that they intended to share the information with Denison once the project was complete, and wondered if there was value in sharing before they were able to provide the phase two. **CNSC** suggested that the sooner these discussions begin, the better (could take time to set up meetings, etc.).

#### 5. Technical Discussions on Specific Environmental and Wildlife Concerns

- Formalized responses discussed in the meeting will be forthcoming – currently under review
- **Water Quality and Fish Health:**
  - **Samantha Longo** explained the assessment of potential impacts on water quality and fish health, including the monitoring of effluent and the implementation of mitigation measures.
  - **Jeffrey Lam** discussed the adaptive management strategies and the requirements for Denison to ensure compliance with environmental protection standards.
  - **PBCN** requested additional monitoring stations in their communities to address concerns about perception and confidence in the data.
- **Wildlife and Habitat:**
  - **Samantha Longo** provided an overview of the assessment of potential impacts on wildlife, including habitat loss, disturbance, and mortality risks.

- **PBCN** emphasized the importance of barren ground caribou and other key species to their traditional way of life. PBCN would have an interest in reviewing and participating in the caribou management framework and gaining a better understanding of any tissue sampling and/or monitoring programs.
- **In-Situ Uranium Mining and Freeze Wall Technology:**
  - **Quinn** explained the in-situ uranium mining method and the use of freeze wall technology to contain the mining solution and prevent environmental contamination. Please see presentation attached.
  - **PBCN** raised concerns about the potential failure of the freeze wall and the long-term impacts on groundwater quality.
  - **CNSC** explained that the freeze wall is a 3<sup>rd</sup> level of defence and the other elements that will ensure the environment remains protected.
- **Transportation and Spill Response:**
  - **Konrad** discussed the transportation licensing requirements and the protocols for reporting and responding to spills of nuclear material.
  - **PBCN** shared concerns about past incidents and the need for transparent communication and reporting.

## 6. Next Steps and Action Items

- **CNSC** to reach out to Denison to inform them of the ongoing discussions happening between PBCN and CNSC and Denison to reach out to PBCN as they may have information to share with them. **(Completed)**
- **PBCN** to continue gathering and sharing information with CNSC including Phase 2 of their land use information to ensure their concerns are adequately addressed in the assessment process.
- **CNSC** to incorporate PBCN's input into the Environmental Assessment Report and share back with them for their input when ready and prepare for the upcoming commission hearing. CNSC staff would expect this to come part-way through April.
- **Follow-Up Meetings:**
  - Identify some dates for technical discussions between CNSC subject matter experts and PBCN technical team to address specific environmental and wildlife concerns.
  - When Stream 1 of CNSC's funding program opens up this spring, CNSC will share the information with PBCN for their awareness.
  - Organize a separate meeting to discuss the duty to consult process in more depth virtually

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
 Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
 British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



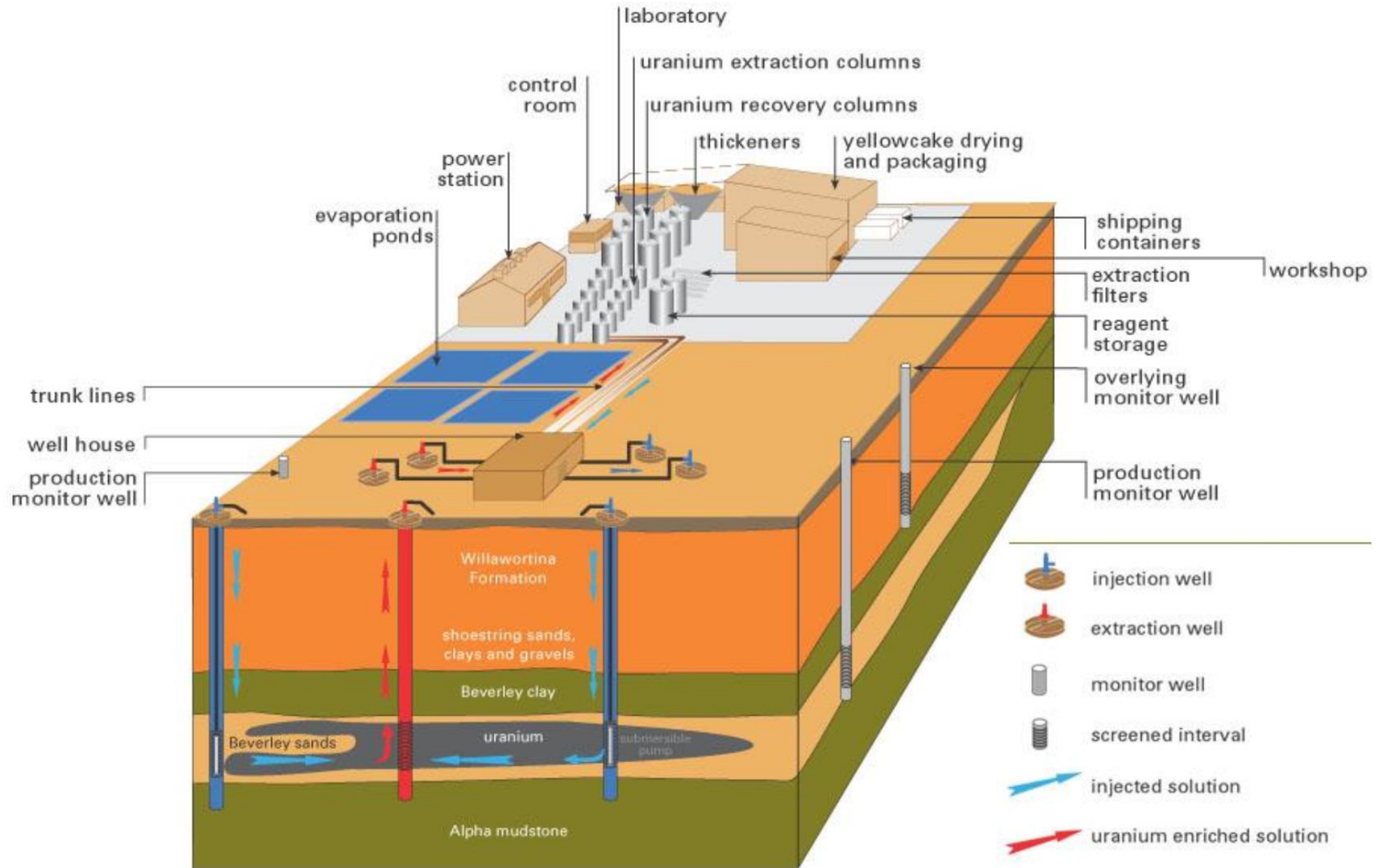
# CNSC Overview of Freeze Wall for the Wheeler River Project

March 26, 2025

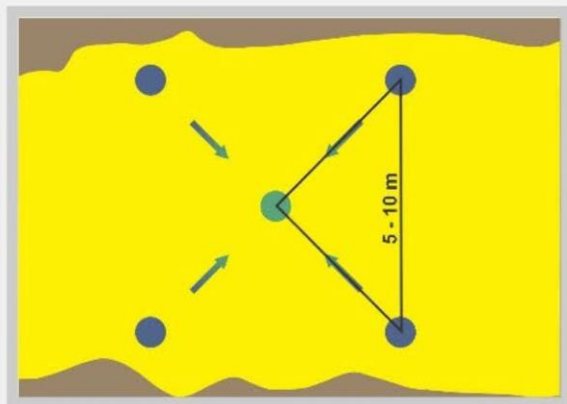
Quinn Zheng

Geoscience Assessment Specialist, Environmental Risk Assessment  
Division





# TOP VIEW OF A SINGLE WELL FIELD

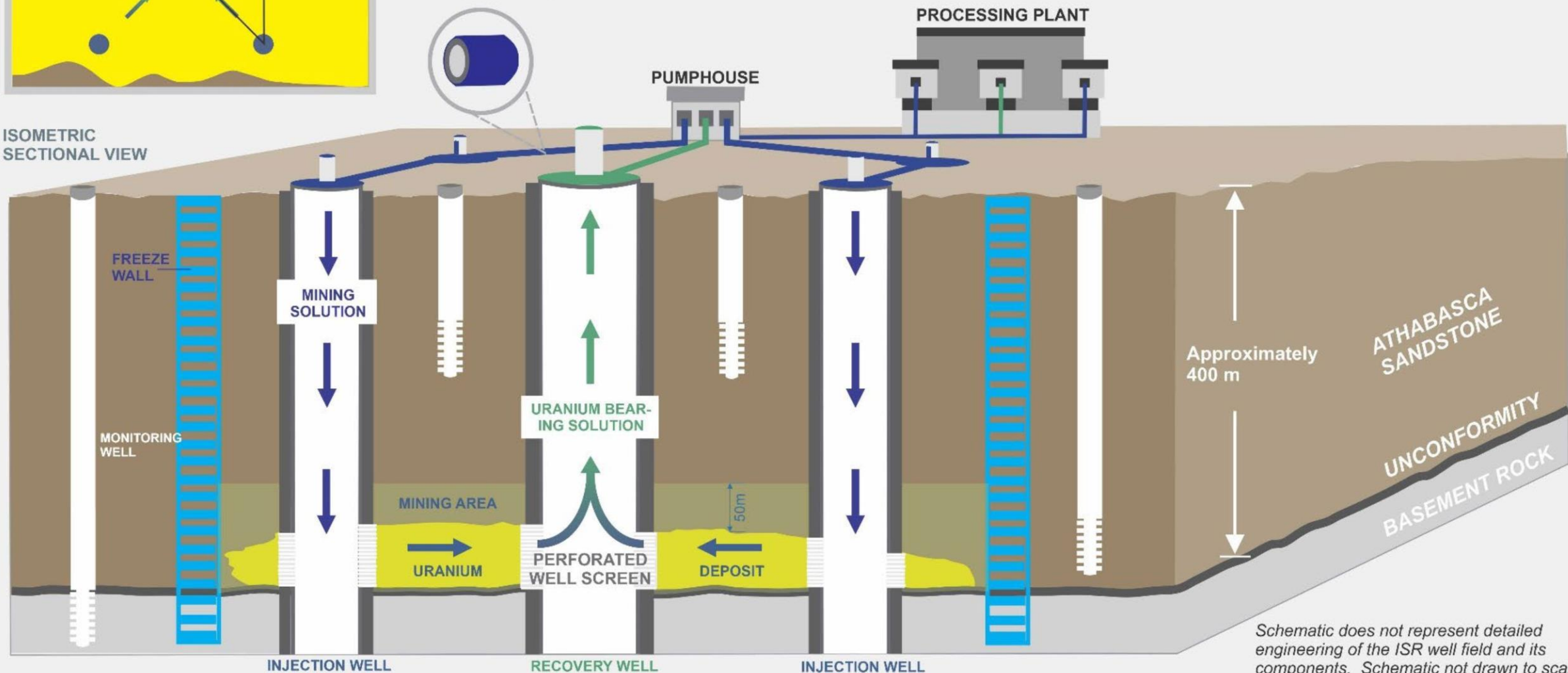


- INJECTION WELL WITH MINING SOLUTION
- RECOVERY WELL WITH URANIUM BEARING SOLUTION

PIPE WITH  
SECONDARY  
CONTAINMENT

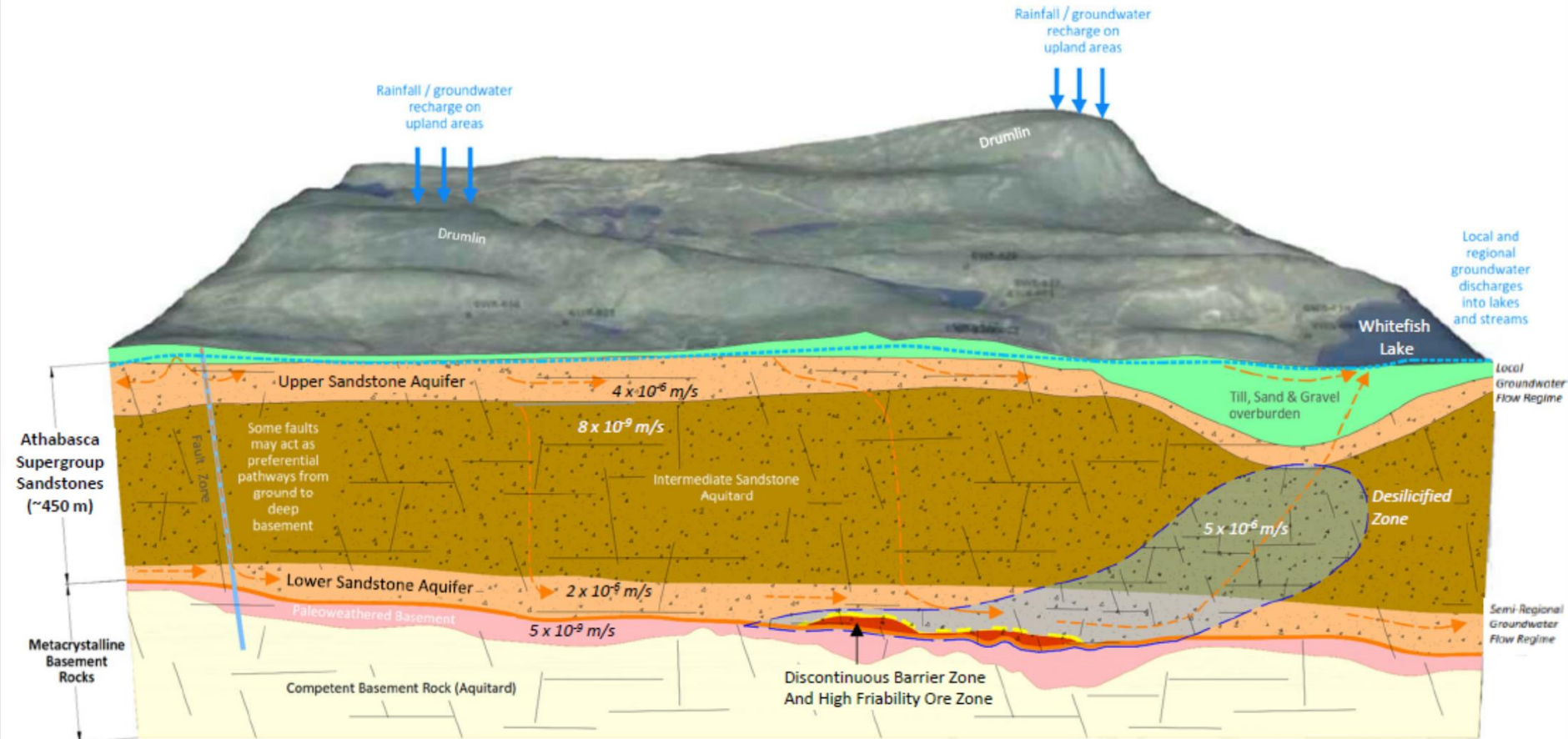










## ISOMETRIC SECTIONAL VIEW



Taken from EIS report by Denison Mines, 2024.

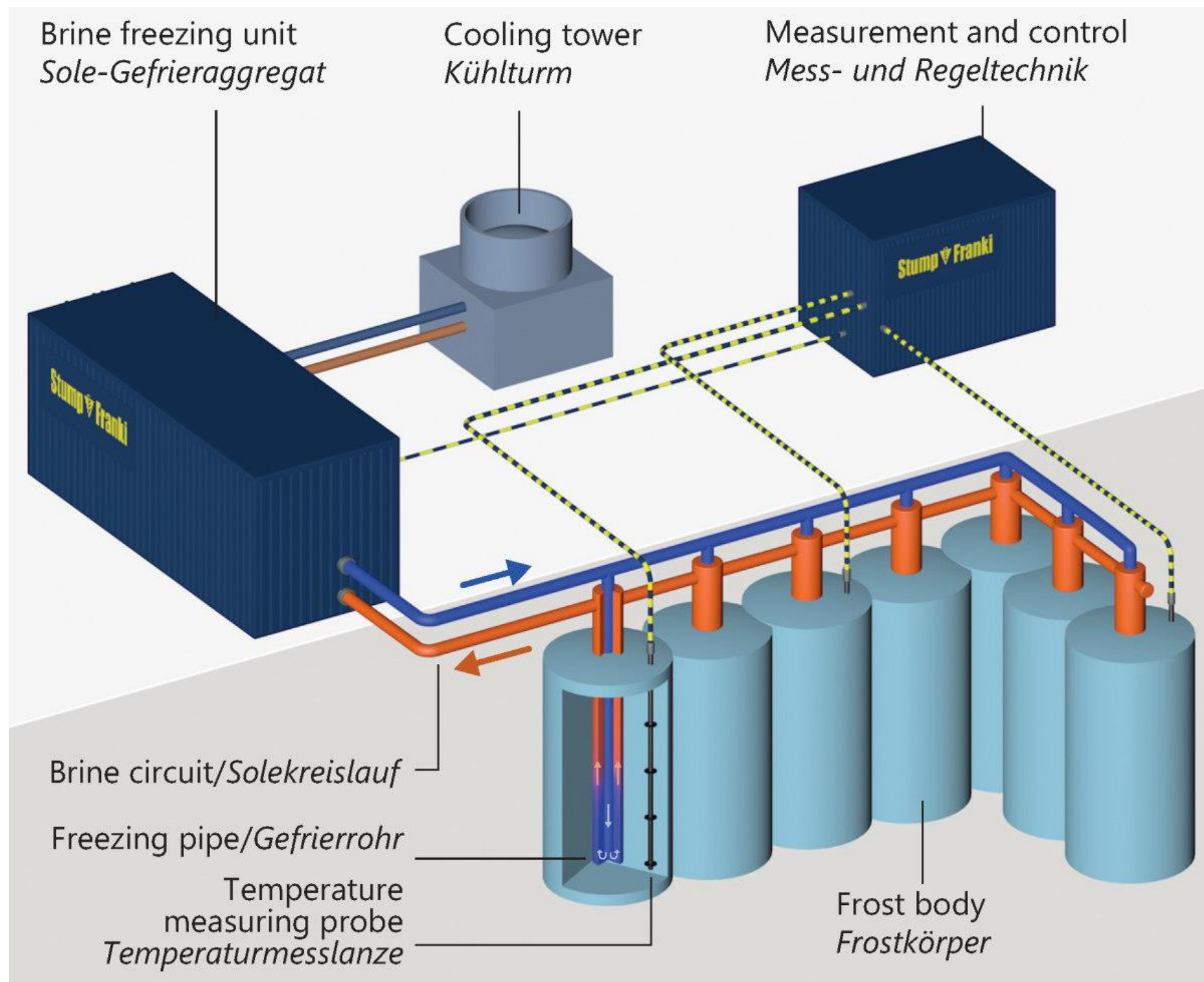
Schematic does not represent detailed engineering of the ISR well field and its components. Schematic not drawn to scale.



<b>LEGEND</b>  - Groundwater Flow  - Fractures  - Fault  - Unconformity	 - Clay Cap  - High Friability Ore Zone  - Water Table  - Geomean of Field Based Hydraulic Conductivity Values	2 x 10 <sup>-7</sup> m/s

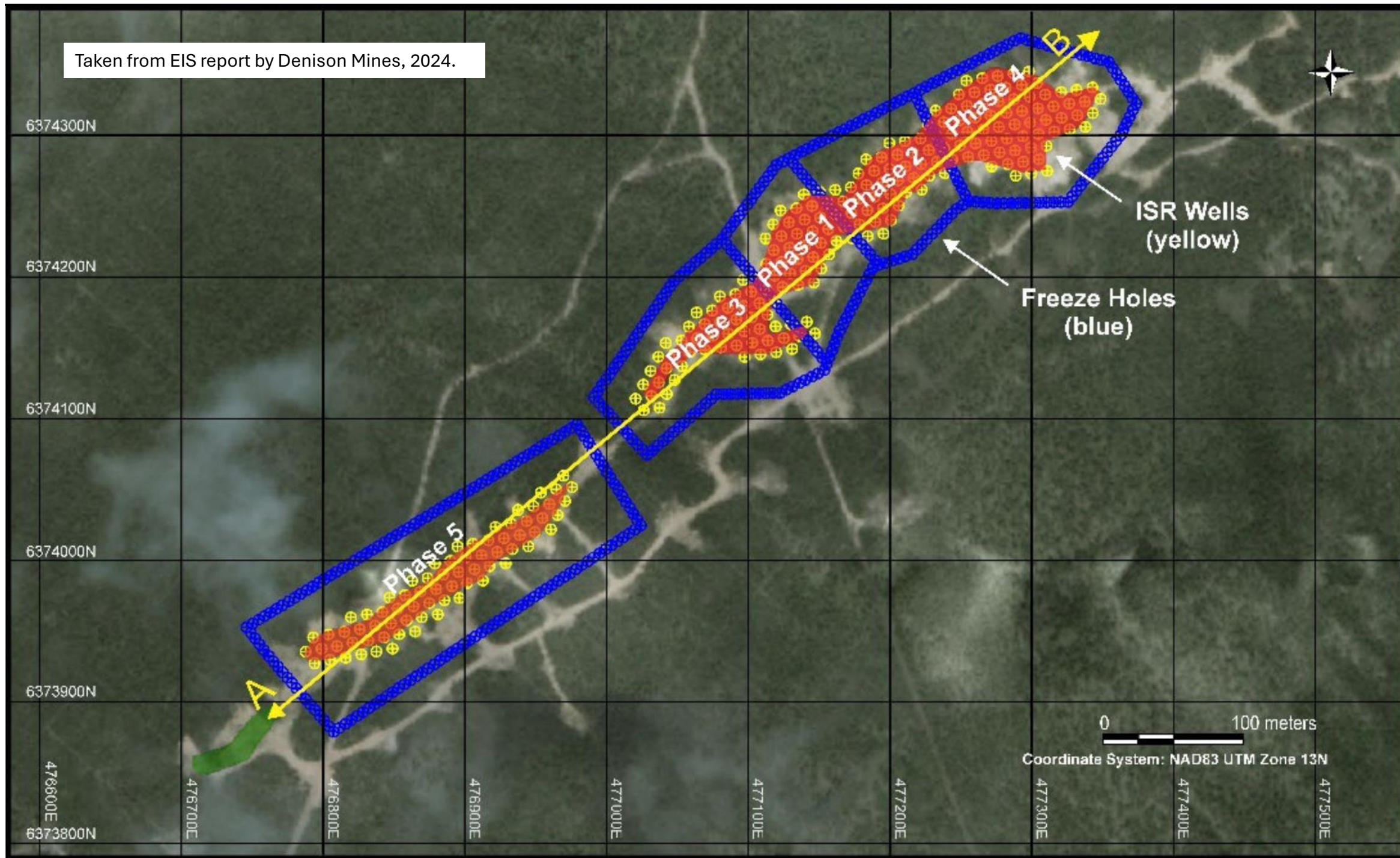
**Wheeler River Project**  
**Baseline Geology and Hydrogeological Assessment**  
 Summary Conceptual Site Model for the  
 Phoenix Area



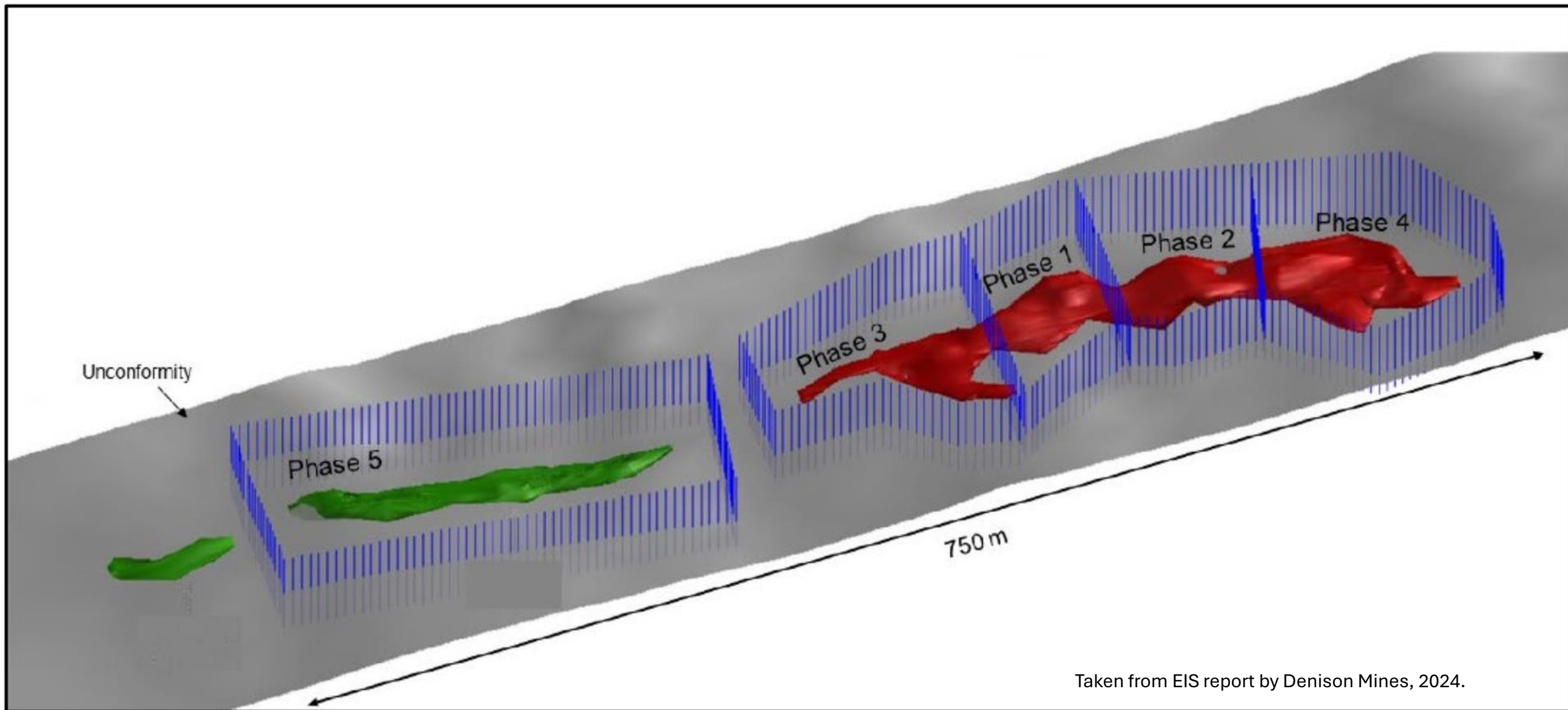


Source: [https://www.tunnel-online.info/en/artikel/tunnel\\_Ground\\_Freezing\\_Measures\\_for\\_the\\_Extension\\_of\\_the\\_U5\\_in\\_Frankfurt\\_a.\\_M.-3758952.html](https://www.tunnel-online.info/en/artikel/tunnel_Ground_Freezing_Measures_for_the_Extension_of_the_U5_in_Frankfurt_a._M.-3758952.html)

Taken from EIS report by Denison Mines, 2024.





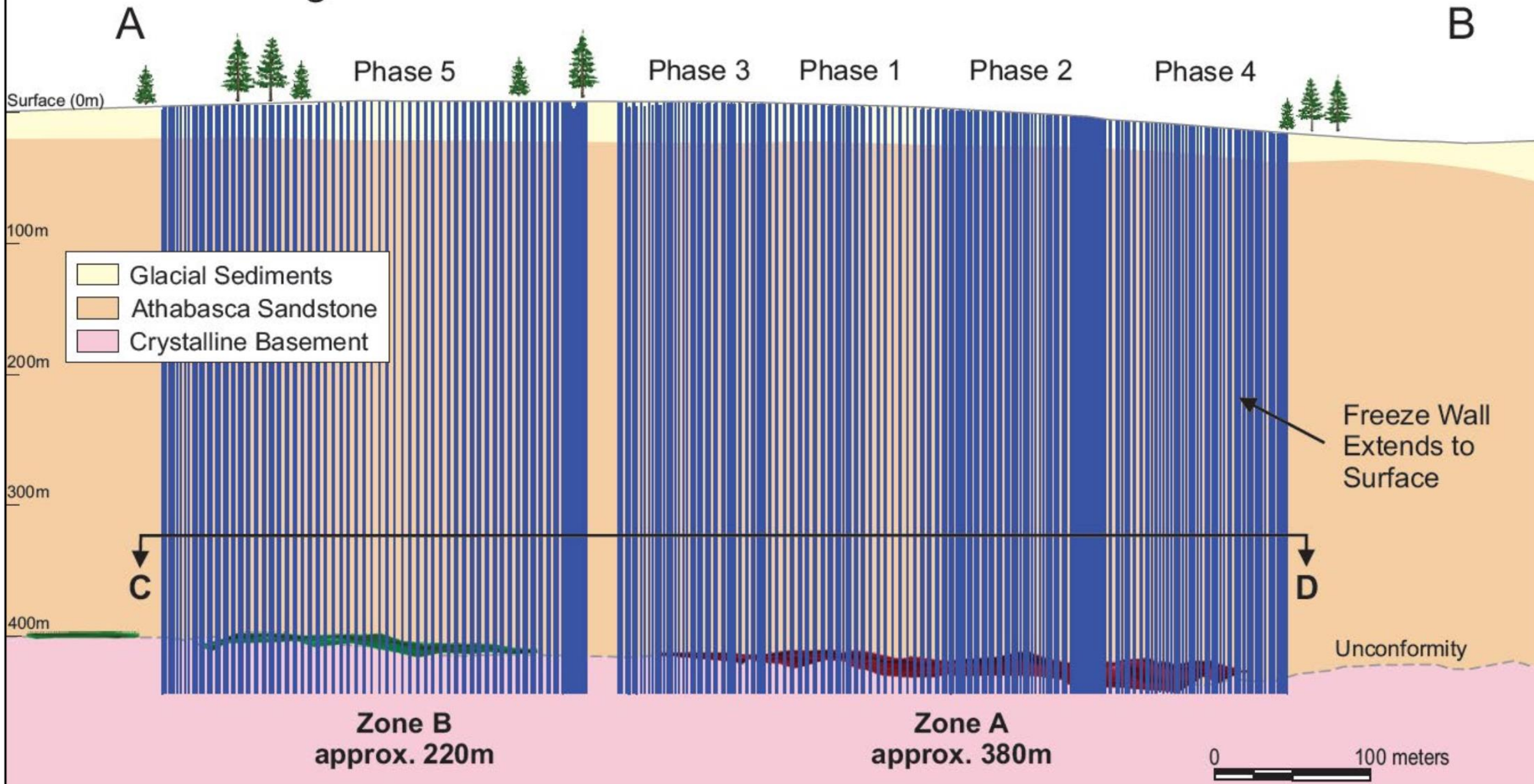


Taken from EIS report by Denison Mines, 2024.

# Phoenix Long Section

Taken from EIS report by Denison Mines, 2024.

Looking Northwest



# Wheeler River Conceptual Groundwater Monitoring Network: Mining

DENISON MINES

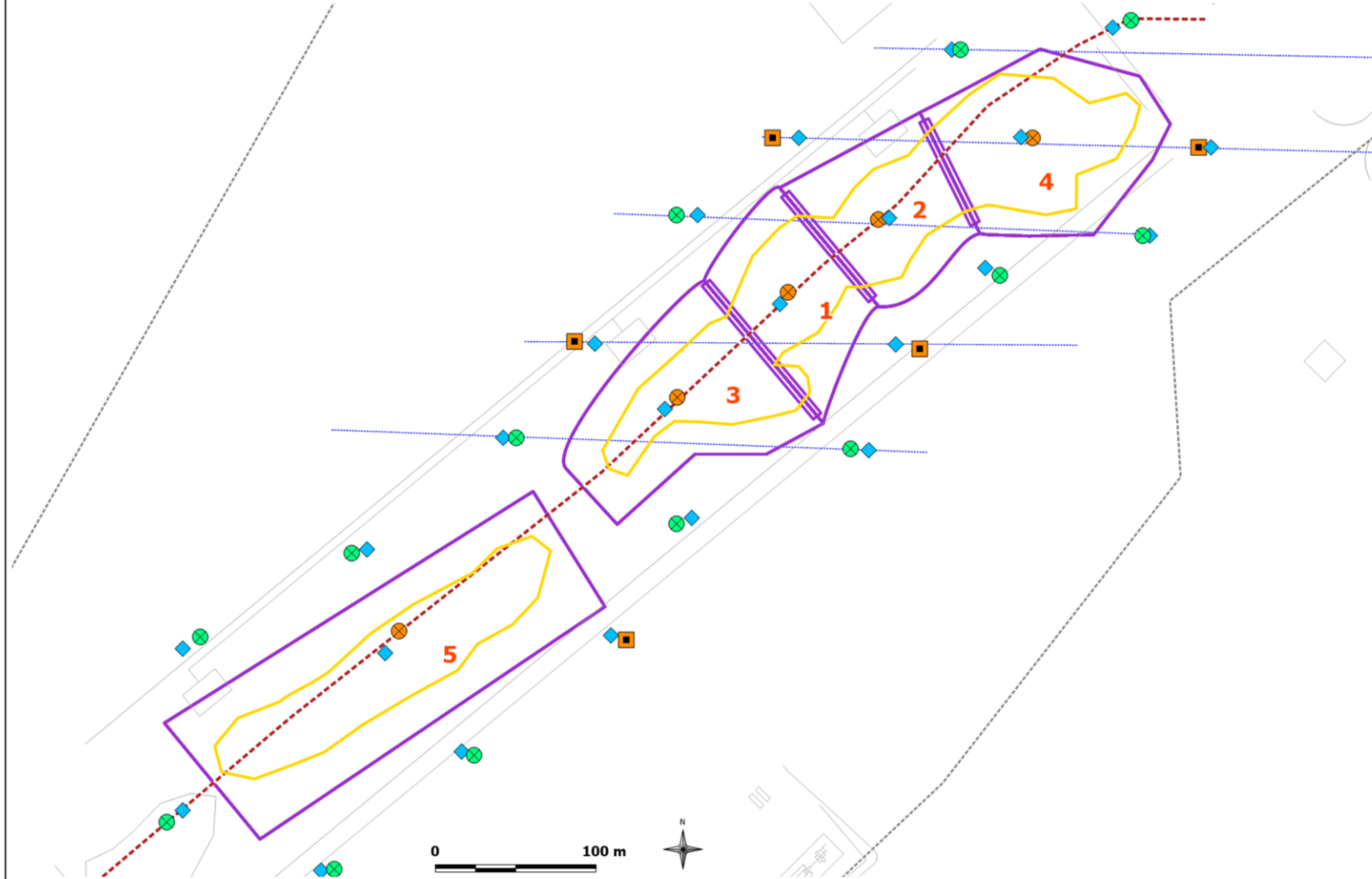
## Legend

- Ore Zone
- WS Shear Zone
- Minor Faults
- Site Specific Area
- Mine Phase
- Monitoring Well (Lower Sandstone Aquifer Only)
- Monitoring Well Cluster of 2 wells (Lower Sandstone Aquifer, Intermediate Sandstone Aquitard)
- Monitoring Well Cluster of 4 wells (Lower Sandstone Aquifer, Intermediate Sandstone Aquitard, Upper Sandstone Aquifer, and Overburden)
- Vibrating Wire Piezometer (multiple completion depths)

Scale as Shown

Drawn: P. Martin	Checked: E. Haack	Date: 14/06/2023
---------------------	----------------------	------------------

Denison Mines Ecometrix



Taken from EIS report by Denison Mines, 2024.



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#) on behalf of [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Executive Secretary](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & PBCN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-05-07 5:27:30 PM

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Good afternoon Chief Beatty,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.6 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with PBCN related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on PBCN, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by PBCN related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PBCN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis



# PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 953-4400 · Fax: (306) 953-4420



May 16, 2025

Ms. Jes Way  
Senior Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines Corp. ("Denison")– Wheeler River Project (the "Proposed Project")**

Dear Ms. Way,

Further to our meetings on October 29, 2024, February 26, 2025, and March 26, 2025 we write to provide you with an update on the status of engagement with Denison and to summarize the information previously shared with CNSC, as well as, the enclosed map evidencing the additional results of PBCN's work in developing a preliminary traditional land use map (the "Map") to facilitate CNSC drafting a consultation report which outlines PBCN's concerns and provides CNSC's response to PBCN's concerns (the "Consultation Report").

In your letter to PBCN dated January 22, 2025, CNSC indicated that the Federal Crown's Consultation Objective was centralized around the following framework, wherein CNSC would:

1. identify any potential environmental effects of the Project, including those on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, health and socio-economic conditions, and heritage resources
2. identify adverse impacts of the Project on your community's potential or established rights
3. ensure options for avoiding, mitigating, or accommodating adverse impacts are considered

PBCN has, on several occasions, inquired as to how the information it has provided could be meaningfully incorporated into the regulatory process, how specific mitigation strategies might be developed to minimize impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights, and what accommodation measures may be required to offset those impacts. PBCN remains hopeful that the Consultation Report will address each matter thoroughly and comprehensively.

PBCN has, at CNSC's request, spent over two and a half years providing evidence of PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights in the Proposed Project area which we have done and will summarize later in this letter. We must emphasize, however, the obvious fact that the Federal Crown has had real or imputed knowledge of PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights in the Proposed Project area for over a century, including:

- A. In 1876, Canada entered into a treaty at Fort Pitt and Fort Carlton with certain Indian tribes and bands including the Plain and Wood Cree Tribes of Indians ("**Treaty 6**"). The James Roberts Band and other members of the Wood Cree Tribe of Indians adhered to Treaty 6 through agreements signed in 1898 and 1899.
- B. In or about 1900, certain members of the James Roberts Band were constituted as a separate Band and became the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, a Band of Indians who share the culture and laws of the Assin'skowitiniwak (people of the rocky area) and the Woodland Cree language of northern Saskatchewan ("**PBCN**").
- C. Though PBCN is an adherent to Treaty 6 many of PBCN's reserves are located within Treaty 10.
- D. PBCN has a traditional territory that encompasses vast areas of Treaty 10 and a smaller portion of Treaty 5 and constitutes over 20,000 square miles in northern Saskatchewan and northwest Manitoba ("**PBCN Territory**").
- E. The Proposed Project is located on the northwest corner of PBCN's Territory.
- F. PBCN identified a potential area for a reserve (called Asamera) in the treaty land entitlement process that appears some 120km northeast of the Project area in the 1990's.

Starting in 2016, Denison engaged with several Indigenous "Communities of Interest" regarding the Project. It initially focused on engaging with the English River First Nation, Kineepik Metis Local #9, the Sipishik Metis Local #37, and the A La Baie Metis Local #21. It then added Patuanak Metis Local #82 and Hatchet Lake First Nation. The criteria used by Denison to identify the Indigenous communities to be consulted include:

- Treaty 10 signatory (Treaty in which the Project is located);
- Potential or established Indigenous / Treaty Rights within the Project area;
- Geographic proximity of community and / or reserve land to the Project site;
- Known traditional territory in and around the Project site, including travel routes;



- History of relationship with operating companies, CNSC and the Province in relation to other projects located near the Project (McArthur River, Key Lake, Millennium); and,
- The potential for collective exercising of Indigenous / Treaty rights in proximity to the Project.

PBCN was not included as an indigenous community to be consulted despite the fact that PBCN meets the criteria identified by Denison and has

- a. reserves within Treaty 10 geographic boundaries,
- b. potential indigenous rights within the Project area,
- c. known tradition territory in and around the Project site, including travel routes, and
- d. the potential for the collective exercising of indigenous rights in proximity to the Proposed Project.

It is incomprehensible to PBCN, in light of the Crown's knowledge of the extent of PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights that it was not identified as an Indigenous community to be consulted at the outset of the consultation process on this Project.

It was not until the summer of 2022 that CNSC first communicated with PBCN regarding this project. On October 21, 2022, C sent PBCN the draft EIS and invited P to provide comments during the 90-day comment period.

On March 3, 2023, PBCN provided comments on the draft EIS.

On June 23, 2023, PBCN met with EASB and CNSC in Saskatoon to provide an overview of its Aboriginal rights and treaty interests.

On September 20, 2023, PBCN and Denison met in Saskatoon. At the meeting, PBCN requested capacity funding from Denison to retain experts to understand the Project and identify mitigation and monitoring measures. PBCN members also shared several stories regarding PBCN's cultural activities around the Proposed Project site, the importance of Reindeer Lake, with particular concerns around water contamination and concerns about cumulative impacts with other mining operations in the Athabasca Shield.

On October 10, 2023, Denison emailed PBCN its meeting notes and presentation materials from the September meeting. In Denison's notes of the September meeting, it states the key items raised by PBCN were:

- a. concern about potential for water to be contaminated from the Project and potentially impacting PBCN communities;

- b. concern that PBCN will be impacted by the Project; that all mining activities affect PBCN;
- c. transparency around communicating monitoring results and any monitoring results that are not expected;
- d. PBCN requested Denison engage more fully with PBCN about the Project, and to that end, enter into a formal agreement in relation to engagement;

On or about October 20, 2023, PBCN sent two letters (both dated October 5, 2023) regarding the September meeting with Denison. The first letter is to Denison, where PBCN stated that it does not know why it was left off the list of potentially impacted First Nations but is seeking to rectify that with the Crown. PBCN expressed its willingness to engage in meaningful consultation with Denison supported by capacity funding. The second letter is to CNSC, where PBCN requested that PBCN be scoped in as a community of interest and that CNSC require Denison to assess the potential impacts of the proposed Project to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights.

On January 10, 2024, Denison responded to PBCN's previous letters and effectively dismissed PBCN by stating that PBCN will need to provide specific information for Denison to assess the adverse impacts on PBCN and determine whether it is worth it for Denison to provide funding for a Traditional Land & Resource Use Study.

In February 2024, PBCN, in an effort to be responsive to Denison's and CNSC's requests that PBCN "prove" its Aboriginal and treaty rights, retained the Firelight Group to interview PBCN members who have and continue to exercise their Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the Proposed Project area and throughout PBCN territory, elders whose families historically exercised their Aboriginal and Treaty rights in and around the Proposed Project and updated its traditional territory map to reflect this information (the "Map"). The engagement was predominantly funded by PBCN.

In September 2024, PBCN approved phase 2 of the Firelight mapping project.

In October 2024, Denison completed the final EIS. Section 3.0 of the EIS describes the Indigenous and Local Knowledge Denison incorporated into the environmental assessment project. PBCN is not mentioned at all in that chapter.

October 4, 2024, PBCN sent a letter to CNSC and EASB advising them that it had retained Firelight to assist in creating a map and that the results illustrate the impact of the project on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights and, further, that Project would infringe and unjustifiably limit its rights.

October 29, 2024, PBCN met with EASB and CNSC. PBCN presented the results from the Firelight mapping. EASB stated in the meeting that the duty to consult had not been triggered.



On November 7, 2024, PBCN provided CNSC with specific information generated by the interviews and information gathered by the Firelight Group relating to the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights by PBCN members in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.

On February 26, 2025, CNSC and EASB had a joint meeting wherein PBCN expressed interest in being included in monitoring and developing mitigation strategies to mitigate the potential impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights. EASB showed no interest in incorporating PBCN mitigation strategies or involving PBCN in monitoring. CNSC agrees to set up a follow-up meeting.

On March 26, 2025, CNSC and PBCN had a technical meeting to review some of PBCN's concerns. CNSC committed to continue technical meetings. CNSC advised PBCN that CNSC will write an assessment report in May and assess the impacts to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights.

In April 2025, PBCN received the enclosed second phase of mapping from the Firelight Group, which demonstrates that the Proposed Project substantially and directly overlaps with the exercise of PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights especially as those rights relate to hunting, trapping and gathering.

At CNSC's urging PBCN provided the results of the Firelight Project and requested capacity funding to meet with Denison. Denison has not shown any interest in meeting. PBCN advised CNSC of this on May 5, 2025.

CNSC responded on May 8, 2025, stating that while CNSC cannot require Denison to engage with PBCN, CNSC does heavily consider a proponent's actions regarding Indigenous consultation and engagement when evaluating applications and making staff recommendations to the Commission and it is always the expectation of CNSC that a proponent to be consulting and engaging in good faith.

In conclusion, since 2023, PBCN has provided CNSC and Denison with extensive information relating to PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights in the Proposed Project area.

PBCN has repeatedly and consistently expressed its concern and frustration to CNSC regarding Denison's position that the Proposed Project will have no potential impacts on PBCN, despite the absence of any meaningful engagement or exchange of information between Denison and PBCN. Notably, in a letter to PBCN dated January 22, 2025, CNSC stated that "Denison expected to discuss with PBCN how their comments and concerns have been addressed." Inexplicably, this item was marked as "Completed," even though Denison has neither considered the potential impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights nor engaged in any meetings with PBCN since September 2023 (the "2023 Meeting"). Following the 2023 Meeting, Denison failed to include critical oral information shared by PBCN—concerning the Nation's traditional land use and the exercise of its rights—in any of the regulatory documentation for the Proposed Project. Even now, despite having access to detailed information regarding species and the

nature of Aboriginal use gathered through PBCN's work with the Firelight Group, Denison has dismissed the information as vague.

PBCN remains deeply concerned that the Proposed Project may have significant adverse impacts on its Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and that the regulatory process to date has failed to adequately assess these potential impacts, consider PBCN's perspective and indigenous knowledge, incorporate a mechanism whereby PBCN can collaborate with the regulator and Denison to develop specific mitigation measures to address these adverse impacts.

To suggest that PBCN's comments and concerns can be disregarded on the basis that the EIS contains general mitigation measures is both inaccurate and inconsistent with the Federal Crown's own policies on Indigenous consultation and engagement. This approach disregards the essential requirement of meaningful consultation. The mitigation measures set out in the EIS were developed prior to the Crown's acknowledgment of its duty to consult with PBCN and, as previously noted, do not incorporate any Indigenous or community knowledge provided by PBCN. Measures developed unilaterally by Denison —without PBCN's involvement or any consideration of the specific impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights—do not meet the standards required under the Crown's duty to consult. It is imperative that PBCN be actively involved in the evaluation of mitigation measures to ensure they are responsive to the actual and potential impacts on PBCN's Aboriginal and treaty rights.

As the lead regulator for the Proposed Project, CNSC has a duty to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential effects on PBCN's Aboriginal and Treaty rights —particularly in light of the Crown's actual and imputed knowledge, as further substantiated by the extensive evidence PBCN has collected and provided to CNSC—and to ensure that appropriate measures are identified to avoid, mitigate, or accommodate these adverse impacts. As emphasized to CNSC on multiple occasions, PBCN remains fully willing to collaborate in this process, provided that adequate capacity funding is made available. PBCN has consistently indicated its readiness to engage on an expedited basis to assess the potential impacts on its rights and interests and to develop appropriate mitigation measures.

Yours very truly,



Ben Merasty  
Executive Director

c.c. Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN



Marg Rosling, Aldridge + Rosling LLP  
Chani Campbell, Aldridge + Rosling LLP

**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Chani Campbell](#); [Ben Merasty](#);  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Boser, Sydney](#);  
[Executive Secretary](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Margaret Rosling](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation  
**Sent:** 2025-05-28 11:55:53 AM

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Hi Chani,

You have the extension and we can keep you looped in on future correspondence – this is noted. Also, looping Marg back in.

I hope the meeting yesterday went well. Both Justin and Adam Levine are in Saskatoon on June 19<sup>th</sup>, I wondered if there was any possibility of meeting that morning, in person in Saskatoon, with PBCN?

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <CCampbell@arlaw.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>  
**Cc:** chiefbeatty@sasktel.net; Ted Merasty <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Executive Secretary <executivesecretary@pbcn.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

Margie and I are meeting with Chief Beatty, Ben, and others tomorrow.

PBCN would appreciate an extension to the Consultation Report and EA Content sent on May 7, 2025. Additionally, I noticed that I wasn't included in the May 7, 2025 correspondence—could you please ensure I'm copied on future communications? That will help avoid any deadlines slipping through the cracks.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-

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**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 9:25 AM

**To:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Hi Ben,

I am reaching out to follow up on PBCN's May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025<sup>th</sup> letter. Thank you for the update on PBCN's engagement with Denison as well as the Map provided.

We continue to be committed to working through PBCN's concerns about the proposed Wheeler River Project and we are interested in learning more about the findings that led to the development of the attached map.

Would it be possible to schedule a follow up virtual meeting to discuss this information, and next steps of the process? I also wanted to note that on May 7<sup>th</sup> CNSC sent along some information for PBCN's review and we have yet to receive a response (please see attached). Since it is past the deadline for providing comments, we could give PBCN an extension till Thursday May 29<sup>th</sup> to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without PBCN's input.

Also, I received an email from Margaret Rosling noting that she is no longer with Aldridge and Rosling, should we still be keeping her looped in on these emails? I took her off for now as it wasn't really clear to me from her email.

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Good morning Pauline,

Apologies for the delayed reply. Thank you for your email – sending this response to confirm receipt. We will review the attached communication and provide a response.

Sincerely,  
Jes

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**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Good day,

Please see the attached communication from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



---

**From:** [Executive Secretary](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Chani Campbell](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
[PBCN\\_EA\\_Content\\_For\\_Review\\_1384-2699-2663 v.1.docx](#); [Letter to Sydney Boser - May 29, 2025.pdf](#); [CNSC May 7 Draft PBCN Consultation Report Section 4.6 - For Review 1398-9637-5063 v.1.docx](#);  
**Attachments:**  
**Sent:** 2025-05-29 11:46:57 AM

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**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

---

Good morning Sydney,

Please see the attached communication from Ben Merasty, Executive Director, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Best regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)





## PETER BALLANTYNE CREE NATION

Chief Joseph Custer Reserve - 2300 - 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue West  
P.O. Box 2320, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 6Z1  
Phone: (306) 765-5388 · Fax: (306) 922-1450



May 29, 2025

Sydney Boser  
Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines – Wheeler River Project**

Dear Sydney Boser,

We write as a follow-up to your email dated May 7, 2025, requesting PBCN comments on Section 4.6 of CNSC's Consultation Report titled "Engagement Activities with Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation" (the "Report").

PBCN has reviewed Section 4.6 of the Consultation Report and has identified several inaccuracies, misstatements, and mischaracterizations regarding the engagement between CNSC and PBCN, as outlined in the attached revised draft.

Part of the challenge in accurately capturing PBCN's position may stem from the difficulty of summarizing the engagement while adhering to the terms of the Confidentiality Agreement. To support the objective of ensuring the Report is as accurate and transparent as possible, PBCN is:

1. Waiving the obligations outlined in the 2024 Confidentiality Agreement; and
2. Requesting that direct excerpts from the correspondence between PBCN and CNSC be included in the Report.

Accordingly, PBCN's comments focus on incorporating references to the actual language used in the correspondence exchanged between PBCN and CNSC. It is PBCN's clear expectation—consistent with the honour of the Crown—that the Report will accurately reflect both the facts and the substance of PBCN's communications with the Crown.

Sincerely,

Ben Merasty,  
Executive Director



Sydney Boser  
May 29, 2025  
Page 2

C.C.  
Chief Peter Beatty  
Ted Merasty, Director of Lands and Resources PBCN  
Jes Way, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer, CNSC

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Executive Secretary](#)  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Chani Campbell](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
**Attachments:** [PBCN Consultation Report Section 4.6 - Final June 2025.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-05 3:51:00 PM

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Good afternoon Pauline,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation and EA report sections. To note, Jes will be in touch with you regarding the EA report. For the Consultation report, please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information where possible and created a views expressed section to incorporate your edits. CNSC is committed to working with PBCN on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage PBCN to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing.

I also just wanted to follow up on the potential for us to schedule a meeting in-person on the morning of June 19<sup>th</sup> in Saskatoon as Justin McKeown and Adam Levine will be in town. If that works for even a smaller group let me know and I can send out an invite.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 29, 2025 2:54 PM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty

<tmerasty@pbcn.ca>; Chani Campbell <CCampbell@arlaw.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Good afternoon Pauline,

Thank you for providing this information. I am confirming receipt and CNSC will be reviewing the communication.

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>

**Sent:** May 29, 2025 11:47 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Letter to CNSC from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Good morning Sydney,

Please see the attached communication from Ben Merasty, Executive Director, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Best regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



**From:** [Way, Jessica](#)  
**To:** [Chani Campbell](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net);  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation  
**Sent:** 2025-06-17 8:39:38 AM

---

Good morning Chani,

I'm glad we were able to get something in the calendar for Thursday – we are looking forward to this discussion. We will have a few people in person on Thursday: Sydney, Justin, Adam, Ryan and myself will all be there.

We are interested in discussing any topics PBCN has for the meeting, but as a starting point for discussion, we would like to propose the following agenda:

- Introductions
- Update on PBCN's engagement with Denison
- PBCN's outstanding concerns regarding the Wheeler River Project
- Overview of monitoring initiatives and opportunities
- Next Steps

Are there additional items that PBCN had expected to discuss on Thursday?

See you soon,  
Jes

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2025 5:30 PM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Hi Chani,

Yes I can bring my tablet as well as my dock to ensure we can get a virtual connection.  
See you on Thursday!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 16, 2025 1:33 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Sydney,

Can you please ensure that one of the CNSC attendees has a laptop to ensure that people can join virtually? I understand that PBCN organized AV equipment from SaskInn but I am uncertain if that extends to an actual laptop and HDMI cable.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**  
Barristers & Solicitors  
Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.  
Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2  
Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402  
Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

-  
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**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2025 7:02 AM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>;  
Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty  
<[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan  
<[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Thank you. We will see you on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

Best,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory  
and Homeland of the Métis*

*Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du  
Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis*

---

**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 10, 2025 2:21 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way,  
Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty  
<[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan  
<[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good day,

PBCN is happy to host the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting in Saskatoon, I will be sending out an invite with the details shortly with a virtual link.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)



---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 10, 2025 8:07 AM  
**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca). [Learn why this is important](#)  
Morning Chani,

I am responding on behalf of Jes but yes our office is available so we would be happy to host the meeting there. We would be looking to have the meeting on the morning of Thursday June 19<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am. Let me know if that works for PBCN and yes I can send out a invite which will include a virtual link.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556



Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** June 9, 2025 5:11 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

Ben and Ted are available on June 19th. Is your office available and can your team generate a Teams link so others can attend virtually if they'd like?

What time were you thinking? Afternoon? Or, morning?

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

Aldridge + Rosling LLP

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 242 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Direct: 604-343-4310

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

Sent from my iPhone

On May 30, 2025, at 7:22 AM, Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Thanks Chani,

We are definitely watching the fire situation and hoping that some control is gained to prevent further spread. I'm sorry to hear about the evacuations.

I think even a smaller meeting could be quite beneficial, if we aren't able to get everyone in a room. Please keep us posted.

Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 29, 2025 5:20 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hi Jes,

I'm writing to acknowledge receipt of your request.

As you may be aware, there are currently wildfires across northern Saskatchewan, and over 1,300 PBCN members have already been evacuated by the Red Cross. I will connect with the Chief, Ben, and Ted next week to assess the situation and determine the current status.

It may be possible for Ben and Ted to attend, given that they reside in Prince Albert, but I'm uncertain whether council members from the northern communities will be able to participate.

Thanks,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 28, 2025 10:56 AM

**To:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca](mailto:mrosling@arvayfinlay.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Hi Chani,

You have the extension and we can keep you looped in on future correspondence – this is noted. Also, looping Marg back in.

I hope the meeting yesterday went well. Both Justin and Adam Levine are in Saskatoon on June 19<sup>th</sup>, I wondered if there was any possibility of meeting that morning, in person in Saskatoon, with PBCN?

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 4:36 PM

**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE –  
FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Jes,

Margie and I are meeting with Chief Beatty, Ben, and others tomorrow.

PBCN would appreciate an extension to the Consultation Report and EA Content sent on May 7, 2025. Additionally, I noticed that I wasn't included in the May 7, 2025 correspondence—could you please ensure I'm copied on future communications? That will help avoid any deadlines slipping through the cracks.

Thanks kindly,

Chani Campbell

**Aldridge + Rosling LLP**

Barristers & Solicitors

Suite 1320 - 999 W. Hastings St.

Vancouver, BC, V6C 2W2

Ph: 604.605.5555 ext. 232 | Fax: 604.684.6402

Email: [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca)

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---

**From:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 26, 2025 9:25 AM

**To:** Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>

**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>;

Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Executive Secretary

<[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Hi Ben,

I am reaching out to follow up on PBCN's May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025<sup>th</sup> letter. Thank you for the update on PBCN's engagement with Denison as well as the Map provided.

We continue to be committed to working through PBCN's concerns about the proposed Wheeler River Project and we are interested in learning more about the findings that led to the development of the attached map.

Would it be possible to schedule a follow up virtual meeting to discuss this information, and next steps of the process? I also wanted to note that on May 7<sup>th</sup> CNSC sent along some information for PBCN's review and we have yet to receive a response (please see attached). Since it is past the deadline for providing comments, we could give PBCN an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without PBCN's input.

Also, I received an email from Margaret Rosling noting that she is no longer with Aldridge and Rosling, should we still be keeping her looped in on these emails? I took her off for now as it wasn't really clear to me from her email.

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 20, 2025 11:19 AM  
**To:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

Good morning Pauline,

Apologies for the delayed reply. Thank you for your email – sending this response to confirm receipt. We will review the attached communication and provide a response.

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Executive Secretary <[executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 16, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net); Ben Merasty <[bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Ted Merasty <[tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca)>; Chani Campbell <[CCampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:CCampbell@arlaw.ca)>; Margaret Rosling <[MRosling@arlaw.ca](mailto:MRosling@arlaw.ca)>  
**Subject:** Letter from Ben Merasty - Peter Ballanyne Cree Nation

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Good day,

Please see the attached communication from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

Regards,

Pauline Bedard - Executive Secretary  
Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation  
Chief Joseph Custer I.R #201  
2300 - 10th Avenue West, P.O Box 2320  
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan  
S6V 6Z1  
Ph: 306.953.4400  
Cell: 639.533.2510  
Fax: 306.953.4420  
Email: [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca)

<image001.jpg>

**From:** [Noakes, Rain](#)  
**To:** [executivesecretary@pbcn.ca](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca); [ccampbell@arlaw.ca](mailto:ccampbell@arlaw.ca); [tmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [bmerasty@pbcn.ca](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca);  
**Cc:** [Way, Jessica](#); [Boser, Sydney](#); [Levine, Adam](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Ringer, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** Call for Edits - Wheeler River - June 19  
**Sent:** 2025-06-27 1:43:31 PM

---

Hello all,

Please see below for the draft minutes from our meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns. Feel free to forward this message to anyone that I missed.

Kindly,

Rain

---

Meeting Minutes: PBCN–CNSC Engagement on Denison Wheeler River Project

Date: June 19, 2025

Location: Saskatoon Inn & Conference Centre (2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon SK S7L 6M4, Canada) Type: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

Participants:

- PBCN Representatives: Ted Merasty, Ben Merasty, Walter Ballantyne, Kevin Morin, Tim Underwood, Pauline Bedard, Chani Campbell (Legal representation)
- CNSC Representatives: Jes Way, Sydney Boser, Justin McKeown, Adam Levine, Ryan Froess, Ryan Ringer (CNSC Legal), Konrad Gorzowski

---

Denison Wheeler River Project – Engagement and Updates

- PBCN acknowledged recent progress: Denison has agreed to begin discussions on monitoring and mitigation strategies.
- PBCN emphasized the importance of country foods monitoring, including:
  - o Flesh sampling of moose and other key species.
  - o Medicinal plant sampling, with attention to bioaccumulation concerns.
- PBCN is working with Denison's legal counsel to formalize an arrangement for collaborative monitoring. JW: Just flagging to confirm that this was the arrangement – I don't recall this but it was a quick part of the discussion – I do not hear either RF
- Mapping submitted by PBCN on May 16 showed overlap between land-based activities and the regional project area.

PBCN Concerns and Perspectives

- Territorial Integrity: PBCN emphasized that all activities within their traditional territory—regardless of frequency—are significant and protected under Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- Cumulative Impacts: Concerns raised about the growing footprint of exploration and mining, and its effect on land, water, and traditional practices.
- Country Foods as a Grocery Store: The land sustains PBCN communities; contamination or perceived contamination undermines food security and cultural continuity.

- **Monitoring Gaps:** PBCN noted deformities in fish and lack of testing in certain areas (e.g., Reindeer Lake, Swan River), requesting more inclusive and responsive monitoring. CNSC mentioned that if they are seeing these deformities to take a picture and if possible, keep the fish or other media frozen which can then be potentially submitted for laboratory analysis if there are concerns by community members.

#### Duty to Consult and Recognition of Rights

- PBCN expressed disappointment that CNSC has not fully acknowledged their rights in the project area, despite multiple submissions and mapping.
- CNSC stated that based on current data, they have not seen specific evidence of rights being exercised near the project site.
- PBCN countered that oral histories and general use declarations should be sufficient, and that requiring point-specific data is burdensome and inconsistent with Indigenous knowledge systems.
- PBCN agreed to gather additional specific data points (e.g., hunting, trapping, gathering locations) to provide documentation of use being practised in the project area and to supplement CNSC's consultation report.
- CNSC staff indicated that edits to the reports will not be possible once we get to the end of July, and they are being posted to the Registry for public review on August 12th may be possible to include in CNSC's supplemental Consultation report.

#### Monitoring Programs and Collaboration Opportunities

- CNSC described several monitoring programs:
  - o Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (IEMP)
  - o Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (EARMP)
  - o Licensee Compliance Monitoring
- CNSC committed to:
  - o Including expectations of Indigenous engagement by Denison in license conditions.
  - o Supporting tripartite technical meetings (PBCN, CNSC, Denison) to align monitoring efforts (if required)
  - o Avoiding duplication and ensuring culturally relevant indicators are included.

#### Action Items and Next Steps

##### Action Items and Next Steps

Action Item	Responsible	Timeline
PBCN to gather specific data points (hunting, trapping, gathering) near the project site and share with CNSC	Ted and PBCN Lands & Resources Committee	By early July 2025
CNSC to include new data from PBCN in the consultation report, where feasible	CNSC (Sydney)	Before Part 2 Hearing
Technical meeting to align monitoring strategies and identify gaps	CNSC, PBCN, Denison	Mid-July 2025
CNSC to provide funding flexibility and support for equipment (e.g., portable printer)	CNSC Funding Programs (Sydney)	Immediate
CNSC to share examples of license conditions from other projects (e.g., Darlington)	CNSC (Jes/Ryan)	Next engagement



#### Additional Topics Discussed

- Security and Emergency Preparedness: Concerns raised about geopolitical risks and uranium site vulnerabilities. CNSC outlined national and international safeguards.
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs): Discussion on future nuclear energy projects and potential Indigenous partnerships.
- Decommissioning and Best Available Technology: CNSC confirmed that evolving standards and technologies can be integrated through license amendments.

#### Rain Forest Noakes, MEnv

(he / him / il)

Environmental Review Officer | Agent en examen de l'environnement  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Rain.Noakes@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: (778) 687-1324

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [Ben Merasty](#); [Ted Merasty](#); [Executive Secretary](#); [Chani Campbell](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & PBCN - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [PBCN Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.6 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-17 3:37:00 PM

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Good afternoon Chief Beatty,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:41 PM  
**To:** [chiefbeatty@sasktel.net](mailto:chiefbeatty@sasktel.net)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca); [Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca); [Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca); [Ben Merasty <bmerasty@pbcn.ca>](mailto:bmerasty@pbcn.ca); [Ted Merasty <tmerasty@pbcn.ca>](mailto:tmerasty@pbcn.ca); [Executive Secretary <executivesecretary@pbcn.ca>](mailto:executivesecretary@pbcn.ca); [Chani Campbell <cccampbell@arlaw.ca>](mailto:cccampbell@arlaw.ca)  
**Subject:** CNSC & PBCN - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Chief Beatty,

Please see attached the PBCN's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that PBCN has raised

throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PBCN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## **B.8            Key Correspondence with Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

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**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** April 9, 2019 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** CNSC receives project description for a new in situ recovery uranium mine

Good day,

On February 19, 2019, Denison Mines Corp. submitted a project description with the intent to develop an in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914 and approximately 600 km north of Saskatoon.

If and when the project description is assessed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) as complete, the next step would be to issue a notice of commencement. The project description would then become available for public comment as part of the environmental assessment process.

A formal letter of notification to your community with more information on the regulatory review process is forthcoming.

For more information on the CNSC's role in licensing uranium mines and mills, please visit:  
<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/uranium/mines-and-mills/index.cfm>

For more information on the CNSC's environmental assessment process, please visit:  
<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/environmental-assessments/index.cfm>

Best regards,

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209



April 15, 2019

e-Doc: 5875198

Chief Jonathan Sylvester  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK S0M 3E0  
[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)

**Subject: Notice of Denison Mines Corp., Wheeler River Project, a Proposal for a New Uranium Mining Project in northern Saskatchewan.**

Dear Chief Sylvester:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has received an project description from Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) to develop a uranium mine located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. The proposed development is called the Wheeler River Project.

The proposed project requires a federal environmental assessment (EA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) and will require authorization from the CNSC under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA).

The proposed project includes underground and surface facilities to support the mining and processing of uranium ore using the In Situ Recovery (ISR) mining method. The main components of the project include:

- an ISR wellfield
- two freeze plants on the surface to establish a frozen isolated mining chamber underground;
- an on-site plant to process the mining solution recovered from the ISR wellfield
- surface facilities to support the short and long term storage of waste rock
- water handling infrastructure and a water treatment plant
- additional infrastructure to support mining activities including but not limited to a camp for personnel, and supporting facilities such as an airstrip, waste and water management facilities, maintenance shops, warehouses, and offices

Vehicle access to the site would be provided by constructing a seven-kilometre section of road connecting Provincial Highway 914 to the Wheeler River site and a five-kilometre road from the site to the airstrip.

### **Environmental Assessment and Licensing**

As part of their application, Denison will be seeking sequential EA and licensing processes such that EA and licensing matters will be considered at separate public Commission hearings. The Commission must make an EA decision that the project will not cause significant adverse environmental effects prior to making a licensing decision. Denison has submitted a project description to initiate the EA process, but has not yet submitted a full licence application to initiate the licensing process.

The proposed project will require an EA under CEAA 2012. The CNSC will be responsible for making both an EA and a licensing decision for this project. The CNSC is also the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the federal government for the project.

The proposed project is also subject to a provincial environmental assessment as it is a “development” as defined in section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act*. Therefore, Denison is also required to undertake a provincial EA for the project and seek approval from the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment prior to proceeding with the project. CNSC and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment & Stewardship Branch will work closely to coordinate our respective EA processes wherever possible.

### **Commission Hearing**

Before the Commission can make a decision on the licence application, a public hearing will be held to ensure that the Commission has the information it needs, and that Denison and interveners (including Indigenous groups and members of the public) have had a reasonable opportunity to present relevant information to the Commission. The CNSC encourages your participation in the review process, including the public hearing.

The Commission’s public hearing for the Wheeler River Project has not yet been scheduled. We will provide you with an update once further details are confirmed regarding the timing, location and format of the Commission hearing for this project.

For more details on CNSC’s public hearing processes, you can visit the web link:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/hearings/participate/index.cfm>.

### **Participant Funding Program**

The CNSC has established a Participant Funding Program (PFP) to enhance participation in the CNSC’s regulatory processes. Funding for this project will be offered in two phases. The first phase will be for the review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, while the second phase will be for the remainder of the regulatory process. The availability of the first phase of PFP will be announced within the next few months (around the same time as the Commission makes its decision on the scope



of the EA). Once the availability of funding is announced we will provide you with further details on the application process, scope of funding and amounts available.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm>

If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cnsccfp@nsc.gc.ca](mailto:cnsccfp@nsc.gc.ca).

### **Indigenous Consultation**

The CNSC, as an agent of the Government of Canada and as Canada's nuclear regulator, recognizes and understands the importance of consulting and building relationships with Canada's Indigenous peoples.

As an Indigenous group with potential interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views you may have with respect to the project.

### **Next Steps**

Once the final project description has been submitted by Denison, CNSC staff will provide your community with further details on the federal EA process to be followed for the proposed project.

The CNSC will be posting a Notice of Commencement on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry within the next few weeks. At the same time as the posting of the Notice of Commencement, the CNSC will also post the project description for a 30 day review and comment period.

As part of the EA process, Indigenous groups and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the following documents:

- the project description
- the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Indigenous groups and members of the public will also be given the opportunity to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA/Licensing hearing as a Commission Member Document (written intervention and/or oral presentation).

### **Staying Informed**

The CNSC is committed to ongoing consultation and engagement with you and your Nation in relation to this proposed project and will be providing information updates directly to you at key points in the regulatory process.

In addition, if you wish to receive e-mail notifications when the CNSC's website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and PFP funding opportunities, you can sign-up to the CNSC mailing



list by visiting the following web link and choosing the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

If you have any questions relating to this project during the EA process, please contact the Crown Consultation Coordinator on this file, Marcelle Phaneuf, by phone at 613 947-3209 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,

*C. Cianci*

Candida Cianci  
Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Enclosure: Appendix A: Location of the proposed Wheeler River uranium mine project

Appendix B: Indigenous Consultation and Engagement at the CNSC (e-Doc: 5862079)

c.c.: C. Morin (BRDN)  
P. Fundarek, M. Landon, S. Akhter, M. Phaneuf, A. Levine, A. Zenobi (CNSC)  
A. Sadik, B. England (SEASB)

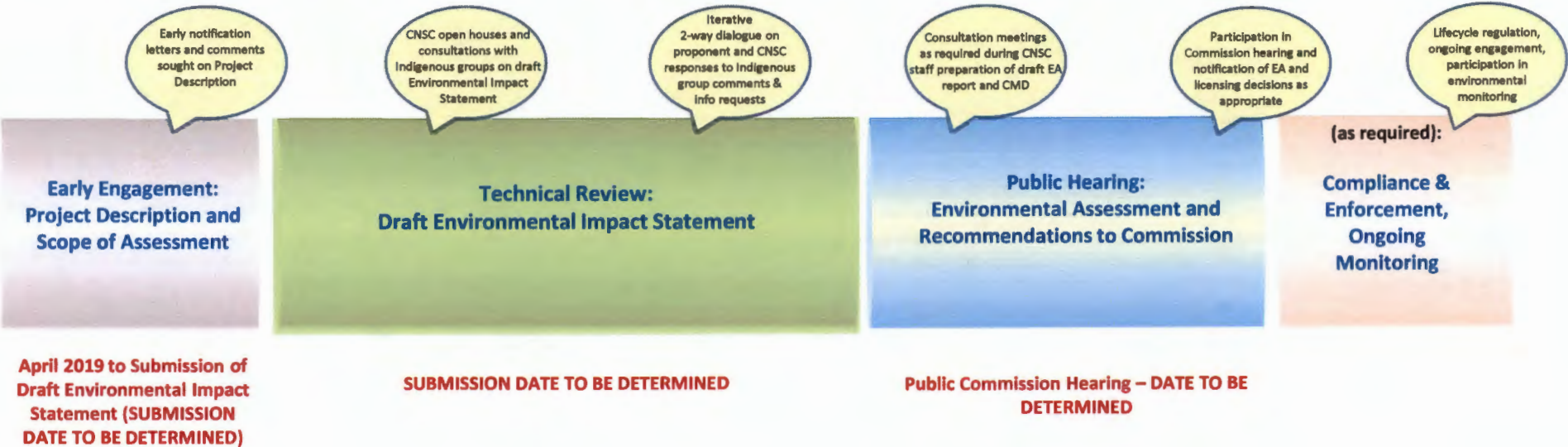
A similar letter was sent to the following groups:

- English River First Nation
- Hatchet Lake First Nation
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- Buffalo River Dene Nation
- Black Lake First Nation
- Fond-du-Lac Denesuline First Nation
- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resource Office
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (Northern Region 1)
- Kineepik Métis Local Pinehouse # 9 (Métis Northern Region 3)
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council

## Appendix A: Location of the proposed Wheeler River uranium mine project



Appendix B: Indigenous Consultation and Engagement at the CNSC



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**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** May 31, 2019 4:08 PM  
**To:** 'b-tsannie@hotmail.com'; 'nvp.glen@sasktel.net'; 'leonardmontgrand@yahoo.ca';  
'csayazie@hotmail.com'; 'louiemercredi.fdl@sasktel.net';  
'Garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'; 'chief1@birchnarrows.ca';  
'lawrence.mcintyre@erfn.net'; 'receptionist@mltc.net'; 'eileenmorrison62@yahoo.ca';  
'nvp.mike@sasktel.net'; 'mcalette@mns.work'; 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net';  
'mcalette@mns.work'; 'b.merasty@mns.work'; 'geraldmorin@hotmail.com';  
'earl.cook@norstep.ca'; 'tlbbeavereye@hotmail.com'; 'clhmercledi@sasktel.net';  
'victorf@sasktel.net'; 'fdlreception@sasktel.net'; 'Linda.mcnabb@yathinene.com';  
'bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca'; 'cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com';  
'vince.pinehousedc@sasktel.net'; 'creemancan@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Public comment period on the Project Description for the proposed Wheeler River  
Project – Denison Mines Corp.  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is [seeking comments](https://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p80178/130098E.pdf) from the public and Indigenous groups on the project description for the proposed Wheeler River Project (<https://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p80178/130098E.pdf>).

The project involves the construction of a new uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine.

The CNSC reviewed the project description and determined that it was written in accordance with the Prescribed Information for the Description of a Designated Project Regulations. (These regulations are made under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012). Detailed information about the project will be available in the environmental impact statement, which Denison Mines Corp., the proponent, will submit at a later stage of the environmental assessment (EA) process.

Comments on the project description should be based on local, regional or traditional knowledge of the site or surrounding environment, or provide any other relevant information that may help with the conduct of the EA. All comments received will be considered public.

**Written comments must be submitted by June 30, 2019, to:**

Marcelle Phaneuf, Environmental Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
P.O. Box 1046 Station B  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9  
Telephone: 613-947-3209 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
Email: [cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca)



Following receipt of comments on the project description, CNSC staff will consider all submissions received and make recommendations to inform the Commission's decision on the scope of the factors to be considered in the EA. In addition, CNSC staff will respond to all comments received from members of the public and Indigenous groups. The comments and responses will be placed in a table and publicly posted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry. Effort will be made to group common issues together.

Following the Commission's decision on the EA scope, Denison Mines Corp. will then be required to provide to the CNSC an environmental impact statement (EIS) for review. An EIS is a report that a proponent writes to present the technical studies and findings of an EA. The CNSC's Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012

(<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>) provide general instructions on preparing the EIS and information that must be included in it in order to comply with CEAA 2012 requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) or by telephone at 613-947-3209.

Kind regards,  
Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209

---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** December 24, 2019 8:54 AM  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project - Commission Decision on the scope of the EA  
**Attachments:** Record\_of\_Decision\_-\_Denison\_Mines\_Corporation\_-\_Scope\_of\_EA\_on\_the\_proposed\_Wheeler\_River\_Project.pdf

Good day,

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Commission issued a decision on the scope of an environmental assessment for the proposed Wheeler River project. For your convenience, I have attached the Record of Decision to this email. You may also find it on the Registry [here](#).

In the next few weeks, the CNSC will send you a formal letter regarding this decision. The letter will also outline the next steps in the EA process as well as provide information related to participant funding (PFP) for this project.

As always, I am available for any questions or comments related to the Wheeler River project by phone or email.

Best regards and best wishes for the holiday season.

Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209

---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** March 20, 2020 2:35 PM  
**To:** 'chief1@birchnarrows.ca'  
**Cc:** 'bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca'  
**Subject:** Letter re Notice of Commission Decision on Scoping of EA for Wheeler River Project and Next Steps  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#6255508-v2A-Letter\_-\_CNSC\_to\_BNDN\_-\_Wheeler\_River\_-\_Notification....doc

Dear Chief Sylvester,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you that on December 20, 2019, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) made a decision on the scope of factors to be considered in the environmental assessment of the Wheeler River Project (the Project) proposed by Denison Mines Corp (Denison).

The letter also informs you of the next steps in the EA process, including the fact that Denison Mines Corp has suspended activities on the environmental assessment.

I remain available for any questions or comments by phone or email,

Best regards  
Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209



March 20, 2020

e-Doc: 6255508

Chief Jonathan Sylvester  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK S0M 3E0  
chief1@birchnarrows.ca

**Subject: Notice of Commission Decision on the Scope of the EA for Denison Mines' Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Sylvester:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that on December 20, 2019, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) made a decision on the scope of factors to be considered in the environmental assessment of the Wheeler River Project (the Project) proposed by Denison Mines Corp (Denison).

The Commission, pursuant to section 19 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA 2012), determined the scope of factors to be considered in the environmental assessment (EA) for the Project to include the factors mandated by paragraphs 19(1) (a) to (h) of the CEAA 2012 with no additional factors. The Commission understands that, pursuant to subsection 19(3) of CEAA 2012, the EA for the Project shall consider Indigenous traditional knowledge and community knowledge. See the enclosed copy of the Record of Decision for more details (Appendix A).

**Indigenous Consultation**

The CNSC, as an agent of the Government of Canada and as Canada's nuclear regulator, recognizes and understands and values the importance of consulting and building relationships with Indigenous peoples in Canada. As an Indigenous group with potential interest in this Project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views you may have with respect to the Project.

**Current Status and Next Steps**

Now that the scoping decision had been rendered by the Commission, the next step in the process will be the submission by Denison of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Denison placed a [hold](#) on EA activities related to the Project. Therefore, the CNSC does not anticipate the draft EIS to be submitted in 2020.

As part of the EA process, BNDN will have the opportunity to provide comments on Denison's draft EIS once it is submitted. In later steps of the process, BNDN will also have the opportunity to comment on CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and Commission Member



Documents, and to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA (and possibly Licensing) hearing as a written intervention and/or oral presentation.

The first phase of participant funding (PFP), for the review of the draft EIS, will be available some months prior to the draft EIS being submitted. The CNSC will be offering \$150,000, to be disbursed among all eligible applicants, to help in the review of the draft EIS. A second phase of PFP will be announced at a later date, to help in the review of the EA report and CMD, and to prepare an intervention for an EA hearing.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process for the Participant Funding Program: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm> If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cnsccfp@nsc.gc.ca](mailto:cnsccfp@nsc.gc.ca).

If you have any questions relating to this Project during the EA process, or would like to discuss having a meeting with CNSC staff, please contact me by phone at 613 947-3209 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@nsc.gc.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@nsc.gc.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Marcelle Phaneuf  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Enclosure: Appendix A: Record of Decision DEC 19-H111 in the Matter of Denison Mines Corporation – Decision on the Scope of an Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Wheeler River Project

c.c.: [bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca)  
P. Fundarek, C. Cianci, C. Cattrysse, M. Landon, S. Akhter, A. Levine, A. Zenobi,  
CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB



---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** February 15, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** 'chief1@birchnarrows.ca'; 'bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca';  
'eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca'  
**Cc:** Fundarek, Peter (CNSC/CCSN); Nana-Owusua Kwamena (CNSC/CCSN) (nana-owusua.kwamena@canada.ca); Cattrysse, Clare (CNSC/CCSN); Akhter, Salman (CNSC/CCSN); Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN); Zenobi, Adam (CNSC/CCSN); 'Sadik, Aimann ENV'; England, Brianne ENV  
**Subject:** Update Letter re Wheeler River Project and Next Steps  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#6490500-v1-2021-02-15  
\_Letter\_-\_CNSC\_to\_BNDN\_-\_Restart\_of\_EA\_activities.PDF  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

The purpose of the attached letter is to provide you an update on the status of the proposed Wheeler project and its environmental assessment under CEAA 2012, as well as the next steps in the EA process including the potential for consultation with the CNSC.

I remain available for any questions or comments by phone or email,

Best regards  
Marcelle Phaneuf

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Specialist, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 343-551-4196 \*\* NEW\*\*

Spécialiste en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 343-551-4196 \*\* NOUVEAU\*\*



February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

e-Doc: 6481795

Chief Jonathan Sylvester  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK S0M 3E0  
chief1@birchnarrows.ca

**Subject: Notice of restart of activities on the Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) for Denison Mines' Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that Denison Mines Corp (Denison) has notified the CNSC that they have resumed Environmental Assessment (EA) activities related to the Wheeler River Project (the Project) on January 01, 2021, which is undergoing an EA under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). The CNSC has also received a revised project description from Denison Mines Corp. for the Wheeler River Project (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80178>). The revisions do not constitute material changes to the project and therefore public consultation is not required.

**Current Status and Next Steps**

The next step in the EA process will be the submission by Denison of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Denison has indicated that this submission can be anticipated in early 2022.

As part of the EA process, Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) will have the opportunity to provide comments on Denison's draft EIS once it is submitted as part of the public review period. In later steps of the process, BNDN will also have the opportunity to comment on CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and Commission Member Document (CMD), and to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA Commission hearing as a written intervention and/or oral presentation.

In addition, CNSC staff will continue to reach out with offers to meet and conduct additional consultation and engagement activities throughout the EA process with BNDN. As an Indigenous group with interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views your Nation may have with respect to the project. The CNSC encourages your Nation, throughout the EA process and including but not limited to the review and comment periods, to:

- advise the CNSC of any adverse impacts the project may have on your Nation's potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights; and if so
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated as well as any evidence that will help in understanding these concerns;

- provide local and Indigenous knowledge to support determination of potential impacts and potential mitigation measures; and
- advise the CNSC of how you and your Nation would like to be consulted by the Crown as part of the regulatory review process for this project.

In addition, the CNSC will be making funding available to support BNDN's participation throughout the EA process through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP).

The first phase of PFP, for the review of the draft EIS, will be announced by May of 2021. The CNSC will be offering funding, to be disbursed among all eligible applicants, to help in the review of the draft EIS. A second phase of PFP will be announced at a later date, to help in the review of the EA report and CMD, and to prepare an intervention for an EA hearing. Please note that should additional funding be needed by BNDN, beyond the funding that will be awarded through these PFP opportunities, requests or applications for additional funding will be considered by the CNSC on a case-by-case basis.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process for the Participant Funding Program: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm>. If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cpsc.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cpsc.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca).

If you have any questions relating to this project during the EA process, or would like to discuss having a meeting with CNSC staff, please contact me by phone at 343-551-4196 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,

*Marcelle Phaneuf*

Marcelle Phaneuf  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c.: [bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca), Eric Sylvestre (eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)  
P. Fundarek, N. Kwamena, C. Cattrysse, S. Akhter, R. Froess, A. Zenobi, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

---

**From:** Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN) <ryan.froess@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** April 12, 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca; Eric Sylvestre  
**Cc:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN); Adam Zenobi (CNSC/CCSN) (adam.zenobi@canada.ca)  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project and Next Steps

**Categories:** Denison

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am following up on a letter that was sent by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, regarding the Wheeler River Project (the Project) proposed by Denison Mines Corp, which is undergoing an EA under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). The purpose of the letter was to inform BNDN that Denison had notified the CNSC that they had resumed Environmental Assessment (EA) activities related to the Project.

I am reaching out on behalf of myself and Marcelle Phaneuf (EA specialist responsible for the proposed project at the CNSC). As an Indigenous Nation with potential interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views you may have with respect to the project including but not limited too the following:

- any potential adverse impacts the project may have on your Nation's potential and/or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights;
- how specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated;
- advise the CNSC of how your Nation would like to be consulted by the Crown as part of the regulatory review process for the Wheeler River project.

In addition, as outlined in the letter the CNSC will be making funding available to support Indigenous and Public participation throughout the EA process through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP). The first phase of PFP, for the review of the draft EIS, will be announced by late Spring of 2021.

We are available to meet and discuss the EA process for the Wheeler River Project. Do not hesitate to contact myself or Marcelle by phone or email at our contact information below or to learn more about the project.

Thank you,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Policy Advisor, Policy, Aboriginal, and International Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@canada.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@canada.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

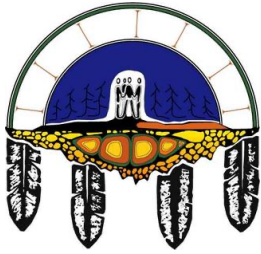
Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc  
Environmental Assessment Specialist, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 343-551-4196

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**From:** Vern Bachiu <vern.bachiu@triallconsulting.com>  
**Sent:** May 10, 2021 2:17 PM  
**To:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Cc:** Chief Johnathan Sylvestre; Eric Sylvestre; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay  
**Subject:** Letter re Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** CNSC\_DenisonLetter\_BNDN\_2021.05.05\_FINAL.pdf; ATT00001.htm; PastedGraphic-2.png; ATT00002.htm

Marcelle,

Chief Jonathon Sylvester of Birch Narrows Dene Nation has asked me to forward this letter to you on his behalf.



**Birch Narrows Dene Nation**

General Delivery  
Turnor Lake, SK  
S0M 3E0

May 10, 2021

Marcelle Phaneuf  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca)

**Re: Denison Mines Wheeler River Project**

Dear Ms. Phaneuf:

I am writing on behalf of Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) regarding the proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project) by Denison Mines (Denison). Since the Project falls within our Traditional Territory, BNDN must be meaningfully consulted and accommodated by the Crown and Denison. BNDN has concerns related to environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts associated with the Project. BNDN is interested in engaging with the Crown in the Environmental Assessment (EA) and licensing process under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act (NSCA) for the Wheeler River Project. This will help us to understand the potential impacts of the Project and work to mitigate those impacts with Denison and the Crown.

Our ancestors have lived on our Traditional Territory since time immemorial; there are cultural sites and artifacts left throughout the region that are significant for our members. Our community continues to hunt, fish, gather and trap on the lands throughout our Traditional Territory where the impacts of this Project will occur. Any direct or cumulative impacts from this Project could negatively affect our ability to exercise Aboriginal and Treaty rights, including the livelihoods of those who live off the land. We wish to participate in the regulatory process to gain an understanding of how we can be involved in the process so that meaningful consultation and accommodation can occur.

Our first priority is to make sure that this Project will not adversely impact the environment or our rights. BNDN has recently developed a Consultation Protocol which outlines the steps required for the Crown and proponents to engage with BNDN. This document will be shared with CNSC and Denison in the coming months. CNSC and Denison will need to work with BNDN to develop a Consultation Process Agreement so the terms for consultation are clear for all parties. In order to facilitate our meaningful participation in the regulatory process it is critical that BNDN be provided resources to support BNDN's ability to participate, gather traditional knowledge and land use data, and review technical documents. This work should occur as early as possible so that mitigation and accommodation strategies can be considered during the EA process to protect culturally or ecologically sensitive sites.

Based on the level of detail included in the Project Description it is not possible to fully evaluate BNDN's concerns or the degree of potential impacts associated with the Project. Based on a preliminary review of Denison's Project, we would like to highlight the following areas of interest to BNDN:



- Impacts to surface water quality/quantity from effluent release and water taking
- Impacts to groundwater quality
- Hazardous waste storage on-site
- Impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat from construction and operations, caribou in particular are at risk from loss of habitat and disturbance
- Impacts to fish and fish habitat
- Impacts to vegetation and wetlands, including overprinting
- Increased air contaminant emissions including greenhouse gases from Project-related infrastructure (e.g., mill, power generating equipment and vehicles)
- Impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty rights
  - Exclusion of BNDN members from the Project site
  - Avoidance of the Project site from BNDN members due to disturbance and fears
  - Impacts on hunting, trapping and gathering and the availability of traditionally important species
  - Impacts to Aboriginal fisheries associated with changes to the existing aquatic ecosystem including potential disruption of spawning sites
- Cumulative effects associated with the construction of a processing facility and the potential to accept material from other deposits or companies
- Ensure adequate consideration of BNDN Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Ensure that Denison provides business and procurement opportunities to BNDN members and businesses
- Ensure that training and employment opportunities for BNDN members are available and accessible
- Ensure adequate consideration of socioeconomic effects related to the Project that may impact BNDN (e.g., work camp, temporary workers, increased traffic, etc.)

We will be submitting a participant funding program application to support our involvement in the EA and NSCA licensing processes. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to participate, we look forward to your response. Please include Eric Sylvestre and Vern Bachiu on all communications related to this file. Note that we are including Denison Mines in this communication.

Respectfully,



Chief Jonathon Sylvestre

cc:

Eric Sylvestre, [eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca)

Vern Bachiu [vern.bachiu@triallconsulting.com](mailto:vern.bachiu@triallconsulting.com)

Carolanne Inglis-McQuay [cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)

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**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle  
**Sent:** May 18, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Chief Johnathan Sylvestre  
**Cc:** Eric Sylvestre; Vern Bachiu; Froess, Ryan; Levine, Adam  
**Subject:** RE: Letter re Wheeler River Project

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

Thank you for the letter sent to the CNSC on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and Birch Narrows Dene Nation's (BNDN) interest in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process for Denison's proposed Wheeler River Project. As an Indigenous group with interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in meeting with BNDN and hearing any views and concerns you and your community may have on the project. We would also like to learn more about how and where you exercise your Aboriginal and Treaty rights in the local and regional study area surrounding the Denison's Wheeler River Project to better understand how the proposed project may potentially adversely impact these rights. Please let us know what dates work best and we can work to set-up a meeting that works best for both parties.

The CNSC's [Participant Funding Program](#) (PFP) will be made available throughout different stages of the EA process in order to enhance participation of Indigenous groups, the public, and other stakeholders in the CNSC's EA regulatory processes. The first phase of funding will include reviewing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Denison's Wheeler River Project. The announcement for the application period for PFP for this phase of EA is anticipated to occur in the summer of 2021. We would be happy to provide additional information and answer any questions on the PFP program in anticipation of this upcoming application should BNDN be interested.

Finally, we look forward to receiving BNDN's Consultation Protocol in order to meaningfully engage with BNDN according to your preferred process and will be happy to discuss a Consultation Process with BNDN in order to facilitate participation in the regulatory process.

Please let us know the next available time for you and your team to meet with us virtually and we can work to set a meeting up to discuss. Thank you and we look forward to meeting with you soon.

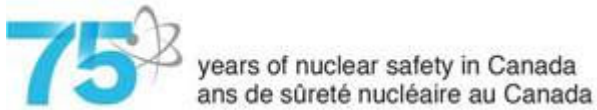
Best regards,

Marcelle Phaneuf – EA specialist (CNSC) for the Wheeler River Project  
Ryan Froess – Senior Policy Advisor (CNSC) for the Wheeler River Project

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Specialist, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@cnsccsn.gc.ca) / Tel: 343-551-4196

Spécialiste en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique



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**From:** Vern Bachiu <vern.bachiu@triallconsulting.com>

**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:17 PM

**To:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN) <marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca>

**Cc:** Chief Johnathan Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>; Eric Sylvestre <eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca>; Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com>

**Subject:** Letter re Wheeler River Project

Marcelle,

Chief Jonathon Sylvester of Birch Narrows Dene Nation has asked me to forward this letter to you on his behalf.

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**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** January 10, 2022 3:33 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi (adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Denison

Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

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**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** March 10, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

FYI sent to these Nations and communities.

kevin.mercredi@outlook.com; Chief Coreen Sayazie <csayazie@hotmail.com>; b-tsannie@hotmail.com; Shea Shirley <shea.shirley@yathinene.com>; Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>; Cheyenna Campbell (cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com); jerry.bernard@erfn.net; Mark Calette <mcalette@mns.work>; slandriecrossland@mns.work; s.nickolet@mns.work; Walter Smith <wsmith@kineepik.ca>; Billie Jo Natomagan <bnatomagan@kineepik.ca>; jtsanniejr@pagc.net; rmcleod@pagc.net; tcooksearson@llrib.ca; gchristiansen@llrib.ca; lburnouf@mns.work; tex.mns@sasktel.net; **Eric Sylvestre <eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca>; chief1@birchnarrows.ca;** norma.catarat@outlook.com; Elmercampbell35@gmail.com; glenmccallum glenmccallum@mns.work

---

**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** March 9, 2022 4:12 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi (adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) <adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that funding is available to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

**The deadline to submit this funding application is due March 14, 2022.**

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

If you have any questions on the application **please do not hesitate to reach out** to myself by phone or email and or for specific questions please feel free to contact:

Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks you,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** January 10, 2022 2:33 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi ([adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)) <[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca | Cell: 306-914-7892

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** June 17, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Akhter, Salman; Way, Jessica; Yen, Wish; Levine, Adam; Froess, Ryan; Aimann Sadik; England, Brianne  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application  
**Attachments:** 6814092-v1A-2022\_Wheeler\_River\_Field\_Test\_-\_Notification\_Letter\_to\_BNDN.pdf

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



June 17, 2022

e-Doc: 6814092

Chief Jonathon Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
chief1@birchnarrows.ca

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application**

Dear Chief Jonathon Sylvestre:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage and use of natural uranium in laboratory studies, for a 60 day feasibility field test that Denison are planning to conduct in August 2022. Following completion of the test, the recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project, led by CNSC staff. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC as necessary.

It is important to note that the proposed feasibility field test is not within the scope of the CEAA 2012 EA, as this is a distinct project. The field test could therefore proceed prior to an EA decision.

**Feasibility Field Test**

Through the feasibility field test, Denison intends to validate previous testing and determine the feasibility of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This test requires no new clearing of land or new drilling, only the construction of limited temporary surface facilities.

During the planned test, mineralized material will be removed from the ground through a process that includes injecting a solution into test wells, separating liquids from solids, and collecting the resulting materials for further analysis. These materials are expected to contain elevated levels

natural uranium, and samples will be analysed for general chemistry at the on-site chemical laboratory and later transported to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for further analysis. Once all analysis is complete, materials will be placed in above ground storage tanks, and will remain the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

In March 2022 an application was also submitted to the SMOE, as Denison requires a permit to construct and operate a pollutant control facility prior to conducting the proposed feasibility field test. This permit is required under Saskatchewan's *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations, 1996*, and the application remains under provincial review.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licences have a service standard of 80 business days for a DO decision, from the date a complete application has been received. DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

**As an Indigenous Nation and/or community with a potential interest in Denison's licence application, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views or receiving any additional information you may have with respect to Denison's application to the CNSC for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence, for this proposed project.**

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a licence be granted to Denison for the proposed field test.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence application or the ongoing EA for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

If you wish to receive e-mail notifications related to the EA process and other updates on this licensing process, please let us know and we can add you to the project distribution list.

You may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nana Kwamena

Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, S. Akhter, J. Way, W. Yen, A. Levine, R.  
Froess, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** August 5, 2022 11:33 AM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Akhter, Salman; Yen, Wish; Levine, Adam; Froess, Ryan; Aimann Sadik; England, Brianne ENV  
**Subject:** Notice of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence issued to Denison Mines Corp.

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

In follow up to our email and letter from June 17<sup>th</sup>, this email is to inform you that a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence has now been granted to Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) by a CNSC Designated Officer.

Denison applied for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation licence for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan in order to complete a feasibility field test of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This licence, which is valid from August 3, 2022 to December 31, 2023, authorizes Denison to temporarily store and use natural uranium in laboratory studies above ground.

As always, we remain available to discuss in more detail. To obtain more detailed information or for any questions, please contact Jes Way at [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) or Ryan Froess at [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 4:30 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Faille, Sylvain <sylvain.faille@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Babcock, Neil <neil.babcock@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick <patrick.burton@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Akhter, Salman <salman.akhter@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam <adam.levine@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Aimann Sadik <aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca>; England, Brianne ENV <brianne.england@gov.sk.ca>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** November 21, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission complete. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

Jes Way  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Email: [wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes



**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

## Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)-CNSC Meeting Minutes – Project Updates

February 14, 2023 2:30-3:30PM CST

Attendees: John Glover (Tamarack Environmental), Andrew Bubar, Trevor Moberly, Brett (BNDN), Matthew (BNDN), Adam Levine, Sydney Nickolet, Dana Pandolfi, Doug Wylie, Wish Yen

### **NexGen – Rook I Project**

- Public comments posting on the registry – CNSC summary table of public comments is currently underway, but all comments have been posted on the registry
  - Tables should be posted relatively shortly
    - CNSC shared public comment period tables with NexGen in December
    - NexGen requested that CNSC identify comments that are out of the CEAA 2012 scope – CNSC will identify these
    - CNSC will post the tables by end of next week
  - Issues and concerns validation table
    - Slightly duplicative, but we want to ensure that all issues and concerns are captured
    - Verification that nations and proponents agree on the path forward
  - Rights Impact Assessment
    - Part of the EA under CEAA 2012
    - CNSC would be happy to collaborate with the BNDN on the RIA to capture issues and concerns, how rights could be impacted, if mitigation measures are sufficient to reduce, accommodate or prevent impacts, meeting Duty to Consult
  - Ideal to begin planning meetings regarding these activities
- EIS comments stand with NexGen
  - Communities work directly with NexGen through a formal process to address comments
  - NexGen has committed to respond to every comment, community will evaluate
  - Workshops will be established to address comments that BNDN deems to require more work
  - BNDN has established an environmental committee with NexGen to work through public comments
    - Goal is to collaborate over the next few months and provide CNSC a letter summarizing BNDN's views on the comments
  - Environmental committee is separate from the working group
  - Meetings regarding the tables

### **Fission Uranium Corp – Patterson Lake South Project**

- Requesting an intent to prepare site and construct without an EIS submission to the province
  - CNSC provided comments related to CNSC's requirements including environmental and radiation protection, waste and decommissioning, mine and mill design (14 safety and control areas)
  - Fission has indicated they will integrate CNSC requirements into the provincial EIS submission, although they won't fit all 14 safety and control areas (SACs) into the submission, they can submit additional documents in the licensing process to meet the missing SACs
  - CNSC will review the EIS when it is submitted to the province and provide comments to Fission to address
  - CNSC is trying to use the EIS to streamline the licensing process
- BNDN has signed a capacity agreement with Fission and aims to be full participants in this process
- Once the license application has been received, CNSC will reach out to BNDN to engage on the project (we are separate from the Province as we do not delegate authority)
- PFP opportunities will also be available

### **Wheeler River Project**

- Technical review has been underway and almost complete
  - To be reviewed by counsel
  - Review with community
- Submit supplemental
- Please provide a written request for extension to [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)
- Meeting with Denison to
  - Working with Denison to address comment directly
  - Biggest concern - Local study area designation
- Please identify level of engagement that BNDN would like to collaborate on this project
  - Same process for NexGen

#### **Cluff Lake Project**

- Currently awaiting Commission decision based on March 1<sup>st</sup> Public Commission Hearing
- Virtual meeting regarding the interventions submitted by BNDN
  - CNSC wants to ensure that the Province commits to ongoing collaboration and engagement on the Long Term Monitoring and Management Plan
  - Ultimately up to the Province to apply these
- CNSC will still be within the region and will continue to monitor the region and oversight of commitments by proponents and the province

#### **CNSC-BNDN engagement over a long term**

- BNDN would like to engage with CNSC on all projects within the BNDN territory
- Terms of references (commitment between CNSC and a Nation or community to work collaboratively on projects within the territory)
  - Local community perspective incorporated within our work
- Resource/capacity – consolidates the work (creates more work as well)
- Long term on-going activities meant to be spread out rather than achieved within the first year

#### **Action Items**

- BNDN will discuss internally how to approach the RIA with CNSC
  - CNSC will share options for collaboration on the RIA
- A meeting regarding BNDN
- Share a draft terms of reference with the BNDN to begin the conversation
  - Year 2 ToR workplan
- CNSC will share a formal agenda for the first quarterly meeting by March 10<sup>th</sup>
- CNSC to populate responses to issues table

#### **March Quarterly Meeting proposed agenda**

- PFP program
  - Lump all funding into 1 to ensure funding is dispensed at the beginning of the year (April 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Indigenous and Stakeholder Capacity Program
- Issues Tracker

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** February 15, 2023 2:25 PM  
**To:** Andrew Bubar; Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River; Froess, Ryan; Boser, Sydney  
**Cc:** terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; Trevor Moberly; Jonathon Sylvestre; robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; John Glover; Keegan McGrath; Anthony Clark; Way, Jessica; Yen, Wish  
**Subject:** RE: BNDN - Wheeler Draft EIS extension request

Hi Andrew,

Thank you for your email, and I'm sorry that I wasn't able to make yesterday's meeting between CNSC and BNDN.

In response to your request, a two-week extension has been granted to BNDN for the Wheeler River EIS comment period. A final version of the comments will be due on March 4th, 2023. The 90 days allotted for this comment period are already an extension to our usual time frame for this step of the process, so no further time will be able to be granted. We thank you for your understanding. As well, we'd be interested in meeting to discuss, once we have the comments and have reviewed.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. You can reach me at this email, or using the information included below.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccs.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccs.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Andrew Bubar <andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 14, 2023 4:59 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellriver@cnsccs.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccs.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nickolet@cnsccs.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; Trevor Moberly <trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca>; Jonathon Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>; robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>; Keegan McGrath <keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca>; Anthony Clark <Anthony.clark@bnddi.ca>  
**Subject:** BNDN - Wheeler Draft EIS extension request

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Jes, Ryan and Sydney,

Birch Narrows Dene Nation would like to request an extension to submit BNDN's technical review on the Wheeler River draft EIS. We expect to be able to finalize BNDN's review in the next few weeks. We're happy to discuss any information you require and the amount of additional time the CNSC can provide BNDN to finalize the review.

Thank you,

Andrew

**Andrew Bubar**

Water and Geochemistry Specialist Consultant

**Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.**

(519) 803-9165

[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** March 3, 2023 11:19 AM  
**To:** Andrew Bubar; Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River; Froess, Ryan; Boser, Sydney  
**Cc:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay; Jonathon Sylvestre; Trevor Moberly; robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; Douglas Barks; John Glover; Keegan McGrath; Yen, Wish  
**Subject:** RE: BNDN Submission - Wheeler River draft EIS

Hi Andrew,

Apologies for the delayed reply, but thank you for your submission of Birch Narrows Dene Nation's comments on the Environmental Impact Statement for Denison's proposed Wheeler River project. You will see that these have been posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#) for the project.

Have a great weekend.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Andrew Bubar <andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 9:39 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Carolanne Inglis-McQuay <cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com>; Jonathon Sylvestre <chief1@birchnarrows.ca>; Trevor Moberly <trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca>; robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; kimsylvestre@birchnarrows.ca; conrad.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; Douglas Barks <douglas.barks@birchnarrows.ca>; John Glover <john@tamarackenvironmental.ca>; Keegan McGrath <keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca>  
**Subject:** BNDN Submission - Wheeler River draft EIS

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Hello Jes,

On behalf of Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), please see the attached technical review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Wheeler River Project.

Regards,

Andrew

**Andrew Bubar**

Water and Geochemistry Specialist Consultant

**Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.**

(519) 803-9165

[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** August 31, 2023 5:49 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Additional August 2023 Completeness Check and Next Phase of EIS Technical Review

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide another update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) Process.

On August 18, 2023, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted responses to information requests (IRs) for the proposed Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are sufficient to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [August 28, 2023 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The 90-day technical review has since begun, and will conclude by November 27, 2023. The focus of this review will be the following documents, all posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(August 18, 2023\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire



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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** December 8, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** Yen, Wish; Froess, Ryan; Nickolet, Sydney; Way, Jessica; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Takala, Torin; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Burton, Patrick  
**Subject:** Full Public and Indigenous Distro List  
**Attachments:** Wheeler River Project Bulletin - English.pdf

To all participants of the Wheeler River regulatory review process,

CNSC staff will be providing regular updates to all those who have participated and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project, in the form of project bulletins.

Please find the Winter Project Bulletin (dated December 2023) attached to this email which will provide a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a “Feature Article”, in both English and French.

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>.

If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject(iaac-aeic.gc.ca))

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** February 23, 2024 5:27 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Revised EIS and Submission Package - February 2024

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

On February 10, 2024, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a revised draft EIS package for the proposed Wheeler River Project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding information requests (IRs) have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [February 21, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) will run from February 21, 2024 to May 20, 2024. Subject Matter experts will review the responses to IRs provided by Denison, which includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** August 23, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Update - Summer 2024  
**Attachments:** Project\_Bulletin-Denison\_Wheeler\_River\_EA-Summer 2024.pdf

Hi Everyone,

You are receiving this email because you have participated in and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Please see that attached project bulletin for summer 2024, which provides a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", as well as the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for this project](#).

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>

If you would prefer not to receive updates like this in the future, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject(iaac-aeic.gc.ca))

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** October 18, 2024 8:22 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Completion of the Technical Review of Denison's February 2024 EIS Package

Hi Everyone,

I am reaching out to provide an update on the Wheeler River EIS technical review.

Following Denison's February 10<sup>th</sup> submission of responses to Information Requests (IRs) and the revised Environmental Impact Statement package, on February 20, 2024, CNSC staff found the submission to contain the required information to proceed with an additional round of review by the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT). This 90-day review was intended to conclude by May 20, 2024.

When the review initially started, Denison requested the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the review process, to discuss the paths to resolution with relevant FIRT members, where elements of IRs remained unresolved. On May 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, CNSC staff shared draft reviews of responses to IRs with Denison, and on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a draft Advice to Proponent table. Of the 256 IRs (238 original and 18 follow-up), 24 IRs were not accepted. From June 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, CNSC and Denison held 5 hybrid and 3 virtual meetings to discuss unresolved IRs. Between July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Denison provided supplementary responses for further review by the FIRT. The activities that have occurred between May and October have resulted in a significantly extended review period. Following these meetings and supplemental submissions, the FIRT's technical review found that the submission does not fully meet EA regulatory requirements. Currently, 6 IRs remain not accepted and 5 IRs remain under CNSC staff review.

The results of this review, along with the supplemental information provided throughout the June meetings and July submissions, have all been posted to the Registry:

- [Cover Letter - CNSC to Denison - Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Annex 1 – FIRT - Wheeler River Draft Review of Responses to IRs - Draft Table \(2024-05-24\)](#)
- [Annex 2 – FIRT - Wheeler River Draft Review of Responses to IRs - Draft Table \(2024-05-31\)](#)
- [Annex 3 – FIRT – Wheeler River Advice to Proponent Table - Draft Table \(2024-06-28\)](#)
- [Annex 4 - Joint FIRT-Denison IR Technical Meetings for Wheeler River – Meeting minutes and presentations \(2024-06\)](#)
- [Annex 5 – Wheeler River – Combined Supplementary Submissions from Denison \(2024-07\)](#)
- [Annex 6 - Information Requests for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Annex 7 - FIRT Advice to Proponent for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)

CNSC staff expect Denison to submit complete revised responses to all IRs. It is expected that along with each response, Denison clearly indicate what changes will be made to the EIS and supporting documents, to be validated upon a future submission of a Final EIS. Following a submission that meets all outstanding regulatory requirements for the EA, CNSC staff will signal that a Final EIS can be submitted. CNSC staff expect that supplementary documentation that has been revised over the course of recent months will accompany the Final EIS package, including a revised Commitment Register and IER. Once the revised EIS meets regulatory standards, CNSC staff will develop an EA report.

The following documents were also provided by Denison during this review period, on July 17, 2024. These have been posted to the Registry:

- [Indigenous Engagement Report \(2024-07-17\)](#)
- [Indigenous Engagement Report - Appendix B: Records of Engagement \(2024-07-17\)](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 2 \(2024-07-17\)](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** November 4, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Review of October 2024 EIS Package

Hi Everyone,

We are reaching out to provide another update on the Wheeler River EIS technical review.

Following our previous update on October 11<sup>th</sup>, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted revised responses and supporting documentation for the proposed Wheeler River Project, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [October 25, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by CNSC Subject Matter Experts is underway, for completion by November 15th, 2024. The review includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(October 18, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Appendix A to Denison's Responses to Information Request \(October 18, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Advice to Proponent Table \(October 25, 2024\)](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** November 22, 2024 5:40 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Accepted IRs and Completion of EIS Technical Review

Hi Everyone,

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) completed their technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS) technical review. CNSC has found that the information fully addresses the regulatory requirements for the environmental assessment (EA). All responses to IRs are now deemed as accepted.

The following documents have now been posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#):

- [Cover Letter - CNSC to Denison - Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-11-20\)](#)
- [Annex 1 – Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project – Resolved Information Requests for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – October 30<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission for IR-174 from Denison - Memo: Omnia Ecological Services, Denison Wheeler River 2024 Replicate Bat Surveys \(2024-10-30\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – November 13<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission from Denison for IR-114 and IR-174 \(2024-11-13\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – November 19<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission from Denison for IR-114 \(2024-11-19\)](#)

As we have indicated in the past, the next steps involved Denison submitting a Final EIS package, including revised responses to the Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project. This submission will undergo a 30-day review by CNSC staff to ensure all documents have been updated accordingly and that all comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and members of the public have been addressed in an acceptable manner.

As of this afternoon, Denison has submitted the final EIS package. Once we have validated that the submission is complete, staff will begin our review. Once CNSC staff deems the submission as Final, staff will notify Denison that the EIS has been accepted and will proceed with developing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) EA Report summarizing the results of the technical review and staff's recommendations to the Commission. Please note, this documentation will not be posted until it has been accepted as final.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** December 7, 2024 4:57 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Frigault, Nicole; Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Levine, Adam; Noakes, Rain; Dereniwski, Jeff ENV; Piper, Candace ENV; robert.sylvester@birchnarrows.ca; terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; trevor.moberly@birchnarrows.ca  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Field Test - Renewal Notification Letter to BNDN  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#7421349-v1-2024-12-05-Wheeler\_River\_Field\_Test\_-\_Renewal\_Notification\_Letter\_to\_BNDN.pdf

Dear Chief Jonathon Sylvestre,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application for renewal from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*





December 7, 2024

e-Doc: 7421349

Chief Jonathon Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
chief1@birchnarrows.ca

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices  
Licence Renewal Application**

Dear Chief Jonathon Sylvestre:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) to renew Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence No. 60677-1-24.0, issued for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage of natural uranium collected during the Feasibility Field Test. The recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground while Denison pursues a licence to continue operations at the Wheeler River site.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012), led by CNSC staff, has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project,. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC, as necessary.

**Feasibility Field Test**

The feasibility field test has concluded and the recovered mineralized material containing natural uranium is currently in above ground storage tanks at the Wheeler River site. The material remains the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

Denison's current request to renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence is to permit the mineralized solution to remain at the site and perform sampling of the material for further analysis. There is no change to the design or construction of storage tanks and protective barriers at the site. Likewise, there is no change to the CNSC regulatory requirements imposed through this licence.

The licence is proposed to have a term of two years, expiring December 31, 2026. Denison would be required to either renew the Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, transfer the material to another CNSC licence, or remove the material from the Wheeler River site prior to expiry of this licence.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a renewed licence be granted to Denison.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence renewal application for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

If you haven't already, you may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nicole Frigault

A/Director, Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nicole.frigault@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: R. Sylvester, T. Campbell, T. Moberly, BNDN  
S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, K. Gorzkowski, N. Kwamena, J. Way, R.  
Noakes, A. Levine, R. Froess, CNSC  
J. Dereniowski, C. Piper, SEASB

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** December 24, 2024 12:29 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River December 2024 EA Update - Accepted Final EIS

Hi Everyone,

In our last update, we noted the completion of the technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS). This update had also indicated that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> Denison submitted a final EIS package.

Following a 30 day review, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has accepted the final EIS. This acceptance follows a comprehensive EIS technical review process by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT), including consultations with Indigenous Nations and communities and members of the public. CNSC staff will now proceed with the preparation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, which will be made available, along with a Commission Member Document, for review by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public prior to a public Commission hearing.

The following documents have now been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR) for this project:

- [Letter: CNSC to Denison - Wheeler Project - Acceptance of the Final EIS and Supporting Documents](#)
- [Final environmental Impact Statement](#)
- [Combined Final EIS Appendices](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 5 - Wheeler River Final EIS Submission](#)

With these conclusions, along with the sufficient licence application, CNSC staff will notify CNSC Commission Registrar of this acceptance, who will proceed with scheduling public hearing dates. Further details regarding how to participate will be provided once the Commission Secretariat has announced the hearing dates. In early January, notifications will be sent to Indigenous Nations and communities with detailed next steps in the consultation process.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** January 22, 2025 7:03 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** Levine, Adam; Burton, Patrick; Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan; Duhaime, Brenda; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Noakes, Rain; Zenobi, Adam; Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; McKeown, Justin; terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca  
**Subject:** Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with BNDN - Proposed Wheeler River Project  
**Attachments:** 2025-01-22-Letter-CNSC\_to\_BNDN\_-\_Next\_steps\_of\_the\_Regulatory\_Process-Wheeler\_River\_EA.pdf

Dear Chief Sylvestre,

I am sending the attached letter on behalf of the CNSC, outlining proposed next steps of the CNSC's consultation process with Birch Narrows Dene Nation for the Wheeler River regulatory review process.

We look forward to hearing back from you and setting up a meeting to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Review Officer | Agente d'examen environnementale  
Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213  
British Columbia, Core Hours: 9:30am – 5:30pm ET | 6:30am – 2:30pm PT

*My work hours might not be the same as your work hours – please reply at your convenience.*



CIAR NO.: 80178

e-Doc: 7448984

**January 22, 2025**

Chief Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan  
[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)

**Subject: Proposed Next Steps of Consultation and Engagement with Birch Narrows Dene Nation for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process for the Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update and share a proposed consultation and engagement approach with Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) on the regulatory review process for Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) proposed Wheeler River Project (the Project).

### **Current Status of the Process of the federal Environmental Assessment**

On December 24, 2024, the federal review of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded, and the Final EIS was accepted by CNSC staff as it meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). As you will have learned from the CNSC's December 24<sup>th</sup> email to the public distribution list, the documents can be found on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry \(the Registry\)](#).

CNSC staff have reviewed the responses Denison provided to comments that were received during the public comment period on the Draft EIS in 2023, and these are now [available on the Registry](#). CNSC staff have also drafted responses comments that were applicable to the CNSC's oversight and responsibilities and look forward to further discussing these in the immediate future. The responses can also be [found on the Registry](#).

### **Proposed Next Steps of Consultation**

Building on the ongoing consultation and engagement that started in 2022 between BNDN and CNSC in relation to this Project, CNSC staff have provided the consultation approach as outlined in Appendix 1. Table 1 of this letter details the suggested consultation activities for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Project.

The CNSC staff will be preparing the following reports and documents to support staff's recommendations to the Commission:

- **An EA Report** which provides information and analysis to assist the Commission in its determination on whether the proposed project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.
- **A Consultation Report** which will include details on consultation and engagement activities and perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on Indigenous Nations' rights and interests.
- **A Commission Member Document (CMD)** which presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.

CNSC staff are interested in ensuring that BNDN's perspectives, issues and concerns, and other topics of interest to BNDN are properly reflected in CNSC staff's reports and recommendations. This would involve CNSC staff developing the content as a first step based on information that BNDN has submitted and provided to date to the CNSC and Denison and then providing the draft content for review and comment. CNSC staff will be providing detailed timelines on the remainder of the regulatory process once a Commission hearing date has been identified by the Commission Registry.

The activities outlined in the proposed consultation approach are flexible, and CNSC staff would like to discuss these remaining steps of the regulatory review process. Some potential topics for discussion would include:

- review of the CNSC's assessment of the Project specifically related to BNDN information on community member perspectives, knowledge, and concerns, of the Project's potential impacts on the BNDN rights and interests
- discussions with the CNSC and Denison, as appropriate, regarding potential commitments, mitigations and accommodations to address potential environmental effects
- awarding funding through the CNSC's PFP to support the review of CNSC staff's Reports and consultation and engagement with the CNSC participation in the CNSC's Commission hearing process through interventions, as determined by BNDN
- discussions with the CNSC on conclusions and recommendations related to topics of concern and interest to BNDN

CNSC staff are committed to continued collaboration with BNDN to ensure that consultation for the Project is meaningful, addresses BNDN's concerns, and upholds the Honour of the Crown. To discuss any matters related to the regulatory review process of the Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Review Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Please review the proposed consultation process for the remaining steps of the regulatory review process for the Wheeler River Project (Appendix 1) and **provide any feedback by February 17, 2025.**

The CNSC looks forward to continuing to build a long-term relationship with BNDN and working together throughout the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Yours sincerely,



Nana Kwamena  
Director  
Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission



Justin McKeown  
A/ Team Leader, Western & Northern Regions  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c. : CNSC: A. Levine, P. Burton, J. Way, R. Froess, B. Duhaime, K. Gorzkowski, R. Noakes, A. Zenobi  
BNDN: T. Campbell

Enclosure: (1) Proposed consultation process with Birch Narrows Dene Nation for the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project

#### References:

- [1] CNSC, Regulatory Guide, *REGDOC- 3.2.2: Indigenous Engagement*, Version 1.2, February 2022, <https://www.cnsccsn.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/published/html/regdoc3-2-2-v1-2/>
- [2] CNSC, *Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement*, May 2016, <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>



## Appendix 1

### Proposed Consultation Process with Birch Narrows Dene Nation for the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process of the Wheeler River Project

#### 1. Introduction

These proposed next steps in the consultation process, which started in 2022, are intended to guide federal Crown (led by CNSC) consultation activities with Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process of the Wheeler River Project (the Project). They communicate CNSC's objectives for consultation, the proposed structure for integrating consultation into the regulatory review process, and the proposed activities in which the CNSC and BNDN can work together to address BNDN's concerns regarding the Project.

#### 2. Federal Crown's Consultation Objectives

- To continue the establishment of a positive and productive working relationship with BNDN during the remaining steps of the regulatory review process.
- To communicate with BNDN about the Project and developments during the regulatory review process in a timely manner.
- To work with BNDN to:
  1. identify any potential environmental effects of the Project, including those on current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, health and socio-economic conditions, and heritage resources
  2. identify adverse impacts of the Project on your community's potential or established rights
  3. ensure options for avoiding, mitigating, or accommodating adverse impacts are considered
- To work with BNDN and the proponent to respond to specific questions and requests regarding issues raised related to the Project.
- To listen to and understand the concerns raised, and consider the feedback, perspectives, and issues raised by BNDN.

#### 3. Integrating Consultation into the Regulatory Review Process

Table 1 provides a description of the main remaining steps in the regulatory review process and a description of how the CNSC proposes to integrate consultation activities into those steps. This table describes what BNDN should receive, have access to, or expect from the CNSC, on behalf of the federal Crown, and what BNDN could share and provide to the regulatory review process.

**Table 1: Integrating Consultation into the Remaining Steps of the Regulatory Review Process<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What BNDN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information BNDN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways BNDN may want to participate</b>
Project Description Review and Scoping Decision  <i>(Completed in 2019-20)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for BNDN to provide comments on the Project Description – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CNSC notification to BNDN of the project and project description review process - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• PFP offering - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Early information sharing and offers of consultation meetings – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments on the project description - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Review  <i>(Initiated 2022 – complete as of December 24, 2024)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity for BNDN to provide comments on draft EIS – <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison to revise documentation to address comments and concerns raised by BNDN - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Denison expected to discuss with BNDN how their comments and concerns have been addressed. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to participate in technical discussions with CNSC staff regarding BNDN's outstanding comments and concerns, as well as other discussions as necessary (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with BNDN). - <b>Completed</b></li> <li>• Opportunity for direct and continued discussions between BNDN and the CNSC. – <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide BNDN's views on the accuracy of Denison's information about issues BNDN have raised and on any proposed ways of addressing those impacts. - <b>Completed</b></li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from a template developed by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) (CEAA references the BC First Nations Environmental Assessment Technical Working Group Toolkit Workshop as a basis for this document).

<sup>2</sup> Any updates to dates related to the regulatory review process will be communicated to BNDN.

<sup>3</sup> Denison's activities during this step of the regulatory review process are not specifically steps of the regulatory review process, but these are expectations of Denison, by CNSC staff.

<b>Regulatory Review Step<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Description of Activities<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>What BNDN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown</b>	<b>Information BNDN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways BNDN may want to participate</b>
Development of draft Consultation Report  <i>(Current phase – 2025)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Consultation Report includes a summary of consultation with Indigenous Nations and communities, potential impacts to potential or established rights of select Indigenous Nations and communities, views and concerns expressed by Indigenous Nations and communities and the CNSC's response to those concerns, and potential mitigation and/or accommodation measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for direct discussions between BNDN and the CNSC to accurately reflect issues and concerns to BNDN (e.g. teleconferences and/or meetings with BNDN).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and provide comment on sections of the draft Consultation Report specific to BNDN.</li> </ul>

<p>EA Report, Consultation Report and Licensing CMD Review</p> <p><b>AND</b></p> <p>Commission Public Hearings</p> <p><i>(Hearing date 2025 –2026 TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EA Report presents the CNSC staff's views on the findings of the EA, including conclusions and recommendations regarding the adverse environmental effects that are likely to result from the project, appropriate measures that would mitigate those effects, the significance of residual effects after implementation of the mitigation measures, as well as the components of the follow-up and monitoring program.</li> <li>• CNSC staff will submit and make publicly available, for review, the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD in advance of public hearings (timing to be determined by CNSC Registry).</li> <li>• The licensing CMD presents CNSC staff's findings, recommendations and conclusions from the technical review of Denison's licence application and supporting documentation.</li> <li>• The Commission will hold public hearings with opportunities for public and Indigenous Nations and communities to submit oral and/or written interventions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunity to review the Final EA Report, Consultation Report and licensing CMD to inform oral and/or written intervention.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present BNDN's views to the Commission by providing information orally and/or in writing.</li> <li>• It is recommended that any diverging views with CNSC staff's analysis and findings in CNSC's reports be captured in BNDN's written and/or oral intervention to the Commission, if required.</li> </ul>
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Regulatory Review Step <sup>2</sup>	Description of Activities <sup>3</sup>	What BNDN should receive, have access to, or expect from the federal Crown	Information BNDN may want to consider providing to the federal Crown, and ways BNDN may want to participate
<p>Commission's EA and Licensing Decisions</p> <p><i>(Future phase 2025-2026 – Hearing date TBD)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission considers the EA Report, Consultation Report and CMD and interventions from the public and Indigenous Nations and communities and determines whether, taking into account the mitigation measures, conditions, accommodations and commitments proposed, the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects and if the duty to consult was met.</li> <li>Should the Commission issue an EA decision statement allowing the Project to proceed, the Commission will also include legally binding conditions with which Denison must comply to implement appropriate mitigation measures and a follow-up and monitoring program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notification and sharing of the Commission's Detailed Record of Decisions (EA and licensing).</li> <li>Meetings with BNDN and the community to discuss the Commission's decision and next steps for ongoing engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feedback on preferred approach to ongoing engagement, and information sharing.</li> </ul>

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** February 3, 2025 3:50 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica; Froess, Ryan  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River February 2025 EA Update - Participant Funding Opportunity

Hi Everyone,

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is offering participant funding to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public and interested parties in reviewing the environmental assessment (EA) and licence application for Denison's Wheeler River Project and in participating in a future Commission hearing process. Here is the participant funding notice, with the details on how to apply: [Participant funding for Denison's Wheeler River Project](#)

This participant funding opportunity is open from February 3 to April 4, 2025.

Additional information about the Wheeler River EA process can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#).

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 12, 2025 4:29 PM  
**To:** chief1@birchnarrows.ca  
**Cc:** terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca; Keegan McGrath; John Glover; Way, Jessica; McKeown, Justin  
**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** BNDN Consultation Report Section 4.7 - For Review.docx; BNDN\_EA\_Content\_For\_Review.docx

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.7 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with BNDN related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on BNDN, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by BNDN related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without BNDN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

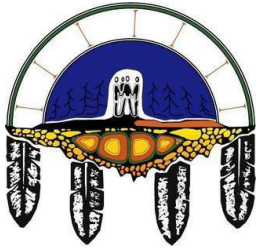
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*  
Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie  
des Métis





**May 26, 2025**

Jessica Way  
Environmental Review Specialist  
Environmental Review Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Justin McKeown  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous  
Consultation  
Canadian Nuclear Safety  
Commission  
[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Janna Switzer  
Vice President, Environment,  
Sustainability & Regulatory  
Denison Mines  
[jswitzer@denisonmines.com](mailto:jswitzer@denisonmines.com)

**Re: Birch Narrows Dene Nation – Withdrawal of Support Letters and Outstanding Concerns on the Wheeler River Project**

Dear Ms. Way, Mr. McKeown, and Ms. Switzer,

I am writing this letter to communicate two important messages on behalf of Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) regarding Denison Mines Corp.'s proposed Wheeler River Project.

**1. Withdrawal of Support for the Wheeler River Project**

BNDN no longer supports the Wheeler River Project. We formally rescind any prior correspondence on the public registry that could be interpreted as support for the Project.

This includes letters submitted by the Birch Narrows Dene Development Inc. (BNDDI), which were issued without undergoing any process that appropriately considered the concerns and interests of BNDN members. These letters were not informed by community direction and do not reflect the best interests of our Nation. As such, they are not valid expressions of support and must not be used to indicate the existence of free, prior, and informed consent.

We communicated this withdrawal of support to Denison Mines Corp. in a letter dated March 3, 2025, a copy of which is enclosed for your records. Denison responded in a letter dated March 12, 2025, which we have reviewed. While we appreciate Denison's acknowledgement of our position, we wish to ensure that this change is also formally and clearly conveyed to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), the federal authority overseeing the licensing of the Project.

We respectfully request that any past letters suggesting BNDN support be removed from the public registry and disregarded in the CNSC's environmental assessment and licensing decision-making Processes

**2. Denison's Failure to Respect BNDN's Treaty Rights and Land Use**

We are deeply concerned by Denison's ongoing assertion that BNDN does not have recognized land use in the project area. This claim is false and disregards our ancestral and ongoing presence in the region. As Dene

Sųtiné people and signatories to Treaty 10, we have longstanding and active use of lands and waters in and around the Wheeler River area, particularly throughout the Cree Lake region. These activities—hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering—are central to our culture, governance, and identity, not incidental.

Denison has taken the unacceptable position that BNDN warrants less consultation and accommodation than other Nations, despite the fact that our members continue to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the region and that we are geographically closer to the project than some Nations that have already signed agreements.

We are particularly alarmed by the following behaviors:

- Denison’s repeated dismissal of our land use and rights in the project area.
- The refusal to recognize this as Treaty 10 territory, where the Crown and all proponents have a legal duty to consult and accommodate BNDN.
- Denison’s denial of funding for a BNDN-led Indigenous Knowledge study, while simultaneously demanding that we “prove” our land connection.
- The use of colonial frameworks to determine which Nations are “relevant,” thereby marginalizing BNDN.

These actions reflect a pattern of exclusion and undermine the legitimacy and integrity of consultation processes. Denison is not in a position to define our land use, identity, or governance. That authority lies with our Nation.

### **3. Summary of Outstanding Technical Concerns**

BNDN is also submitting a technical review of Denison’s responses to our comments on the Wheeler River Project Technical Review Table. This review reflects our Nation’s ongoing concerns regarding the adequacy of the Proponent’s responses and the Project’s potential impacts on our lands, waters, and ability to meaningfully exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Our concerns were developed through internal BNDN technical review processes and validated by leadership. The attached table (Appendix A) provides a detailed summary of each comment raised, Denison’s corresponding response, and BNDN’s assessment of whether the response is adequate.

Our primary concern is that Denison continues to tell our community that we are not directly impacted and are warranted a lower level of consultation and accommodation than other groups. Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of “Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project”. BNDN is closer to the Project than other communities who have signed accommodation agreements. The project is located within BNDN’s treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Denison’s position of BNDN requiring less consultation and accommodation than other communities is unacceptable and wrong. Denison is not in a position to define BNDNs territory or land use.

#### **Summary of Comment Disposition**

Based on our review, we categorize the responses to our comments as follows:

- Addressed: 30
- Provisionally Addressed: 5

- Partially Addressed: 7
- Not Addressed: 64

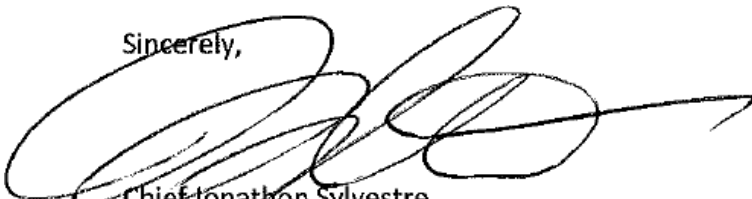
All comments that are not fully addressed remain outstanding concerns for our Nation. We request that the Proponent and CNSC engage with BNDN to collaboratively resolve these issues. We emphasize that the duty to consult includes the obligation to substantially address concerns raised by Indigenous Nations—what Canadian law refers to as accommodation. This duty cannot be satisfied without a meaningful process for issue resolution.

#### **4. Path Forward**

BNDN is committed to engaging in good faith with both Denison and the CNSC in respect of the federal assessment and licensing of the Wheeler River Project. We expect all future engagement to take place directly with our elected leadership, with full transparency, and in a manner that respects our governance structures, rights, and protocols.

We remain open to working with both the Proponent and the Commission to ensure that BNDN's concerns are thoroughly addressed and that the integrity of our decision-making processes is upheld.

Sincerely,



Chief Jonathon Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation

**CC:**

BNDN Council

Carolanne Inglis McQuay, Denison Mines [cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com](mailto:cinglismcquay@denisonmines.com)

CNSC, [WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

**Denison's Responses to Comment from Birch Narrows Dene Nation (February 28, 2023) for the Wheeler River Project Environmental Impact Statement**

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
2	Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN) (February 28, 2023)	Section 5.7; 5.8.1	<p>Comment #1: The Project is located within the treaty and ancestral lands of BNDN and maintains both current and historical significance to the community. BNDN Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy are not currently considered within the EIS. Should the Project proceed without the consideration of BNDN's Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy, it may cause irreparable loss of culturally significant sites and access to resources that the community depends upon. It may also contribute to a loss in cultural transmission.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison should provide BNDN with funds to conduct a community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for consideration within the EIS process. At minimum, the Study should consider BNDN's Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, commercial and non-commercial harvesting practices, and cultural occupation of the region (including historical sites). The Study should also</p>	<p>Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison acknowledges and understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities occurring in and around the Project in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and/or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p> <p>The project is located in a critically important area for BNDN; Cree Lake and surrounding areas fosters important caribou habitat that BNDN members rely on. BNDN carries out rights protected activities throughout the project location, which falls within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands. BNDN's rights and interests will be impacted by the project if it is approved.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>consider cultural transmission, information about the history of the area and BNDN community members' perspectives on the Project.</p> <p>b) The community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study should be a component of a broader process agreement between BNDN and Denison that serves as a pathway for obtaining BNDN's consent for the Project.</p> <p>c) Denison should work with BNDN to consider the appropriate integration of the results into all aspects of the EIS and management/monitoring plans, as well as any additional appropriate mitigation and/or accommodation measures.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic.</p>	<p>Further, the assessment has been completed based on Valued Components (VCs), including the VC of Indigenous Land and Resource Use. Key indicators for Indigenous Land and Resource Use include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resource availability for harvesting subsistence resources (distribution and abundance of animals, plants, and wildlife for harvest and suitability of animals, plants, and wildlife for consumption);</li> <li>• land/water availability to practice traditional land use (TLU); and</li> <li>• perceived suitability of lands and resources therein.</li> </ul> <p>Measurable parameters are identified for each of the key indicators, as presented in Table 11.1-1 of the EIS.</p> <p>The assessment does not take a distinctions based approach (i.e., the potential impact on each Indigenous community is not evaluated separately), but rather on the key indicators and associated measurable parameters.</p> <p>Mitigation to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous Land and Resource Use would apply to any BNDN uses proximal to the Project. Given proven mitigation is to be applied to traffic disturbances, noise, air quality, and increased competition for resources, the effects are expected to be minimal.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p>	<p>on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the EIS.</p>
3	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder); Heritage Resource	Comment #2: Archaeology as a profession has been dominated in North America by non- Indigenous researchers, despite most sites being Indigenous in origin. It is	Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
		Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder); Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North)	<p>positive that Golder Associates made efforts to engage and involve Indigenous communities (by including an ERFN representative in fieldwork and by considering ERFN and Pinehouse Kineepik Metis land use maps) in their 2017 heritage baseline study and 2020 heritage resource impact assessment.</p> <p>Notwithstanding, the proposed Project area is within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands and there may be heritage sites that the community is aware of. BNDN was not involved in either of these studies and BNDN may have Indigenous Knowledge of important heritage sites within the Study Area that should be considered.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison should provide BNDN with funds to conduct a community-led Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for consideration within the EIS process.</p> <p>b) The Heritage Resources Management Plan should be updated following the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy provided by BNDN. This may result in the requirement for further assessment and/or</p>	<p>respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and / or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work</p>	<p>have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity. Proposed mitigation measures for project effects are inadequate to BNDN and have been developed without consideration of BNDN land use and knowledge; the proponents' suggestion that the mitigation measures are adequate for impacts to BNDN that have not been assessed is deficient.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>mitigation measures, which should be developed in consultation with BNDN.</p> <p>c) Denison should facilitate BNDN involvement in any additional archaeological fieldwork that takes place, including providing BNDN with capacity funding for members who participate. Terms to facilitate BNDN involvement in future archaeological work should be a component of a broader process agreement between BNDN and Denison.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work. Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project. Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>	<p>II) on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation. The Heritage Resources Management Plan should be updated following the consideration of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge study.</p> <p>III) The proponent must engage with BNDN to discuss opportunities for BNDN to participate in archaeological work moving forward.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
4	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods	<p>Comment #3: The methodology within both the 2017 and 2020 heritage studies included 'judgmental' shovel probing and initial troweling through soil to identify cultural heritage material. While the discretion of a professional archaeologist needs to be taken into account, relying subjectively on which areas to shovel test and not employing a systematic approach is not reproducible and may result in sites being missed; this is of particular concern given that large sections of the areas retaining potential were not subject to shovel testing. Further, troweling through soil rather than subjecting all excavated soil to sifting through 6mm mesh means that artifacts/ecofacts may easily be overlooked. Given that the north of Saskatchewan has not been thoroughly investigated archaeologically and given that 76 sites and nine find areas were recorded just 35 km south of the Project area as part of Dr. David Meyer's multi-year archaeological investigation, the results of these assessments do not seem rigorous.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN recommends that Denison undertake further</p>	<p>The 2017 and 2020 heritage studies were reviewed by the Heritage Conservation Branch. The HRIA was completed using standard pedestrian reconnaissance and visual inspection field techniques, complimented by the excavation of shovel probes and shovel tests and it was determined the site has limited interpretive potential. Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed. The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfill its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN will not retain confidence in the results of the heritage assessments until the nation is able to complete an Indigenous Knowledge Study and the results are incorporated into the EIS.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>archaeological investigations based on the results of the BNDN TKLU study prior to construction of the project.</p> <p>b) Future archaeological assessment programs should be designed collaboratively with BNDN and other Impacted Indigenous Nations.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Therefore, Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>	<p>III)</p> <p>results are used to update the EIS.</p> <p>The proponent must commit to engaging Indigenous Nations, including BNDN in decision making related to Indigenous archaeological material and sites rather than merely informing these nations.</p>
5	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods	<p>Comment #4: The presence of strandlines are noted as being an indicator of archaeological potential; however, it is unclear within the reports whether any strandlines are present within the Study Area. Most of the investigations and shovel probes that took place were around existing waterbodies.</p> <p>Request/recommendation: Please indicate whether strandlines are present anywhere in the Study Area.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>Strandlines, like other linear landforms, do increase archaeological potential, however heritage resources are only directly effected by Project activities and there are no strandlines located in the Phoenix Site area (Government of Saskatchewan. N.d. 250K Surficial Geology Linear Landforms. Available at: <a href="https://geohub.saskatchewan.ca/datasets/saskatchewan::250k-surficial-geology-linear-landforms/explore?location=57.247957%2C-106.370278%2C6.33">https://geohub.saskatchewan.ca/datasets/saskatchewan::250k-surficial-geology-linear-landforms/explore?location=57.247957%2C-106.370278%2C6.33</a> [Accessed November 29, 2023]).</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>
6	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Baseline Study 2017 (Golder) – methods; Heritage	<p>Comment #5: It is unclear whether the locations identified by other Indigenous communities in their Land Use maps were investigated archaeologically and subject where</p>	<p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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		Resource Impact Assessment 2020 (Golder) – methods	<p>appropriate to shovel testing. Knowing this will give confidence to BNDN that areas they may identify as retaining potential may undergo further assessment if necessary.</p> <p>Request/recommendation: Please indicate whether the areas identified by other Indigenous communities in their Land Use maps were investigated archaeologically.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.	
7	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 4.0	<p>Comment #6: The archaeological context provided is very Western/Scientific. Denison must also include historical/pre-historical accounts of Indigenous communities to provide an appropriate and comprehensive assessment of the archaeological context of the region.</p> <p>Request/recommendation: Denison must include a write-up of Indigenous historical and prehistorical accounts in consultation with relevant Indigenous communities. This write up must include historic context provided through oral history interviews as part of BNDN's community-led Indigenous</p>	<p>Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and / or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison's response does not address the recommendation posed by BNDN regarding the revision of the archaeological context to include a write-up of Indigenous historical and prehistorical accounts, in consultation with impacted Indigenous communities.</p> <p>Further, while the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>Knowledge, Land Use and Occupancy Study for the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work. Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project.</p>	<p>capacity. Proposed mitigation measures for project effects are inadequate to BNDN and have been developed without consideration of BNDN land use and knowledge; the proponents' suggestion that the mitigation measures are adequate for impacts to BNDN that have not been assessed is deficient.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires all documents, including the HRMP to be updated based on the results of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge Study. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the HRMP.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				<p>Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>	
8	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1 1e & 1f	<p>Comment #7: BNDN notes that there has been limited engagement of our Nation as part of the archaeological baseline studies undertaken at the site. The Wheeler River Project is within our Treaty and Ancestral Lands where our members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise our rights to this day. As stewards of the land since time immemorial and holders of both Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the Project area, Denison must engage with us as partners on their activities on our lands. This includes their planning and decision-making</p>	<p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p> <p>Even the most thorough investigations may not identify all archaeological materials that may be present. Denison advises that if unanticipated archaeological materials or features are encountered as a result of construction or reclamation activities, all work in the immediate area should cease and the Heritage Conservation Branch and local authorities (if applicable) contacted.</p>	<p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison's engagement efforts related to archaeology have been deficient. No representatives from BNDN were involved in field assessments nor has BNDN Indigenous Knowledge been considered.</p> <p>The project is located within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>related to archaeological materials to which our members have ancestral and spiritual ties.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indigenous communities should be consulted and engaged in decision making rather than merely informed if the archaeological material is expected to be Indigenous in origin.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>		<p>rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>The proponent must commit to engaging Indigenous Nations, including BNDN in decision making related to Indigenous archaeological material and sites rather than merely informing these nations.</p>
9	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1 7	<p>Comment #8: Given the Ancestral and Treaty ties our members have to the project area, our members have valuable knowledge and context to inform the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment (HRIA) for the Project that must be considered prior to being reviewed or approved by any regulatory body.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft HRIA should be reviewed by BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations prior to being submitted for regulatory approval.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and / or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Project effects have been mitigated for the most intensive resource user(s), irrespective of affiliation.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison's response does not address the request put forward by BNDN to be given an opportunity to review the draft HRIA.</p> <p>Further, while the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				<p>and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> <p>Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Heritage Resource Management Plan (HRMP), the likelihood of residual effects is considered low and residual effects on Heritage Resources will occur infrequently and can be mitigated with the HRMP. Known archaeological resources identified in the Project Area were deemed to have low potential for archaeological interpretation and additional work or mitigation measures were not required for the sites; the Heritage Conservation Branch had no further concerns with these sites and work could proceed as planned. Should unknown archaeological and cultural resources be identified during the Project, effects will be mitigated using the HRMP. While effects to archaeological resources are irreversible, they can be mitigated by following the HRMP, by either avoiding additional damage to the resource by creating a buffer zone around the site, or by assessing the resource according to The Heritage Property Act to enable the full interpretation of the site before continuing with work. Furthermore, based on the low occurrence of known Heritage Resources in the Project Area (two), and the location of the Heritage Resources (near waterbodies, along an existing trail and away from the main developments), there is a low potential for the identification or disturbance of previously unknown archaeological sites throughout the life of the Project. Therefore, any residual effects (i.e., destruction of Heritage</p>	<p>I) The draft HRIA should be reviewed by BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations prior to being submitted for regulatory approval.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				<p>Resources) is considered to be negligible. Further, HRMP includes feedback from Indigenous nations with demonstrated significant land use activities in and around the Project.</p> <p>As outlined in Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Please see Section 11.3.2 Influence of Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement on the Assessment for Heritage Resources. The Section describes how field assistants from local Indigenous communities were involved with the HRIA baseline studies, allowing for in-field consultation during the assessment to make sure that areas deemed to have potential by the land users were surveyed.</p>	
10	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.1.1	<p>Comment #9: Discerning archaeological artifacts/ecofacts is difficult at times even to the trained eye; consequently, it is important to undergo training to understand what you could be looking for.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Staff should undergo training regarding the cultural material they may encounter while on site</p> <p>b) BNDN and other Indigenous communities should be invited to attend this training</p> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>Section 5.1.1 describes how all staff working on the Project should be informed of the possibility that they could encounter archaeological resources during their work or leisure time, which will include the proper procedure to follow in the case of a chance find. This could be facilitated by a short archaeological education section in the employee orientation, outlining the types of sites and artifacts that could be encountered in the area, as well as what to do when a potential artifact or site is found. If the chance find is deemed to be an archaeological site, then an HRIA is required and a qualified archaeologist must complete the assessment.</p> <p>Section 11.3.5 Mitigation Measures describes the management of archaeological resources and includes the assessment of the discovery by a qualified archaeologist and mitigation measures including avoidance of the site, shovel testing, systematic and intensive shovel testing, excavation, and/or construction monitoring. The HRMP</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>i) Stronger language must be used to ensure archaeological education does occur as part of staff orientation. The proponent must commit to the requirement that staff undergo training by a qualified archaeologist regarding the cultural material they may encounter while on site as part of staff orientation.</p> <p>BNDN requires confirmation that BNDN and other impacted Indigenous Nations will be</p>



Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				outlines mechanisms for Indigenous engagement including the communities and implementation of appropriate cultural protocols.	invited to attend this training. The project is located in BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands; given that no Indigenous Knowledge research has been completed to date for this project by BNDN, there is significant concern that ancestral materials will be encountered but not identified, leading to irreparable damage.
11	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.3	<p>Comment #10: In numerous instances the Heritage Resources Management Plan (HRMP), Denison has used noncommittal language to describe future Indigenous engagement related to heritage resources. BNDN notes that engagement of impacted Nations is essential for proper heritage resource management and as such the language in the HRMP should reflect the necessity of this engagement.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout the HRMP, Denison must change the language of "should" to "will" where appropriate. For example: management options will be presented to the applicable Indigenous communities for feedback and will include consultation.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	The Heritage Resources Management Plan will be revisited for use of language 'should' to 'will' where appropriate.	<p><b>Partially addressed.</b></p> <p>The proponent should report back to BNDN regarding how the language was updated and whether there were any instances the proponent did not update the language from 'should' to 'will'; justification should be provided in these instances.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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12	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Heritage Resources Management Plan 2022 (Canada North) – 5.3.1	<p>Comment #11: BNDN notes that Section 5.3.1 does not confirm that impacted Indigenous Nations will have the opportunity to participate in future archaeological fieldwork. While BNDN understands that many impacted Nations will have arrangements directly with Denison to facilitate member participation, this should additionally be made available to all impacted Indigenous Nations as part of best practices at the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In addition to any provisions developed in a Project Agreement between BNDN and Denison for the Wheeler River Project, Denison should include a clause that confirms that all impacted Indigenous communities will be invited to have monitors participate in any additional fieldwork and that Denison will provide capacity funding for Nations that wish to participate.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.1 for additional information on this topic (p. 12-14).</p>	<p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	<p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>The project is located within BNDN's treaty and ancestral lands where members have deep ancestral ties and continue to exercise rights to this day. Most archaeological material in Canada is Indigenous in origin; there is a significant chance that any archaeological material found on site derives from BNDN ancestors. BNDN has inherent rights to its cultural heritage, as affirmed by UNDRIP.</p> <p>The proponent must engage with BNDN to discuss opportunities for BNDN to participate in archaeological work moving forward.</p>
13	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 13.0	<p>Comments #12, 14 and 15: BNDN is not included as a Local Study Area (LSA) Community despite being closer to the Project than other LSA</p>	<p>Spatial boundaries for the Economy VC were selected to reflect the geographic areas where economic impacts from the Project are likely to be detectable and measurable. These impacts are expected to be driven primarily by the</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN is still not being considered a Local Study Area (LSA) community despite being</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>Communities. The Project is situated on BNDN's ancestral lands. BNDN members currently and historically use the LSA for harvesting (commercial and personal) and ceremonial purposes.</p> <p>Without the LSA Community designation, BNDN members are less likely to be employed or trained through the Project. BNDN members are not entitled to priority training and employment provisions from Denison on the Project. Further, BNDN businesses and partnerships are not entitled to priority procurement provisions from Denison on the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN must be identified as a LSA Community. BNDN members and businesses must be eligible for LSA priority status for employment, training, and contracting opportunities. The EIS should be revised accordingly.</li> <li>A formal agreement between BNDN and Denison is required to outline socioeconomic offsetting measures and benefits should the Project move forward. This must include ways for BNDN</li> </ul>	<p>relationship and interactions between the Project and the COI. Economic benefits surrounding Project employment (including income and training) are likely to be targeted toward the communities identified within the spatial boundaries. Economic impacts extending beyond the LSA are likely to be diffused and undetectable within the broader economy. The spatial boundaries were selected based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the assessment of the economy includes the following communities: ERFN (including Indian Reserve Wapachewunak 192D and Indian Reserve La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet (Patuanak); Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.</p> <p>Denison, through a Human Resource Development Plan, will initially prioritize Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the LSA in terms of employment and training opportunities (anticipated to be in institutions in northern Saskatchewan) and will work with the leadership of these communities to assist in determining hiring and training practices during all phases of the Project, which could include such items as on-the-job training and career counselling to help with advancement from foundational positions, advance sharing of job qualification requirements, clearly identifying training requirements and working with various training institutions to make sure such appropriate training is available, and creation of scholarship and support programs. Priority for employment and training will then focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA and then beyond the RSA.</p>	<p>closer to the Project than other LSA communities. Without the LSA Community designation, BNDN members are less likely to be employed or trained through the Project. BNDN members are not entitled to priority training and employment provisions from Denison on the Project. Further, BNDN businesses and partnerships are not entitled to priority procurement provisions from Denison on the Project. This is unacceptable.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>businesses and member owned businesses to participate in the Project.</p> <p>Denison references a Human Resource Development Plan (HRDP) as a mitigation measure to ensure local and regional community members are hired in priority. However, Denison does not provide sufficient details to allow Birch to assess the adequacy of the HRDP.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests the ability to review and comment on Denison's Human Resource Development Plan to provide input and recommendations to encourage community participation and employment in the Project.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-23).</p>		
14	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 12.0 and 13.0	<p>Comment #13: There is no BNDN specific Indigenous Knowledge or socioeconomic data presented in the EIS.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must conduct Indigenous Knowledge and Community well-being Study (or similar) to gather BNDN specific information. These</li> </ul>	Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. However, Denison understands this information from BNDN. As such, over the past year(s), Denison has met with BNDN and has respectfully requested further information from BNDN in respect to the land use activities to occurring in and around the Project, in order to more meaningfully understand the potential for adverse impacts to BNDN and therefore consider the potential for further studies and /	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>While the proponent has requested Indigenous Knowledge from BNDN, they have not made any resources available for BNDN to collect it, nor has the company engaged in any efforts to sign any agreements that provide assurances around confidentiality. BNDN lacks capacity and requires such resources and assurances to</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>studies will allow for a more fulsome assessment of the Project on BNDN rights and interests. Additionally, BNDN specific data will enhance Denison's baseline data and help to inform mitigation and monitoring measures.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-22).</p>	<p>or integration into the EIS of such information. Denison remains of the perspective that receipt of this information from BNDN is a necessary first step in this process, and has not received information in this regard to date.</p> <p>Spatial boundaries for the Economy VC were selected to reflect the geographic areas where economic impacts from the Project are likely to be detectable and measurable. These impacts are expected to be driven primarily by the relationship and interactions between the Project and the COI. Economic benefits surrounding Project employment (including income and training) are likely to be targeted toward the communities identified within the spatial boundaries. Economic impacts extending beyond the LSA are likely to be diffused and undetectable within the broader economy. The spatial boundaries were selected based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the assessment of the economy includes the following communities: ERFN (including Indian Reserve Wapachewunak 192D and Indian Reserve La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet (Patuanak); Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.</p> <p>The spatial boundaries selected for Community Well-being were chosen because they permit baseline characterization in sufficient detail to enable potential interactions between the Project and the well-being of the community. These boundaries were developed in consideration of where interactions are likely to occur. The spatial boundaries were derived based on the consideration of communities where Project recruitment is likely to be prioritized, consideration of previous EAs conducted in the region, and consideration of information</p>	<p>be able to provide Indigenous Knowledge; further, it is standard procedure for proponents to provide such financial capacity.</p> <p>The project is located in a critically important area for BNDN; Cree Lake and surrounding areas fosters important caribou habitat that BNDN members rely on; impacts to these animals and areas will undoubtedly impact BNDN's well-being. However, this and related issues have not been considered in the project. Further, BNDN carries out economic activities in within the study area; however, the economic impacts of the project on BNDN has not been assessed.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires capacity funding from the proponent to conduct a community-led and project-specific Indigenous Knowledge study so BNDN can evaluate the impacts the project will have on BNDN and so the results of the study may inform the project and its evaluation.</p> <p>II) BNDN requires the EIS to be updated based on the results of BNDN's Indigenous Knowledge study – including the sections on economy and community well-being VCs. BNDN must be engaged on how its results are used to update the EIS.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				shared through key persons in the interview program. The LSA for the Community Well-being VC includes ERFN (including Indian Reserves Wapachewunak 192D and La Plonge 192) and Patuanak, Northern Hamlet; Pinehouse Lake, Northern Village; and Beauval, Northern Village.	
15	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 12.0	<p>Comment #16: While EIS does consider the effects of population changes related to the Project on social adaptability, demand for services and housing, it does not address the full range of potential impacts associated with a transient workforce. Significant research has been conducted to demonstrate the negative impacts of remote workers and work camps on Indigenous women and girls. This must be considered in the EIS.</p> <p>The EIS must include an assessment of all potential effects of a transient workforce and changes to population dynamics, including those disproportionately experienced by Indigenous women and girls, and other segments of the population. This must incorporate findings of research like the 2017 study completed by Lake Babine Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en (Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps), and/or related research in the context of the LSA.</p>	<p>Both the construction and operation camps will operate on a fly-in/out basis, meaning the opportunities for interactions between the workforce and Indigenous communities are limited as workers will be transported by air directly to the site. Section 12.2.4.2.1 provides the actions to minimize the extent the Project contributes to in- and out- migration in the LSA, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denison will initially prioritize the COI in terms of employment opportunities and will work with the leadership of these communities to assist in determining hiring practices during all phases of the Project. Priority for hiring will then focus on Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents of the RSA and then beyond the RSA.</li> <li>• Employees will not be permitted to commute to the site by any means other than the fly-in/fly-out worker rotation systems (i.e., they cannot drive to the site).</li> <li>• Pick-up and drop-off points are being planned at two locally central points in communities within the LSA, at one additional site in Saskatchewan (i.e., Saskatoon), and potentially at other locations.</li> <li>• Housing for workers will be provided at the camps with free accommodations and meals.</li> </ul> <p>Although difficult to predict, communities in the LSA are not expected to experience any substantial population growth or change in demographics as a result of the Project, particularly with mitigation measures identified. Although the potential exists for some individuals to return to the COI, it is anticipated that this would be difficult to discern from existing in-/out-migration rates. As population</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Fly-in/fly-out (FIFO) work camps for mining operations in Canada do not eliminate interactions between the workforce and Indigenous communities and the social problems that arise as a result. The FIFO approach may create new issues. The discussion and mitigation measures the proponent proposes does not include a fulsome analysis of all the potential effects of transient workforce and population dynamics, and understates the potential impacts on community well-being. The proponent's response furthermore does not discuss nor address BNDN's concern regarding the impacts of the project on Indigenous women and girls, and other segments of the population.</p> <p>I) BNDN requires the proponent to include a fulsome assessment of the potential impacts of the transient workforce and the FIFO approach on Indigenous communities, including on Indigenous women and girls</p>

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			See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).	and demographics are not expected to experience any change as a result of the Project, this pathway will not be carried forward to the residual effects assessment.	and other segments of the population.  The EIS must incorporate the findings of research like the 2017 study completed by Lake Babine Nation and Nak'azdli Whut'en (Indigenous Communities and Industrial Camps), and/or related research in the context of the LSA.
16	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 12.0 and 13.0	<p>Comment #17: BNDN notes that no specific management or monitoring plan has been included in the EIS documentation related to the verification of residual socio-economic impacts, both positive and negative, for the local economy.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must develop a Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan for the life of the Project to verify the effects assessment included in the EIS and to be included in the Project's approach to adaptive management. This Plan would include an approach, co-developed with Indigenous groups in the LSA (including BNDN), to monitoring the realization of the benefits and impacts of the Project (e.g., employment and procurement targets, training and capacity building, community investments, etc.) as mitigation and enhancement measures are implemented. Monitoring and</p>	<p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison does not commit to monitoring BNDN specific socio-economic indicators as part of the Project and continues to exclude BNDN from fulsome consultation and engagement in favour of other Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g.</p>

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			<p>subsequent regular evaluation would allow for the real-time adjustment of targets and/or an approach to adjusting enhancement measures or identifying offsetting benefits where targets are not met.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>		Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include provisions to monitor socioeconomic indicators.
17	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 12.0 and 13.0	<p>Comment #17: BNDN notes that no specific management or monitoring plan has been included in the EIS documentation related to the verification of residual socio-economic impacts, both positive and negative, for the local economy.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>b) The Crown must include the development of a Socio-Economic Monitoring Plan as a condition of approval for the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.2 for additional information on this topic (p. 19-21).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to the proponent are included in the CNSC table]</p>	<p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison does not commit to monitoring BNDN specific socio-economic indicators as part of the Project and continues to exclude BNDN from fulsome consultation and engagement in favour of other Indigenous groups.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary</p>



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Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.	community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.  Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include provisions to monitor socioeconomic indicators.
18	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 9B Section 2.5.1 Appendix 8E Table 4	Comment #18: In several instances in the draft EIS Denison has noted that Indigenous Nations are concerned with the possibility of mercury contamination from mining operations. BNDN shares these concerns with other Indigenous Nations. Due to the very low concentrations of mercury present in the Phoenix deposit, Denison has not meaningfully studied the potential impacts the Project may have on altering mercury biogeochemistry in the downstream environment.  BNDN notes that background mercury concentrations can be elevated in many unexpected and remote locations due to atmospheric deposition (often due to coal plants) (Jackson, 1997). BNDN is very concerned that	Although baseline concentrations of total mercury in sediment were not collected during the baseline program, Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.  As indicated in draft EIS Section 8.4.6.1, Residual Effects Characterization, mercury is not associated with the local geology and is not expected to be released in the effluent at measurable levels and was therefore not identified as a COPC. Denison notes that there is potential for increased methylmercury production in the receiving environment under a certain combination of factors to which the Project may contribute; however, prediction of methylmercury production is not practical. Denison commits to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time. As the Project advances and operational monitoring is underway, Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against Health Canada's mercury guideline of 0.5 ug/g wet weight.	<b>a. Partially Addressed</b>  BNDN notes that Denison has committed to monitoring total and methyl mercury in lakes and rivers in the LSA prior to site development and over the life of the Project. However, as stated in the original comment, monitoring of <i>wetlands</i> is of high importance for BNDN. Wetlands are a well-known source of mercury accumulation, with conditions that favour the development of methylmercury (Zhang et al., 2023). Where developments cause changes to these wetlands, such as altered water levels, it can precipitate changes that cause increases in the discharge of mercury to downstream environments (Ullrich, Tanton, & Abdrashitova, 2001). For this reason, omitting wetlands from mercury monitoring is a glaring gap that must be addressed.

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Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>Denison has not analyzed for mercury as part of their baseline soil geochemistry assessments for the Project, especially in wetlands downstream of the Project. Mercury concentrations in wetland soils are sensitive to changes in water chemistry that can lead to increased mercury methylation. This is especially acute from increases in nutrients and sulphates which can active sulfate reducing microorganisms that methylate mercury (Liu, Li, &amp; Cai, 2012). Table 4 of Appendix 8e shows that the effluent discharged to Whitefish Lake will have mercury concentrations almost 5,700 times background concentrations. This dramatic increase in sulfate loading to Whitefish Lake may not exceed water quality objectives unto itself but may be sufficient to meaningfully change mercury biogeochemistry in downstream wetlands.</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned with the complete lack of assessment and analysis of baseline mercury concentrations and the potential changes to mercury cycling that could be induced by the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison undertake baseline studies of</p>	<p>This is a human health risk-based maximum permissible concentration. Mercury data presented throughout the draft EIS represents total mercury. Denison agrees to include methylmercury as part of the constituents monitored in fish throughout all project phases.</p> <p>Engagement on licensing requirements, such as the development of the environmental monitoring program and the associated monitoring regime will occur to support Project permitting and licensing efforts.</p>	<p>Ullrich, S. M., Tanton, T. W., &amp; Abdrashitova, S. A. (2001). Mercury in the aquatic environment: a review of factors affecting methylation. <i>Critical reviews in environmental science and technology</i>, 31(3), 241-293.</p> <p>Zhang, J., Li, C., Tang, W., Wu, M., Chen, M., He, H., ... &amp; Zhong, H. (2023). Mercury in wetlands over 60 years: research progress and emerging trends. <i>Science of the Total Environment</i>, 869, 161862.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed</b> Comments for regulators will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN requires active involvement in the mercury monitoring program design and implementation. BNDN's involvement must be formalized in a mutual benefits agreement between Denison and BNDN for the Wheeler River Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>mercury concentrations in soils, with a focus on baseline concentrations of mercury in organic wetland soils downstream of the project. Note that mercury sampling should sample total mercury and methylmercury in all analyses, as well as porewater total mercury and methylmercury. The study design and implementation should be undertaken collaboratively with BNDN.</p> <p>b) BNDN recommends that the CNSC requires Denison to undertake a baseline assessment of mercury in soils (with a focus on wetlands) prior to construction of the Project. This may be established as a condition of approval for the Project.</p> <p>c) Depending on the findings of the baseline mercury in soils and wetlands studies, the CNSC should include a condition of approval on the Project that requires Denison to monitor mercury biogeochemistry in the receiving environment over the life of mine.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>		

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19	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Section 3.5.6.2.1 Figures 7.6-10 and 7.6-11	<p>Comment #19: Figure 7.6-10 and 7.6-11 of the draft EIS show the results of Denison's modelling of uranium mobility and adsorption from the ore body following the decommissioning of the mine. The figures show that the model indicates that all dissolved uranium will be effectively removed from solution within a short distance of the orebody via adsorption to clays present in the bedrock. In Section 3.5.6.2.1 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS Denison notes that there is very limited literature available on uranium fate and transport, especially in similar environments to the Wheeler River Project. Denison's uranium speciation model relies almost entirely on a single academic article studying the partitioning of uranium in the alteration halo surrounding the Cigar Lake uranium deposit. Of very important note is that this paper is focused on the pre-mining environment at Cigar Lake and does not examine how uranium partitioning may be dramatically altered by ISR mining. Health Canada published a document on uranium in drinking water in 2017 literature review of uranium mobility, complexation and chemistry in groundwater which documents the widely varying</p>	<p>Denison's engagement with BNDN is consistent with the identification of BNDN as an Indigenous Community who has expressed an interest in the Project. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation (ERFN) and Kineepik Métis Local (KML) on details and updates to the decommissioning plan which includes mining area remediation plans and associated post-decommissioning modelling of groundwater from the remediated mining area, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these updates, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that updates to the decommissioning plan and groundwater modelling would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have an interest in the Project. As such, Denison will not be developing a process agreement with the BNDN to address concerns raised about pertaining to long-term groundwater quality for the Wheeler River Project. This comment is also applicable to other comments where the same request was made by the BNDN. The balance of this response pertains to groundwater quality and the numerical groundwater model presented in draft EIS will focus on the technical content of the concerns raised.</p> <p>Denison's groundwater SME and author of the modelling report (Appendix 7C) acknowledges that the modelling report did not include a lengthy discussion of uranium speciation and mobility. However, the reactive transport modelling done using the PHREEC geochemical code was carefully informed by relevant literature, and was certainly not restricted to consideration of one study (Cigar Lake). In Section 3.5.3 of Appendix 7C we reference important studies pertaining to uranium complexation in solution by carbonate species (Guillaumont et al. 2003; Gorman-Lewis</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed</b> – Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p> <p>Denison and BNDN must work together to develop an Accommodation Agreement (e.g. Impact Benefit Agreement or Mutual Benefit Agreement) in order to accommodate for the impacts of the Project on BNDNs rights, interests, and the environment. This will include provisions to monitor groundwater and surface water; and to keep consult with BNDN as an impacted First Nation.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed</b> – BNDN notes that Denison did not agree to bench scale testing as requested. BNDN further notes that the position Denison has taken around the appropriateness of water quality modelling has to be taken at Denison's word. BNDN</p>

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			<p>behaviour of uranium in groundwater depending on redox conditions, pH, pressure, and other ions available for complexation which may increase or decrease uranium mobility (Health Canada, 2017).</p> <p>Uranium will be present in extremely high concentrations (100 mg/l) in the restoration solution. Many other anions and cations which uranium is known to form complexes with will also be present in the solution at very high concentrations. The limited literature upon which Denison has developed their models to predict uranium mobility post-decommissioning is insufficient to confidently assert that the very concentrated restoration solution will behave as predicted. Uranium is a common groundwater contaminant around the world and is known to be stable in dissolved forms in groundwater in many locations. Furthermore, some studies have indicated that the effectiveness of adsorption as a mechanism for attenuation of uranium in solution is significantly overstated, especially in environments where there is competition from other ions, as there will be in the restoration</p>	<p>et al., 2008; Grenthe et al., 2020) and ternary complexes of uranium with calcium and magnesium and carbonates in solution (Dong and Brooks, 2006). These complexation reactions were added into the Project-specific PHREEQC database developed as part of the work presented in Appendix 7C. The database was updated to include solution-phase complexes of uranium in Guillaumont, 2003, which is a comprehensive summary of known reaction constants for uranium with dissolved-phase ligands. Further, the consideration of sorption of uranium-carbonate complexes to quartz, geothite and illite is shown in Appendix E of Appendix 7C, and relies on information from multiple publications. The reactive transport modelling was done using piChem (FELOW + PHREEQC) because of the ability of that approach to carefully consider speciation of uranium, and the potential interactions of uranium with other species in solution.</p> <p>The comment to which the BNDN refer in Section 3.5.6.2.1 of Appendix 7C is: "[t]o the best of our knowledge, there is very little information published about the solid-phase speciation of uranium and other constituents associated with ore bodies and the overlying and underlying rocks in the Athabasca basin". This is not speaking specifically to the speciation of uranium in the solid phase. Experimental work that provide information on solid-phase speciation include sequential extraction schemes and spectroscopic studies, such as recent work by Bayle et al., 2023 (<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37417589/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37417589/</a>). Research on the solid-phase speciation of uranium is not addressed in Health Canada (2017). As indicated, we were not able to find research pertaining to sequential extractions of spectroscopic studies of uranium in the solid phase for relevant materials/conditions. It is for this reason that we presented results of solid-phase uranium speciation in the available study by Percival 1989. It is acknowledged that</p>	<p>requires an opportunity to review the effluent quality models input and outputs, followed by a discussion between BNDN, Denison and the CNSC to have confidence that the modelling has been done in a manner that BNDN can trust that the findings are a reasonable forecast of what will occur when the mine operates. Future discussions on this matter should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>solution (Gandhi, Sampath, &amp; Maliyekkal, 2022).</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned that Denison has portrayed their groundwater contamination model in Appendix 7c with an inappropriate level of confidence given the level of uncertainty reasonably inferred from the lack of foundational literature relevant to the circumstances at Wheeler River and the well- understood complexity of uranium fate and transport in groundwater.</p> <p>It is not impossible to imagine that surface water contamination could eventually occur, especially given the exceptionally high concentrations of uranium in the restoration solution. By consenting to the Wheeler River Project, BNDN is supporting a process that will be irreversible once it commences and may be very difficult to manage should the underlying modeling assumption prove to be inaccurate by a significant margin. As a Nation whose members put a very high emphasis on the protection of groundwater resources, BNDN requires substantially greater reassurance through dialogue with Denison and further studies to have confidence that the Project</p>	<p>this study was for Cigar Lake. The relevance of the work for the Wheeler River Project is high.</p>	

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			<p>will not irreparably degrade the natural environment in our Ancestral Lands.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must develop a process agreement with BNDN to work through our concerns related to long-term groundwater contamination from the Project. This process agreement would lay out the pathway to obtaining BNDN consent for the Project through providing our Nation with confidence that the groundwater and surface water near to the project will not be irreparably contaminated. The process agreement will include additional studies and consultation activities with BNDN that Denison must undertake. The satisfaction of all terms in the process agreement would be defined by the signing of a Project Agreement between Denison and BNDN.</li> <li>BNDN recommends that Denison commit to funding bench-scale studies to validate the outputs from their FEFLOW and PHREEQC modelling. The bench-scale</li> </ul>		

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			studies should be undertaken by an independent academic. See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
20	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 7.6.2.1 Appendix 7C Section 4.6	<p>Comment #20: In Section 7.6.2.1 of the draft EIS, Denison mentions that they anticipate the outward migration of lixiviant as is observed at other ISR operations globally and has incorporated their assumed concentrations of metals and the extent of area affected by flare from the ISR operations. Section 4.6 of Appendix 7c states that the flare zone is expected to extend 11 to 13 m but have modelled with a "conservative 50 m flare zone.</p> <p>It is not clear how Denison derived their assessment that the flare zone would extend 11 to 13 m and that a 50 m flare zone is considered conservative for the purposes of modelling. BNDN requires further information to have confidence that the design is as conservative as the Proponent has suggested.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide further information on how the size of the area above the deposit affected by flare was calculated and how</li> </ul>	<p>Groundwater modelling and flow path analysis calibrated to field conditions have evaluated upward solution migration and demonstrated that the maximum height that injected fluids will migrate upwards from the ore zone during active mining is likely between 11 to 13 m (Section 2 of the draft EIS). For conservatism, a 50-m vertical zone above the deposit was assumed to be potentially disturbed by mining activities. Denison specified 50m flare threshold based on their commitment to maintain inward hydraulic gradients, and or adding extraction wells as necessary to limit the migration of the flare.</p> <p>With the engineered controls described above, flare is not anticipated above 11-13 m. However, the decision was made to assume 50% of the restored solution uniformly between 15 and 50 m above the mineralized zone because there will be a natural gradient from 100% restored solution to 0% restored solution (i.e., baseline conditions) over this distance. The uncertainty associated with this decision was addressed in the uncertainty analysis presented in Section 4.7 of Appendix 7C, where 100% restored solution was assumed to be present over the entire 50 m height above the ore zone. The results of the model under both scenarios was consistent: no water quality effects above groundwater screening criteria, apart from those that reflect natural conditions, in Whitefish Lake.</p> <p>Over the life of the Project, groundwater quantity and quality monitoring activities will be completed to assess the performance of various components of the Project associated with engineering mining designs and</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that the Proponent has not provided any reason that the flare is reasonably estimated to migrate 11 – 13m upwards. This number appears to be arbitrarily selected from BNDN's perspective. BNDN requests that the Proponent provide case studies from comparable sites (or other evidence) that justifies their estimated flare distance. Future discussions on this matter should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p>



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			<p>they determined that 50% restoration solution was determined as the appropriate concentration to base water quality modelling.</p> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>performance and infrastructure designs to protect groundwater. A detailed Groundwater Monitoring Plan (GWMP) will be prepared to support licensing. The GWMP will include an Excursion Contingency Plan, and measures for adaptive management. The GWMP will be informed by the understanding of existing groundwater conditions at the Project Area (Appendix 7-A), the reactive transport modelling of groundwater COPCs associated with the restored mining area (Appendix 7-C), and the commitments made within the Geology and Groundwater section of the EIS.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	
21	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Section 3.2.2.1	<p>Comment #21: Section 3.2.2.1 of Appendix 7C of the draft EIS describes the natural redox conditions in the ore zone as naturally reducing. The operation of the wellfield will result in the groundwater in the ore zone becoming oxidizing. Post decommissioning, the groundwater in the ore zone can be reasonably anticipated to return to baseline (reducing) redox conditions.</p> <p>BNDN notes that as redox conditions becoming increasingly reducing post closure, adsorption kinetics of contaminants adsorbed to clays could shift so that contaminants desorb from clays and are remobilized into solution. It is not clear to BNDN that the</p>	<p>Solution-phase concentrations of metals and uranium are what influence the desorption of these elements from clays over time; but the BNDN is correct that there may be hysteresis, or a kinetic component to desorption to equilibrium conditions. Re-establishment of reducing redox conditions - primarily through scavenging of residual oxidant with pyrite - with progressive movement of natural groundwater through the mining area in the Decommissioning period is anticipated to result in concentrations of metals and uranium at baseline conditions because the same mineral phases as are present now are expected to control the solubility of those elements. Secondary minerals may influence concentrations for a small number of constituents. In all cases, concentrations of these elements will not exceed those assumed in the model.</p> <p>In the model as presented, desorption from clays was taken into account for protons that had sorbed to chlorite in the mining area as a sensitivity analysis. The desorption of protons did not have an adverse effect on the water</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Similar to comment 19b, BNDN requests the opportunity to review the modelling work completed by Denison prior to considering this comment satisfactorily addressed. This comment can be addressed simultaneously with comment 19b. This discussion should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>evolution of redox geochemistry and its implication on adsorption kinetics has been adequately considered by Denison.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests further information on how increasingly reducing groundwater conditions post decommissioning may impact adsorption kinetics of contaminants expected to adsorb to clays.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>quality in Whitefish Lake. See draft EIS Appendix 7-C Sections 3.5.6.4 and 4.7.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	
22	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Section 3.4	<p>Comment #22: In Section 3.4 of Appendix 7C Denison reports that they have excluded colloids from their post- decommissioning geochemical modelling. Denison has also noted that colloids would serve to enhance mobility of contaminants and they could precipitate out of solution.</p> <p>BNDN is concerned that by excluding the precipitation of colloids with adsorbed</p>	<p>The authors acknowledged in Appendix 7C the potential for transport of COPCs in association with colloids was possible, and used previous research in a highly relevant system (Cigar Lake) to make the professional judgement that this process would not significantly alter the results of the numerical model. Colloid transport is not included routinely in reactive transport modelling because of the difficulty in a) accurately measuring the colloidal fraction in groundwater under existing conditions as the basis for the numerous assumptions that would need to made to include them in numerical modelling and b) the challenges with applying modelling approaches that have been</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN sees the lack of assessment of the risks from colloids as a significant gap in the modelling for the Project. The fact that it is difficult to model the impacts of colloids does not diminish the need to assess their potential impacts when they are a known risk to the receiving environment.</p> <p>It is essential that Denison work with our Nation within the context of a process agreement to develop mutually agreeable</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>contaminants as a pathway for contaminant transport, Denison has significantly underestimated the mobility of contaminants and the consequent risks to the receiving environment.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison prepare an additional geochemical model that considers the roles that colloids could potentially contribute to contaminant transport. The findings of this additional model (along with the other models) should be reviewed with BNDN.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>developed at the scale of regional models (e.g., Molnar et al., <a href="https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/109261315/109261203._Molnar._PFV.pdf">https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/109261315/109261203._Molnar._PFV.pdf</a>). Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final acceptable mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation, as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	<p>mitigation measures to monitor this risk to the receiving environment.</p>
23	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Section 4.0	<p>Comment #23: In Section 4.0 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS, Denison reports that the composition of restoration solution 1 and restoration solution 2 were derived from metallurgical testing. While this is likely the best, BNDN notes that the initial solution used</p>	<p>Further information on how the chemistry in restoration solutions #1 and #2 were derived and evidence providing confidence that the reflect conditions that are expected in the mining area with remediation of the mining area is provided in the Denison Feasibility Report (2023) and a summary is attached here as part of Denison's response to Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) information requirement #67.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires discussion with Denison and their SMEs to better understand their findings, especially the replicability and clarification on the suitability of the methodology chosen. This discussion should occur within the framework of a BNDN-Denison process agreement for the Project.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>in the geochemical modelling is enormously consequential in the accuracy of the modelling and require further confirmation and confidence that the restoration solutions are accurate to within a reasonable margin of error for the geochemical modelling.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide further information on how the chemistry in restoration solution 1 and restoration solution 2 were derived and any evidence they can provide that gives them confidence that these solutions are an accurate reflection of what will be observed in the wellfield.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.	
24	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C	Comment #24: BNDN notes that Denison has not provided any discussion on the extent to which the lixiviant and the solution used to flush the wellfield at the end of	In the modelling presented in Appendix 7-C, the mining area is assumed to span the entirety of the depth of the paleoweathered zone within the area of the freeze wall, as described in Section 4.6. Thus, in the Decommissioning period, the water quality in that entire portion of the	<b>Provisionally Addressed.</b> BNDN understands the modelling assumptions and would accept them assuming that the other unaddressed

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>operations will interact with the underlying paleo weathered bedrock. BNDN notes that it is possible that there are mineral phases within the paleo weathered bedrock that are also readily soluble when exposed to the lixiviant. While BNDN recognizes that the paleo weathered bedrock has a low permeability, it is unclear to BNDN as to whether the lixiviant will contribute to mobilization of contaminants from the paleo weathered bedrock that requires consideration in the post-decommissioning groundwater model.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide any available information on how the bedrock may be altered (through dissolution of soluble mineral phases) by the lixiviant and the flushing of the wellfield during decommissioning, and whether this has been factored into their post-decommissioning groundwater model.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long</p>	<p>paleoweathered zone was assumed to be equivalent to that of the "restored solution". This reflects, as the BNDN notes, the dissolution of soluble minerals associated with the paleoweathered zone due to interaction with the mining solutions. This assumption is conservative because the whole of the paleoweathered zone does not have the uranium mineralization of the ore zone, nor the concentrations of other COPC-containing mineral phases.</p> <p>Some alteration of the clays is expected, as is some bleaching (loss of iron-rich minerals); however, there is uncertainty with respect to the specific changes in the nature of the paleoweathered zone that have continued to be explored by Denison through experimental/metallurgical work. The decision was made in the numeric modelling to treat the portion of the paleoweathered zone within the freeze as geochemically unreactive - meaning that no sorption to clays or desorption from clays (with the exception of chlorite in the "pH tail" scenario (Section 3.5.6.4) was assumed for this zone. Thus, sorption of COPCs to clays in the paleoweathered zone within the numeric model occurred only outside of the freeze wall footprint, where the minerals will not have been exposed to mining solutions and will not have been altered.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	<p>comments regarding modeling assumptions are addressed.</p> <p>Note that this does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			term groundwater contamination from the Project.  See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
25	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Section 5.2.2	<p>Comment #25: In section 5.2.2 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS Denison reports the assumptions built into their post-decommissioning groundwater modelling. BNDN notes that Denison has assumed that adsorption reaction sites are assumed to be available uniformly throughout the subsurface parameter zones. The presence of sufficient adsorption sites is a primary variable which determines the outcomes of the groundwater modelling, as adsorption of ions out of solution is the primary means by which contaminant transport is attenuated in Denison's modelling. BNDN is concerned that the presence of a variable that is so consequential to the findings of the model is based primarily on assumptions with limited information to base the assumptions upon.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide justification for the assumption that adsorption sites will be uniformly</li> </ul>	<p>We note the uncertainty assessment in the draft EIS tests conditions where less sorption sites are available (1/10th of the characterized amount). Further, refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final acceptable mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation, as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for acceptance. In this case the DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances. Denison is committed to continue to engage with Indigenous Nations and communities to solicit input.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that should the assumptions turn out to be incorrect (for example, contaminants in solution are not effectively removed from solution via adsorption), then it will be extremely challenging for Denison to prevent the migration of contaminants in the restored solution. BNDN requires additional understanding of the modelling assumptions (as discussed above) and agreement on potential mitigation measures should attenuation of contaminants through adsorption occur at much lower rates than anticipated.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>available throughout the sub-surface parameter zones. BNDN requests that Denison provide information on how they estimated the extent to which adsorption sites are already saturated prior to mining.</p> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>		
26	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 7C Table 3-10	<p>Comment #26: Table 3-10 of Appendix 7c of the draft EIS shows the expected adsorbing mineral properties of the mineral phases to which contaminants are expected to adsorb out of solution. BNDN notes that the lixiviant and restoration solution could affect the ability of adsorption. In particular, the clays immediately surrounding the orebody are within the freeze wall and will be directly exposed to the lixiviant during operations, which may impact the clay's ability to adsorb contaminants out of solution.</p> <p>BNDN notes that the clays immediately surrounding the</p>	<p>Please see Denison's response above to BNDN Comment #24. Sorbing phases including clays were excluded from the mining area in the numeric model. Sorption occurs only to materials outside of the mining area that are not exposed to, and thus not altered by interaction with the mining solutions.</p> <p>Please refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.</p>	<p><b>Provisionally Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN understands the modelling assumptions and would accept them assuming that the other unaddressed comments regarding modeling assumptions are addressed.</p> <p>Note that this does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>orebody may be soluble in the presence of the lixiviant or may be altered to have a lower capacity to adsorb metals. BNDN requires further information from Denison to have confidence that the clay phases which play a crucial role in contaminant attenuation will not have their adsorptive capacity impacted by the operation of the wellfield.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison provide available information on whether clay mineral phases are anticipated to dissolve through the ISR mining process, and whether the restoration solution will impact the ability of clays to effectively adsorb contaminants.</li> </ul> <p>This item would be best addressed and resolved with BNDN through the process agreement to address BNDN's concerns related to long term groundwater contamination from the Project.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>		
27	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 1.1.1	Comment #26: In Section 1.1.1 of the Draft EIS, Denison notes that "the Gryphon deposit is not	Denison acknowledges that, if development of the Gryphon deposit as an underground mine is proposed in the future, this would require additional regulatory review	<b>Addressed</b> BNDN notes that the acknowledgement addressed the concern specific to this



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>amenable to ISR mining and, accordingly, is not included in the EIS". Denison has previously reported that the Gryphon deposit has nearly as much uranium as the Phoenix deposit. While the Gryphon deposit is not amenable to ISR, it is potentially still an economic resource which Denison may wish to mine.</p> <p>While the Gryphon deposit is not in scope for this environmental assessment, BNDN expects to be kept informed of future potential mining activities on the Wheeler River Project which Denison may be considering, including additional exploration on the Property, as future activities on the Property will also have impacts on our Treaty and aboriginal rights and interests.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the potential longer term mining activities at the Wheeler River project beyond the Phoenix deposit, BNDN requests that any project agreement between BNDN and Denison include terms for ongoing dialogue related to future exploration and project development activities at the Wheeler River Project and at</li> </ul>	and approval as well as engagement with Indigenous Communities of Interest. Please also refer to the first part of Denison's response to BNDN comment #19 in regard to BNDN's suggestion of a process agreement.	comment but does not address the need for a process agreement for the entirety of the Wheeler River Project with our Nation.

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			all Denison Projects on BNDN Ancestral Lands.  See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
28	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.3.3.1.3	<p>Comment #28: In Section 2.3.3.1.3 of the draft EIS Denison describes the proposed decontamination, demolition and disposal activities at the Project. BNDN notes that Denison has described a detailed process for decommissioning the injection and recovery wells but has not described how the freeze wells will be decommissioned. BNDN notes that the freeze well holes may serve as preferential pathways for contaminated groundwater movement. Given the proximity of freeze wells to the orebody and the number of freeze wells proposed to be drilled, proper closure of freeze wells is also important for protection water quality long term.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN request that Denison clarify the process by which they will decommission the freeze wells.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison decommission the freeze wells using the same process as is proposed for the decommissioning of the injection and recovery wells.</p>	The freeze holes will be decommissioned in the same manner as the ISR wellfield injection and recovery wells. All wells once decommissioned will undergo a mechanical integrity and leak off test prior to being grouted and sealed internally preventing interaction of surface water from the underlying aquifer at the mineralized depth. The freeze pipes, which will be located inside the freeze holes, will simply be unthreaded and removed from site after the freeze wall is no longer required.	<b>Addressed</b> , pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
29	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.3.3.1.3	<p>Comment #29: Denison describes the thawing of the freeze wall as part of the decommissioning of the mine. BNDN notes that water expands when frozen and could potentially be capable of expanding pre-existing joints and fractures within the host rock. BNDN is concerned that the thawing of the freeze wall could lead to expanded joints and fractures which would allow for far more rapid contaminant transport away from the ore body and restoration solution than is modelled in the post-decommissioning groundwater model.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request that Denison provide evidence from academic literature or other mine sites employing freeze wall technology to determine the extent the freeze wall could expands joints and fractures within the rock once thawed, including at unconformities or other pre-existing structural weaknesses within the host rock.</li> </ul>	Please refer to Attachment IR-10 for information on the freeze wall integrity and basis for the design, which relies on site field data and lived experience from several existing Saskatchewan mining operations.	<b>Addressed</b> , pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
30	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Figure 2.2-15 Section 2.2.3	<p>Comment #30: Denison notes that they have made the conservative assumption that no water would be recycled as mining solution as part of their water balance calculations. BNDN agrees that this conservative assumption is appropriate for assessment of potential impacts of the Project. While this assumption is appropriate for the environmental assessment, BNDN wishes to understand the proportion of industrial wastewater that may be recycled on site and any commitments Denison is willing to make regarding continual refinement of the water treatment process to increase the proportion of water that is recycled.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to continual refinement of the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWWTP) treatment process to maximize the amount of water that is recycled to the deposit.</p> <p>b) BNDN recommends that the Crown include a condition of approval for the project regarding</p>	<p>The EIS carried forward two options for the source of freshwater: 1) surface water and 2) groundwater. This freshwater will meet all Project needs for potable water, drilling, and process water and allow Denison to obtain the water from groundwater wells or from the surface water (Whitefish lake). The effluent quality and volume predictions in the EIS provide a bounding scenario of the basis of the assessment of Project effects. Denison is undertaking a sequential EA and licensing process under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. For context, the EA process for a Project under CEAA 2012 and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act is long and complex. As such, the inputs and outputs (including IWWTP water recycle volumes and effluent quality) developed for the IWWTP were necessary and determined by Denison's Project engineers early in the EA process to allow for the EIS biophysical and human assessments to advance. Detailed design information on the IWWTP, including recycle volumes, were not available, which is standard for engineering and EA sequencing for major projects. Denison intends to continue to refine effluent quality and volume predictions as part of the BATEA assessment and licensing phase of the Project. The predictions provided in the EIS will continue to bound the assessment and provide a conservative representation of risk to human health and the environment. Further, more detailed information regarding the design and operation of the IWWTP and water management infrastructure (including discharge rates, recycle rates among many other things), as informed in part by the BATEA assessment, will be included with Denison's application for the license to operate which will provide opportunity for review and comment by Interested Parties. For reference, the IWWTP</p>	<p><b>Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>continual improvement of water treatment to maximize recycling.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that Denison share available information on the proportion of water that they currently anticipate being able to recycle.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>	would be commissioned prior to the Operation phase as no discharge of treated effluent would occur until that time.	
31	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Figure 2.2-15 Section 2.2.3.2	<p>Comment #31: In Section 2.2.3.2 and Figure 2.2-15 of the draft EIS, Denison describes their water balance for the project and anticipated water needs to operate the ISR wellfield.</p> <p>BNDN notes that the EIS does not describe how Denison derived their estimate for the quantity of water required to operate the ISR wellfield. BNDN is concerned that the volume of water required to operate the wellfield may be substantially greater than is estimated in the draft EIS. Utilizing greater volumes of water in the wellfield would have cascading effects throughout the water balance, including greater demand on the IWWTP, greater storage</p>	<p>a) Based on Denison's site-specific drilling, development, and pumping requirements over several years of exploration activities, the wellfield drilling water estimates presented in the EIS water balances are achievable. Denison's recently released feasibility study reaffirms the EIS assumptions related to water use and water recycle abilities.</p> <p>b) A key aspect of Denison's management system will be ongoing evaluation of the Project's performance compared to EIS predictions as well as continual improvement and adaptive management, as required. Should water consumption needs fall below those outlined in the EIS, Denison will follow all required permitting, licensing, and engagement with Indigenous nations and communities to describe and assess what those contingency measures would be.</p> <p>c) The near-field analysis (Section 8.2.4.2.3) identified that under all flow regime scenarios (i.e., 7Q10, monthly low, and monthly average), constituents are expected to be well mixed within Whitefish Lake (LA-5) and below the</p>	<p><b>a. Addressed</b></p> <p><b>b. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>c. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed.</b> Denison has not provided information on the implications of operating the wellfield at substantially higher pressures than currently anticipated. This is important as ISR technology for ore extraction is novel in the Athabasca Basin and higher pressures than currently modeled may be required to achieve the uranium recovery rates anticipated by the Proponent.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>volumes required in the process water storage pond, greater UBS holding pond capacity and greater volumes of effluent discharge to Whitefish Lake. BNDN is concerned with the potential cascading risks associated with an inaccurate assessment of the volume of water required to operate the ISR wellfield.</p> <p>BNDN also wishes to understand whether it is possible that Denison will be required to operate the wellfields at a higher pressure, even if only temporarily. BNDN notes that operating wells at higher pressure come with additional workplace and environmental hazards, especially when dealing with a strongly acidic lixiviant.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) To demonstrate that Denison has not significantly underestimated the volume of water required to operate the wellfield, BNDN requests that Denison provide evidence that the volume of water required to operate the wellfield is accurate. This should include an assessment of their level of confidence they have in their estimated water consumption.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison provide BNDN with information on</p>	<p>most restrictive criteria for the protection of aquatic life (Table 8.2-10; Appendix 8-C and Appendix 8-D). Additionally, the extent of the mixing zone in Whitefish Lake is estimated to be less than 5 m under all flow scenarios assessed (Table 8.2-11). Denison will comply with the Water Security Agency's Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones and Denison would update modeling if the base assumptions associated with the discharge of treated effluent to Whitefish Lake were changed, as needed.</p> <p>d) Wellfield pressures were described in the draft EIS, Sections 2.2.1.4.2 and 2.2.1.4.3. In terms of pressures, ISR mining is planned at nominal pressures of 100 psi and intermittent pressures of up to 250 psi.</p>	<p>Further discussions on this matter should be done within the terms set out in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN for the Wheeler River Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>potential contingency measures (such as constructing additional process water pond capacity) should their estimated water consumption be underestimated</p> <p>c) Denison must commit to updating their mixing zone assessment should they find it necessary to discharge greater quantities of effluent to Whitefish Lake than is estimated in the draft EIS.</p> <p>d) Denison must document the implications of operating the wellfield at a substantially higher pressure than currently expected. See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>		
32	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Table 2.3-3	<p>Comment #32: Table 2.3-3 of the draft EIS shows Denison's proposed mining area decommissioning objectives, which are the groundwater quality objectives for the residual water in the ore zone following the flushing of the system during mine decommissioning. BNDN is surprised to see that relatively high concentrations of metals are expected to remain in the restoration solution as a final objective, such as 100 mg/l uranium and 2 mg/l cobalt, amongst many other metals.</p>	<p>Groundwater remediation targets provided in the draft EIS were derived from metallurgical test results completed from 2017 to 2021 with over 125 kg of material recovered from Phoenix deposit that underwent leaching and neutralization test work (see response to IR-67). In 2022 and 2023, metallurgical test work continued to further optimize remediation and strategies and confirm test work results presented in the draft EIS. It is expected that metallurgical test work will continue in the future to further optimize remediation targets, and this will be advanced through updates to the Decommissioning Plan. The Feasibility Field Test (FFT) provided additional confirmation that pH target and remediation targets could be met. Data gathered during the neutralization phase of the FFT provide confidence that groundwater targets proposed in the draft EIS can be met technically and</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN does not see it as acceptable to postpone the commitment to more stringent residual water in the ore zone to later permitting stages. Denison did not respond to our request for additional contextual information on the additional costs to further reduce metals concentrations in the residual solution. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates our request to address these concerns through a</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>BNDN notes that potential risks to groundwater and surface water could be dramatically reduced through more stringent mining area decommissioning objectives. It is also feasible that processing efficiencies and high uranium prices may allow for substantially lower concentrations of uranium to be mined economically. The long-term contamination of groundwater from the high concentration of metals in the restoration solution is one of BNDN's primary concerns with the Wheeler River Project, and BNDN would strongly prefer that Denison strive to minimize the residual contamination remaining in groundwater following decommissioning to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide documentation that estimates the time, efforts and costs associated with reducing concentrations of metals in the restoration solution by 1 order of magnitude and 2 orders of magnitude. Note that these calculations should include costs that could be recovered by processing subeconomic UBS.</p>	<p>economically. Based on laboratory testing and the results of the 2022 field testing, subsurface remediation is planned to consist of rinsing the ore zone with 35 pore volumes of fresh water, slowly raising the pH and then pumping about 75 pore volumes of basic solution through the same portion of the ore zone. This basic solution will in effect further raise the pH to a level that impedes further leaching of the deposit and reduces aqueous concentrations of contaminants of concern to below their environmental target levels.</p> <p>Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done as the Project progresses through updates to the Decommissioning Plan; nevertheless, the objectives as they may evolve will be bound by the objectives evaluated in the EIS, which as shown are protective of aquatic biota in Whitefish Lake. The final mining area decommissioning objectives will be developed prior to initiation of groundwater remediation as part of the Detailed Decommissioning Plan (DDP). Prior to executing decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit the DDP to regulators for approval. The DDP would reflect input that will be solicited from Indigenous Nations and communities and others prior to its submission and would also be informed by conditions on the ground at the site at that time, operational experience that has been gained and the regulatory landscape at that time. As is highlighted above, the decommissioning plan will evolve over time and the plan will become more refined as the Project advances.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part</p>	<p>process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement for the Project.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates the request for the comparative analysis of reasonably achievable concentrations of uranium in the residual water.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>b) BNDN requests that Denison work with BNDN through terms defined in a BNDN project agreement to establish achievable decommissioning objectives that would be satisfactory to BNDN.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the Crown place a condition of approval upon the Wheeler River Project that Denison is required to work with BNDN to establish mutually agreeable mining area decommissioning objectives.</p> <p>d) BNDN requests that Denison undertake a study of ISR operations elsewhere in the world to determine the lowest concentrations of UBS that could be processed economically utilizing industry best practices and commit to exceeding global standards.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>	<p>of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p>	
33	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.2.2.2 Figure 2.2-18	Comment #33: In Figure 2.2-18 of the draft EIS, Denison shows the proposed design of the double composite liner system for the ponds on site and the uranium bearing solution (UBS) holding	As outlined in draft EIS Section 2.2.2.2.2, Denison will evaluate options to use tanks instead of holding area as engineering advances. It is also important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a	<b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to store UBS in tanks instead of open air storage. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>area. BNDN notes that the risks associated with temporary storage of UBS is much greater than other contact water on site which is proposed to be stored in a similar means. As such, BNDN is concerned that the proposed UBS holding area does not have adequate leak detection given the additional risk associated with the UBS relative to contact water on site. BNDN also notes that open air storage of UBS presents the risk of incidental interactions with wildlife near to the project (such as birds), which would potentially be acutely toxic.</p> <p>BNDN is also concerned that there is no leak detection system below the secondary HDPE geomembrane and geosynthetic clay liner. Should the secondary containment layers also become compromised, Denison does not have a system planned to detect this.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to storing UBS in appropriate tanks as opposed to open air storage.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison include a leak detection pipe in the prepared subgrade below the secondary containment as well as between the primary and</p>	<p>careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included in Management System programs / plans including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan.</p>	<p>protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to incorporate a leak detection system into UBS storage. BNDN reiterates this request and recommends that it be addressed within the protocols established in a process agreement between Denison and BNDN.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			secondary containment layers. BNDN also requests that the prepared subgrade be engineered to facilitate maximum utility of the leak detection below the secondary containment. See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
34	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Figure 2.3-1	<p>Comment #34: Denison shows an additional ore body to the Southwest of Phase 5. Denison has not included this additional ore body in the mine plan in the draft EIS and has not discussed whether they have intentions to mine this ore body or undertaking a project change at a later date to include this additional ore body.</p> <p>It is unclear whether this additional ore body has any implications for the long-term groundwater quality modelling either through the additional orebody altering anticipated groundwater chemistry, or the restoration solution dissolving metals in the additional orebody increasing overall metal loading. Given the probable difference in groundwater and mineral geochemistry in the additional orebody relative to the overlying sandstone and underlying basement rock, there is likely to be interaction between the restored</p>	<p>a) and b) The small deposit to the SW of Phase 5 is amenable to ISR but is of lower grade than the areas targeted in mining phases 1 through 5 and mining of that low grade areas is not being considered at this time. It is noted that The Project mining and milling capacity will be bound by the assumptions in the EIS, which includes a production rate higher than the current reserves. The Project would be reviewed to determine what if any changes to the design basis would be anticipated and then what permitting would be required, should additional mining beyond what is contemplate by the EA be considered in the future.</p> <p>c) The additional modelling recommended by the review comment is unnecessary at this time. The low grade area is not considered in the mine plan at this time. Should that change, as noted above, the Project would be reviewed to determine what if any changes to the design basis would be anticipated and then what permitting would be required. Such modeling as envisioned by the review comment would be done that time as may be required. Hydrogeological investigations have been ongoing in the field and in laboratories since 2014. Packer, open hole, and cross hole tests have been completed in conjunction with exploration drilling programs. As well, permeability tests have been completed on sections of available competent core within the Phoenix deposit. Open hole water level</p>	Addressed

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>solution and the additional orebody post-closure.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison clarify whether they are considering adding the additional orebody to the southwest of Phase 5 into the mine plan, including clarifying whether the additional ore body is amenable to ISR mining.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison clarify what the anticipated permitting associated with the additional ore body would be.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the post-decommissioning groundwater modelling for the Project include interactions between the additional ore body and the restoration solution to understand if the ore body poses a risk of additional metal loading to groundwater.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>surveys have been completed across the site in 2015, 2017, 2021 and 2022. Data gathered during the field tests have been utilized for both the EA groundwater model as well as the mining model. The primary direction of groundwater flow at depth is to the north east, which means restored solutions will move away from the small deposit to the SW. Additionally, as noted in the response to BNDN Comment #32, the restored solution will be basic and will further raise the pH to a level that impedes further leaching of the deposit and reduces aqueous concentrations of contaminants of concern to below their environmental target levels.</p>	
35	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.1.3 Section 7.6.2.1	<p>Comment #35: Denison intends to use a freeze wall as tertiary containment for the operation of the wellfield during operations. In general, BNDN is supportive of this containment measure but requires further information to have</p>	<p>a) Please refer to Attachment IR-10 for information on the freeze wall integrity and basis for the design, which relies on site field data and lived experience from several existing Saskatchewan mining operations.</p> <p>b) The following explains how the continuous freeze wall will be monitored. The alignment of the freeze wall is located 25 m offset from the lateral extent of the</p>	<p><b>a. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Addressed</b>, pending future engagement on environmental matters with BNDN</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>confidence that the freeze walls will operate as designed. In particular, BNDN notes that while the freeze wall will be continuous from the ground surface all the way into the basement rocks underlying the orebody, the freeze wall is by far the most consequential immediately around the ore body itself. The orebody is approximately 400 m below the ground surface (where the earth would be significantly warmer) and the lixiviant is expected to be at least 10 degrees warmer than the surrounding groundwater would be. Considering that the cold brine will need to be injected nearly half a kilometer into the earth where warm lixiviant will be injected into the wellfield, BNDN is concerned that the freeze wall may be ineffective in and around the ore body where it is required. Furthermore, BNDN is concerned that the monitoring system for assessing the stability of the freeze wall may not adequately detect the continuity of the freeze wall at depth. As such, BNDN is concerned that the freeze wall may be ineffective and in fact obscure our ability to recognize contamination of the surrounding groundwater from the freeze wall operating ineffectively.</p>	<p>recoverable ore and the freeze wall will grow in thickness both towards the ore and away from the ore. The freeze wall will solidify all liquid porewater and develop into a contiguous impermeable barrier many metres thick. Ground temperature monitoring will be installed through a series of continuous fiberoptic temperature and pressure wells from surface to the depth of impermeable basement rock below the unconformity. Such monitoring wells/systems will be installed on both the ore (inside) and non-ore (outside) sides of the freeze wall to confirm the thickness of frozen ground. There will be sufficient operational controls in place to verify that the freeze plant is operating, to measure the temperature in the ore zone, and to measure the temperature on opposite sides (inside and outside) of the freeze wall so that early detection of any upset conditions can be identified and addressed. Options for addressing issues include: lowering the temperature of the freeze system to draw more heat out; increasing the freeze coolant flow rates in freeze wells nearer to active ISR cells; and/or to adaptively manage the lixiviant injection and recovery rates in cells located nearest to the freeze wall.</p> <p>c) Regarding the monitoring program: A framework for the groundwater monitoring plan was provided in Section 7.8.2 of the draft EIS and is commensurate with the level of development of the Project. Further details regarding the Environmental Management Program and its associated plans (of which the groundwater monitoring plan is one) will be developed later in 2023 and 2024 as part of the licensing process. Engagement on licensing requirements, including on program and plan documentation will occur at that time.</p> <p>d) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project,</p>	<p>through a process agreement and eventual mutual benefits agreement.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed</b>, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN into the development and implementation of the monitoring plan, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>d. Not Addressed</b>, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN into the development and implementation of the monitoring plan, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide information to demonstrate that the freeze wall will in fact be frozen in and around the ore body. If there is any doubt that the freeze wall will indeed be frozen around the ore body, Denison should describe further measures they can undertake to ensure that the freeze wall is frozen as intended around the ore body.</p> <p>b) Denison must provide BNDN with further information on how they will monitor the performance and continuity of the freeze wall.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests further information on the proposed groundwater monitoring program around the wellfield.</p> <p>d) BNDN requests the opportunity to review the groundwater monitoring plan and to review groundwater monitoring data as part of a BNDN-Denison environmental committee developed through a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on monitoring regimes, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project, such as BNDN. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p>	
36	BNDN	Section 2.9.1.3.1	Comment #36: Denison documents their conceptual level	As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project,	<b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN requires a commitment from Denison to include BNDN

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
	(February 28, 2023)		<p>environmental protection program, including several proposed management and monitoring plans which they will develop to manage operations on site.</p> <p>The environmental protection measures which Denison undertakes at the Project site are highly consequential to BNDN, and BNDN requires the opportunity to provide our knowledge and input into environmental protection measures developed for activities within our Ancestral Lands.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to involving BNDN in the development, review and approval of all environmental monitoring plans developed for the Project. Details of BNDN involvement in the development of environmental monitoring plans should be undertaken within an Environmental Committee, with specific terms defined within a BNDN-Denison Project Agreement for the Wheeler River Project</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the project which states the requirement for Denison to consult with BNDN on all environmental management and monitoring plans for the project.</p>	<p>Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate separate funding for BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>	<p>into the development and implementation of all project environmental management and monitoring plans, which should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed,</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).  [Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]		
37	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 7.6.2.3	<p>Comment #37: In Section 7.6.2.3 of the draft EIS and the geology and groundwater summary table in Appendix 16A, Denison states that they expect no residual effects to groundwater quality during the operations, decommissioning or future centuries period of the Project. Denison has also not placed a significance determination on the impacts to groundwater quality based on the findings of the draft EIS due to groundwater being considered an intermediate VC.</p> <p>BNDN disagrees with both the residual effects assessment and the fact that groundwater quality has been assessed solely as an intermediate VC. The protection of groundwater resources is highly important to BNDN. Our members place immense value on clean spring water and the protection of groundwater more generally. The advancement of the Wheeler River Project will permanently impair groundwater resources in and around the Wheeler River Project.</p>	<p>The Groundwater Quality VC was carried through the EIS as an intermediate VC. The shallow and deeper groundwaters are not considered to be a potable water source currently nor in the future within the LSA (defined in Section 7.1.3.1), as detailed in Section 7.1.1.1. Within the LSA, the Groundwater VC was considered an intermediate VC as it is a pathway to the aquatic environment and considered in the future centuries period in Section 8. It is also important to note that the mining area is 400 m below surface and the existing/baseline groundwater quality in the ore zone area is poor (e.g., high in iron and uranium compared to shallower groundwater; Figure 7.3-11). Section 7.6 describes the residual effects evaluation for geology and groundwater, including for the life of mine (0 to 38 years) and the future centuries period. It is Denison's opinion that the approach associated with evaluating Project effects to groundwater quality is appropriate and reasonable for the reasons presented in the draft EIS.</p> <p>Denison continues to work with its Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a community specific monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs, in an agreed-upon fashion. One of the key goals of such collaboration with each Indigenous nation will be to provide the information necessary to the communities such that it provides confidence to community members</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates our request to carry through groundwater as a receptor VC, as groundwater resources are highly culturally and spiritually important to our Nation.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b> BNDN reiterates our request to carry through groundwater as a receptor VC into the future centuries period, as groundwater resources are highly culturally and spiritually important to our Nation.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>The contamination of groundwater at the Project will have a significant impact on our members' connection to the land and ability to exercise our Treaty and Aboriginal rights. BNDN see the limited interpretation of residual effects and the lack of inclusion of groundwater quality as a receptor VC as a significant oversight in the assessment of impacts of the Project on the environment and BNDN Treaty and Aboriginal rights. This must be corrected to properly assess the Project and thus ensure that project impacts are appropriately mitigated and accommodated.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must apply a significant determination to groundwater quality and quantity for all projects phases, including the future centuries period. The significance determination must be developed following consultation and engagement with BNDN.</p> <p>b) Denison must re-evaluate the residual effects of the project on groundwater quality including the future centuries period. This re-evaluation must be following consultation and engagement with BNDN.</p>	<p>regarding the impacts from the Project to the aspects of the environment which matter the most to them. Denison is committed to continual improvement in relation to such collaborative monitoring programs, in order to adapt to areas of interest which can change over time. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous First Nations who may have interest in the Project.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>c) BNDN requests that the CNSC work with our Nation to understand the significant impacts that the permanent contamination of groundwater caused by the project will have on our Treaty and Aboriginal rights.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>		
38	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 7.8.2	<p>Comment #38: Section 7.8.2 of the draft EIS documents the groundwater monitoring proposed for the surface facilities and the ISR recovery area. It also describes a conceptual excursion contingency plan wherein Denison has proposed their plans to manage situations where groundwater contamination occurs beyond what is predicted in the EIS. BNDN notes that Section 7.8.2 lacks information on the involvement of Indigenous Nations related to groundwater monitoring.</p> <p>As stated previously, BNDN is highly concerned with the level of impact the Project will have on groundwater resources. As such BNDN requires Denison to communicate excursions of</p>	<p>Denison agrees with BNDN's comment that groundwater monitoring will be an important component of the Project as it advances.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing engagement with our Nation on groundwater monitoring through a process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>c. Not Addressed.</b> Comments for regulators are not addressed and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>groundwater and the consequent management of excursions to our Nation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison revise Section 7.8.2 to include Indigenous engagement and input for groundwater monitoring results and the management of observed groundwater excursions. The manner in which Denison engages BNDN on groundwater monitoring and management will likely occur through an Environmental Committee, which should be defined in a BNDN-Denison Project Agreement.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the Project that clarifies that Denison is required to engage with impacted Indigenous Nations such as BNDN on groundwater monitoring and management.</p> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>	<p>of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>	
39	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 8D	Comment #39: In Appendix 8d, Denison documents their baseline aquatics studies undertaken for the	Denison appreciates and acknowledges the recommendation. At this time Denison believes suitable candidate references areas are available upstream of the	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN has reasonably requested that Denison work with our Nation in identifying</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>Wheeler River EIS. Denison has included some lakes and rivers upstream of the Project as background sites for understanding project impacts to the aquatic environment. BNDN notes that there are many additional sites throughout our Ancestral Lands which would benefit from ongoing aquatic monitoring and would be potentially suitable for the Project as background sampling sites.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison work with our Nation to identify potential additional background sampling sites within our Ancestral Lands for aquatic monitoring for the life of Project. The details of such should be defined in the BNDN-Denison project agreement.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>Project site in areas located in the same drainage system / watershed. While proximity to the Project is only one of many considerations for suitable reference area selection in this case the ability to be able to compare relevant measurement endpoints between "reference" vs "potentially influence" sampling locations where the primary difference between locations is the point source discharge is compelling rationale. Additionally, data that have been collected from upstream areas as part of baseline programs provides the opportunity to implement aquatic monitoring according to a BACI design which is a powerful means by which to assess and isolate potential mine related effects from natural environmental change. Given the above, Denison does not see that there is rationale for investigating lakes over a regional extent to establish reference areas for aquatic monitoring as is suggested.</p>	<p>background sampling sites. It is expected that such sites could be chosen in such a way that aligns with Denison's goals of obtaining reference information and implementing a BACI design for ongoing monitoring. The outright refusal of even discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p>
40	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.1.4.2	<p>Comment #40: In Section 2.2.1.4.2 of the Draft EIS Denison discusses the operation of the wellfield during the operations phase of the mine. BNDN notes that many of the details in this section are conceptual in nature and thus could require significant refinements in design to achieve</p>	<p>a) It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Detailed ISR mining-related information needed to support licensing and permitting has not been included in the EIS; it will be provided to regulators as part of permitting and licensing. For the EIS, an initial understanding of the mine plan and mining area remediation was needed to initiate the assessment of migration of constituents of potential concern in</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN note that Denison has not provided BNDN with the information that the Nation requested regarding changes in chemical composition of the lixiviant (other than changes in acid concentrations). BNDN reiterates the request for additional information.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>the desired recovery consistently throughout the life of mine.</p> <p>Amongst other concerns related to operations of the ISR wellfield, BNDN is concerned that Denison may alter the chemical composition of the lixiviant used in the ISR wellfield which could cause inadequately understood changes in potential effects of the Project to the environment. These effects could include significant changes to the final restorative solution at the end of mine life or significant changes in the treatment requirements for the IWWTP that impact the ability of Denison to achieve effluent quality criteria for significant periods of time.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Denison provide information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The likelihood of the chemical composition of the lixiviant changing throughout the life of project</li> <li>Potential changes to the lixiviant composition</li> <li>The implications for long term groundwater quality and effluent treatment from changes in lixiviant chemistry</li> </ul> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison commit to ongoing</p>	<p>groundwater out of this area in the post-decommissioning period. The findings and conclusions of the EIS were also used, in turn, to inform and bound the engineering and feasibility work. As part of the metallurgical test program, over 125kg of core from the Phoenix deposit has been leached in a variety of settings, including bottle rolls, column tests, and intact core tests. This has helped to predict concentrations of both the lixiviant as well as the production solutions. The lixiviant (mining solution) concentrations will vary depending on each individual well production profile. To ensure reagent consumption is effective and efficient it will be varied during the life of each well dependent on its characteristics. The initial acidification of the well requires a lower acid content to ensure the formation does not plug due to precipitation, whereas during periods of high production the well can accept a higher acid concentration. Towards the end of the recovery curve, the uranium is more difficult to access and therefore the strength of the acid or the flow rate to the well need to be optimized to ensure efficient use of reagents. It is expected that the lixiviant concentrations will vary between 0-60 g/L H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, and 0-20g/L H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and will be situationally dependent. There is also the capability to add Fe<sub>2</sub>(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>3</sub>, however it is not expected that this will be required in significant concentration due to the natural abundance of iron in the deposit.</p> <p>b) Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison's response on a Project agreement.</p>	<p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison has thus far denied BNDN's reasonable request for a process agreement and eventual project agreement despite the projects impacts to our Nations rights and interests; BNDN reiterates our request.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			communications and engagement with BNDN regarding changes to the wellfield operation throughout the life of mine. The terms of engagement should be defined in a BNDN-Denison project Agreement. See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).		
41	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 8E Table 4	<p>Comment #41: Table 4 of Appendix 8e of the draft EIS shows the predicted site discharge concentrations of the contaminants of potential concern (COPCs). BNDN notes that the concentrations of a number of COPCs do not achieve water quality objectives that is the best available technology economically achievable (BATEA). Example COPCs include copper, molybdenum, selenium, uranium, vanadium, zinc and ammonia.</p> <p>BNDN requires proponents operating on our Ancestral Lands to, at a minimum, achieve BATEA standards for effluent treatment and discharge. This takes reasonable and appropriate precaution without imposing unreasonable costs on the operation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p>	<p>a) Denison is undertaking a sequential EA and licensing process under the NSCA. For context, the EA process for a Project under CEAA 2012 and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Act is long and complex. As such, the inputs and outputs (e.g., effluent quality) needed for the EIS were developed by Denison's Project engineers early in the EA process to allow for the biophysical and human assessments to advance. An example of one of these outputs is the IWWTP effluent quality. The effluent quality predictions in the EIS provide a bounding scenario of the basis of the assessment of Project effects. As stated in the Draft REGDOC 2.9.2 Denison understands that a BATEA assessment be conducted to determine the predicted design release characteristics as part of the licence application for a new facility or activity. Outside of the EIS process, the Project detailed engineering is progressing, including the design of the IWWTP and associated refinement of effluent quality predictions. Denison is following Draft REGDOC 2.9.2 to arrive at a treatment option that remains within the bounds of the EA, which ultimately predicts no significant impacts to the receiving environment. The maximum design release characteristics for the IWWTP will be provided as part of Denison's licence application to the CNSC.</p> <p>b) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project,</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that Denison has not made the requested commitment around achieving BATEA for all effluent COPCs.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing engagement with our Nation on determining suitable effluent discharge criteria for the IWWTP. The engagement process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>a) BNDN requests that Denison commit to achieving BATEA criteria for all COPCs in their effluent.</p> <p>b) Denison must work with BNDN to identify mutually agreeable and appropriate effluent discharge criteria for their effluent. BNDN expects that identifying suitable effluent discharge criteria will be undertaken through an Environmental Committee with a terms of reference defined in a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</p> <p>c) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval on the Project that BNDN is engaged. See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>	Denison has committed to engagement with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local as it relates to effluent discharge criteria, suited to each of their interests and needs. Denison does not anticipate working closely with BNDN on this topic.	
42	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 8E Table 7	Comment #42: Table 7 of draft EIS Appendix 8e shows the anticipated size of the mixing zone under 3 different flow conditions, including the calculated 7Q10 flow. While BNDN understands that Denison expects to discharge relatively small volumes of effluent to Whitefish Lake compared to a conventional open pit or underground mining operation,	The prediction uncertainty analysis (i.e., "sensitivity analysis") presented in Appendix 7-C included an evaluation of the change in the model prediction (i.e., plume migration) with respect to changes in the conductivity of materials along the flow path to the receptor, Whitefish Lake (i.e., Scenarios 4, 5, and 6) as well as regarding the hydraulic conductivity of the mined-out ore zone. As such we feel that the work requested by the reviewer has already been completed and reported upon within the draft EIS. In addition, the uncertainty of the Intermediate Sandstone Aquifer was evaluated (see IR55),	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>BNDN is concerned that the mixing zone assessment underestimates the magnitude of impact that the project will have on Whitefish Lake.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison undertake a plume delineation study and provide BNDN the opportunity to review the findings of the study through the BNDN-Denison Environmental Committee for the Wheeler River Project.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>	<p>where higher hydraulic conductivity within the Intermediate Sandstone Aquifer were found to reduce the proportion of water from the ore zone reaching Whitefish Lake, which would have the effect of further reducing (i.e., diluting) concentrations simulated and presented in the EIS documentation. As such, the conditions documented in the draft EIS are already conservative with respect to the uncertainty in these parameters. The near-field analysis (Section 8.2.4.2.3) identified that under all flow regime scenarios (i.e., 7Q10, monthly low, and monthly average), constituents are expected to be well mixed within Whitefish Lake (LA-5) and below the most restrictive criteria for the protection of aquatic life (Table 8.2-10; Appendix 8-C and Appendix 8-D). Additionally, the extent of the mixing zone in Whitefish Lake is estimated to be less than 5 m under all flow scenarios assessed (Table 8.2-11). Denison will comply with the Water Security Agency's Guidelines for Effluent Mixing Zones.</p> <p>The above notwithstanding in-field confirmation of the extent of the effluent mixing zone is anticipated following commissioning of the IWWTP and effluent discharge system during the Operation phase of the Project.</p>	
43	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 10A	<p>Comment #43: BNDN notes that the environmental risk assessment (draft EIS Appendix 10a) makes no mention of potential impacts the project may have on mercury biogeochemical cycling and the consequent risks to the environment and human health. This is unsurprising given the lack of baseline sampling of mercury in sediments and soils, especially wetland soils.</p>	<p>Although baseline concentrations of total mercury in sediment have not been collected during baseline sampling to date, Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.</p> <p>As indicated in EIS Section 8.4.6.1, Residual Effects Characterization, mercury is not associated with the local geology and is not expected to be released in the effluent at measurable levels and was therefore not identified as a COPC. Denison notes that there is potential for increased methylmercury production in the receiving environment under a certain combination of factors to which the Project</p>	<p><b>Partially addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires Denison to commit to ongoing involvement of our Nation in mercury monitoring on site. The engagement process should be formalized in a BNDN-Denison process agreement and eventual Mutual Benefits Agreement.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>The lack of baseline mercury sampling is a significant oversight given the significant impact that mining operations can have on mercury biogeochemistry, including mercury methylation, and mobility of mercury species within the environment.</p> <p>BNDN is very concerned with the complete lack of assessment of this important consideration for the project and the consequent inability for our members to adequately understand the potential risks to our Treaty and Aboriginal rights from these risks. Note that the absence of baseline information gathered can be reasonably considered an impact on our Treaty and Aboriginal rights as our members will avoid exercising our rights if BNDN lack the information to have confidence that it is safe to do so.</p>	<p>may contribute; however, prediction of methylmercury production is not practical. Denison commits to monitoring mercury and methylmercury in the aquatic environment over the life of the Project to determine the potential changes in mercury concentrations in fish tissue over time.</p> <p>As the Project advances and operational monitoring is underway, Denison will assess health risks from fish consumption by comparing fish tissue data collected during operation from the monitoring program against Health Canada's mercury guideline of 0.5 ug/g wet weight. This is a human health risk-based maximum permissible concentration. Mercury data presented throughout the draft EIS represents total mercury. Denison agrees to included methylmercury as part of the constituents monitored in fish throughout all project phases.</p>	
44	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Table 2.2-4	<p>Comment #44: In Table 2.2-4 of the Draft EIS, Denison documents their planned chemical used for the project. BNDN notes that Denison intends to use zero-valent iron (ZVI) in the IWWTP, but not as part of the remediation solution for the mine. BNDN notes that ZVI is used to treat contaminants in groundwater around the world. Denison has not discussed whether</p>	<p>Refinement of the mining area decommissioning objectives and associated modelling will be done through updates to the Decommissioning Plan, and will be bounded by the objectives evaluated in the EIS. The use of zero-valent iron will be evaluated, as applicable.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN requires a commitment from Denison around groundwater remediation. If Denison wishes to defer certain aspects of BNDN's requests to the Decommissioning Plan, BNDN requires a commitment from Denison negotiate a Project Agreement with our Nation to give confidence that these matters will be addressed in a manner that mitigates impacts to our rights.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>they have investigated the possibility of utilizing ZVI to remediate the wellfield during decommissioning.</p> <p>Protection of groundwater is of exceptional importance to BNDN. BNDN is concerned that Denison has not made a complete or comprehensive effort to understand how to minimize negative impacts to groundwater from the project using proven technologies that may be suitable for remediating the restoration solution in the wellfield during the decommissioning phase of the mine.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison investigate the suitability of using zero-valent iron to remediate the groundwater within the wellfield as part of the decommissioning process.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.3 for additional information on this topic (p. 25-28).</p>		
45	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.2.4.1.1 Site Water Management	<p>Comment #45: BNDN is concerned that the small volume of Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds may create a lack of operational flexibility. For example, in the EIS, it is stated that:</p> <p>"Treated water from the IWWTP will be pumped to the three</p>	<p>a) During Construction, no effluent is expected to be released to the aquatic environment. Contact water stored in the Clean Waste Rock Pond during Construction will be held onsite until the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant (IWWTP) is commissioned. At that time the water from the pond would be conveyed to the IWWTP, treated, and released to Whitefish Lake per permit / license</p>	<p><b>a. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN notes that the Proponent has not addressed the fact that this is a concern for the operational phase of the mine site and is specific to the efficacy of the effluent treatment plant. BNDN reiterates the request for the Proponent to design the</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds (each 3,300 m3). These ponds will be designed to hold effluent for 72 hours for testing before discharge to the environment.” – EIS, pp 723</p> <p>If water quality in these ponds exceeds discharge criteria, then there may be a need to store water so that additional treatment and monitoring can occur prior to discharge. However, only having capacity for three days of storage means it is unlikely the Proponent would be able to adequately treat water prior to reaching storage capacity, resulting in a need for emergency release of poor- quality water.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that additional storage capacity be included as part of the design for water management system. This must include adequate storage capacity to ensure Denison has the ability to retain water for sufficient time to allow treatment, in the event that exceedances of water quality discharge criteria occur.</p> <p>Alternatively, Denison can commit to halting discharge (and operations if required) should water quality exceed discharge criteria. Discharge into Whitefish Lake would resume once water quality in the Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds has been</p>	<p>requirements. The sequence for Construction activities will occur in a logical manner based on Project execution plans. For example, construction of the wellfield runoff pond will be prioritized during the early part of Construction and it will be able to hold 38,200 m3 of water. This will provide contingency and additional water storage capacity if contact water produced exceeds estimates or the volume available in the Clean Waste Rock Pond. Other secondary contingency measures are also available should the volume of water requiring management exceed site infrastructure storage volume. This could include use a hydrovac for offsite disposal.</p> <p>Section 2 Project Description, Section 2.2.3.9 Treated Effluent Monitoring and Release Ponds of the draft EIS outlines Denison's commitment to test effluent prior to discharge to Whitefish Lake, to ensure it meets federal and provincial discharge limits. Any pond not meeting the criteria will be recycled back to the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Plant via the process water pond.</p> <p>b) Denison expects the Provincial Approval to Operate a Pollutant Control Facility will contain specific effluent quality limits and monitoring to confirm effluent quality meets the approved limits. Denison will also be required to meet conditions in CNSC licensing documentation, as well as MDMER effluent discharge criteria.</p>	<p>effluent monitoring and release ponds to be increased in capacity to have at least 3 weeks of storage capacity.</p> <p><b>b. Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN intends to work with the Crown on this condition of approval.</p> <p><b>Comments for regulators are not addressed</b> and will be addressed through future engagement with the appropriate regulator.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>returned to below discharge criteria.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that the CNSC impose a condition of approval for the Project that requires Denison to must meet effluent discharge criteria prior to discharge and must halt operations if treated effluent in the monitoring and release ponds does not meet effluent discharge criteria.</p> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p> <p>[Additional questions on this topic directed to regulators or government entities are included in the CNSC table]</p>		
46	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 8D Aquatic Environment Baseline Study	<p>Comment #46: Fish community sampling is an important component of baseline studies for many reasons, including identifying species present (including any species at risk) and evaluating relative abundance (e.g., CPUE). A robust program should include multi- season and multi-year approach. This allows improved characterization of seasonal habitat use and accounts for natural variability.</p> <p>In the baseline aquatic assessments, the Proponent has focused fish community sampling in fall 2016, with some limited additional sampling of in spring</p>	<p>It is Denison's and their aquatic SME's opinion that the baseline fish community sampling efforts, including information provide from Indigenous and local resource users, provide a sufficient basis for conducting an effects assessment (draft EIS Section 8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat). Based on the information collected there is a good understanding of fish species presence / absence, relative abundance, fish habitat characteristics including areas that contribute to important life history stages (e.g., spawning areas) and fish habitat use. Denison does not believe further extensive baseline collection are needed to support the environmental assessment process but will implement targeted aquatic surveys prior to site development (see below).</p> <p>With respect to inclusion of the additional information requested the following is noted. Both detailed and summary data are presented in the Baseline Aquatic Environment Report that was provided as an appendix to</p>	<p><b>46 a. Not Addressed</b></p> <p>It is BNDN's opinion that the baseline fish community sampling efforts do not provide a sufficient basis for conducting an effects assessment. It is standard practice for aquatic baseline surveys to be undertaken in spring and fall for at least two years.</p> <p>Conducting relatively low community sampling effort in Sept 2016 and May 2017 does not provide adequate information on species diversity, abundance, or other measures of fish health for meaningful comparison. Such limited data creates a high likelihood of sampling bias and will make it exceedingly difficult to distinguish whether future changes are a result of impacts from the project or simply natural variations.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>2017. This low level of effort will make it difficult to draw meaningful comparisons with monitoring work that will occur during the life of mine.</p> <p>Furthermore, CPUE has only been reported for electrofishing effort. As a result, there is very limited information available for relative abundance of fish in important waterbodies, including Whitefish Lake, McGowan Lake, and Russell Lake.</p> <p><b>**BNDN notes that a raw representation of total effort is provided in table A-13 of Appendix 8D but requests that an assessment of total effort, total catch, and CPUE be presented in the EIS for each capture method/location**</b></p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that the Proponent build on the existing data for fish community sampling by collecting an additional round of spring and fall sampling.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that an assessment of total effort, total catch, and CPUE be provided for each capture method/location where fish sampling has occurred.</p>	<p>the draft EIS. Effort and catch by sampling gear type by sampling location are shown for example in Table A-13 of the Baseline Aquatic Environment Report and metrics such as CPUE and total catches can be derived from these data if desired. Denison does not see the need to derive these metrics for presentation in the final version of the EIS (and supporting documents). This is in part related to the fact that the aquatic effects assessment did use abundance / relative abundance metrics such as CPUE as measurable parameters (MPs; a parameter or metric associated with a key indicator that can be used to detect and measure Project-related changes) to represent the fish and fish habitat VC, nor would it have been practical to use them for this purpose. There would be no practical or reliable way to derive such a prediction of change relative to Project-aquatic habitat interactions.</p> <p>While abundance / relative abundance metrics may be reported during future monitoring they would not likely be seen as a key measurable parameters for fish monitoring. More subtle measures of fish health would be used for this purpose - it is reasonable to assume that fish health measures will be more sensitive to change than abundance measures and provide an earlier indication of potential Project-related effects. This is what is envisioned and required by the MDMER EEM program, whereby measures of fish health (e.g., growth, reproduction, condition) are used to assess potential effects. As noted above, Denison will implement targeted aquatic surveys prior to site development. At this time it is envisioned that a pre-development EEM program survey following guidance provided in the Metal Mining Technical Guidance Document will be implemented at the site, with sampling at future effluent exposed and reference areas. Best practice is to undertake an analysis of candidate reference areas using the existing baseline information and investigate their utility as controls prior to project</p>	<b>46 b. Addressed</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).	development. Execution of the pre-development EEM represents a Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) design for aquatic monitoring, that will provide the ability to monitor change temporally (among sampling periods) and spatially (among sampling areas), thereby providing a more robust means by which to assess potential mine related effects.	
47	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.2.5 Mitigation Measures	<p>Comment #47: The Proponent has identified one mitigation measure that includes sharing of monitoring results to assess performance of water management system (EIS, pp 8-90, 8.2.5 Mitigation Measures). BNDN is supportive of this type of information sharing and believes that it can be an important component of transparency and trust- building between the Proponent and other parties. However, it is important that information sharing be done in a way that is accessible to community members.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests involvement in discussions with Denison about sharing of information related to water quality monitoring (and environmental monitoring more broadly). Some methods of communication that may support accessibility of data include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public-facing summary reports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Denison agrees with BNDN that water quality monitoring will be interest to Indigenous nations and communities. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Further details on the Public Information Program and Public Disclosure will form part of the documentation submitted in support of the CNSC licensing for the Project. It is also noted for further reference that there are existing, non-Denison monitoring programs such as the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (<a href="https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm">https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm</a>), and the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (<a href="http://www.earmp.ca/">www.earmp.ca/</a>). Results from these programs provide relevant information and can complement Denison's Project-specific monitoring program. One forum for discussion of monitoring results is the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee(<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-</a></p>	<p><b>Partially Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN agrees that the information shared with English River First Nation and the Kineepik Métis Local is likely to be of interest to BNDN. However, our request for discussions with Denison about information sharing have been ignored. The refusal of even discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>on a regular schedule (e.g., quarterly or annually)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Real-time access to environmental monitoring data through online database portals.</li> <li>○ Semi-regular community meetings hosted in Turnor Lake (e.g., every 12-18 months, as decided in conjunction with BNDN leadership within a Project Agreement with BNDN).</li> <li>○ Presentations to BNDN staff, leadership, and/or community members by BNDN Environmental Monitors. The specific methods used for information sharing and appropriate levels of support from Denison can be determined through</li> </ul>	<p>nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee).</p> <p>Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison's response on a Project agreement.</p>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			consultation with BNDN.  See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).		
48	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.5 Fish Health	<p>Comment #48: The Proponent has completed predictive modelling for concentrations of contaminants in fish tissue. For example, results of modeling for selenium indicate that concentrations will fluctuate throughout operations but remain below the recommended criterion of 2.83 mg/kg wet weight (from the US EPA). Should the Project proceed, information on contaminants in fish tissues will be highly relevant for BNDN and land users who eat fish from the area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that results of fish tissue monitoring (e.g., EEM studies) be shared in a publicly available and accessible way. This must include comparisons with guidelines and information on other contaminants of importance (e.g., mercury). Discussions regarding how this information can be shared with BNDN should occur alongside the discussions related to water</li> </ul>	<p>Denison agrees with BNDN that results of fish tissue monitoring will be interest to Indigenous nations and communities. As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Further details on the Public Information Program and Public</p> <p>Disclosure will form part of the documentation submitted in support of the CNSC licensing for the Project. It is also noted for further reference that there are existing, non-Denison monitoring programs such as the CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program (<a href="https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm">https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/maps-of-nuclear-facilities/iemp/index.cfm</a>), and the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program (<a href="http://www.earmp.ca/">www.earmp.ca/</a>). Results from these programs provide relevant information and can complement Denison's Project-specific monitoring program. One forum for discussion of monitoring results is the Northern</p> <p>Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee(<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/first-</a></p>	<p><b>Partially Addressed</b></p> <p>BNDN agrees that the information shared with English River First Nation and the Kineepik Métis Local is likely to be of interest to BNDN. However, our request for discussions with Denison about information sharing have been ignored. The refusal of even discussing such a possibility with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation on this Project.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			quality monitoring results (see comment above). See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).	nations-citizens/saskatchewan-first-nationsmetis-and-northern-initiatives/northern-saskatchewan-environmental-quality-committee).  Please see response to Comment #19 for Denison's response on a Project agreement.	
49	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat	<p>Comment #49: Increased fishing pressure in Whitefish Lake from employees working at the Project site and increased ability for visitors due to improved access could negatively impact fish populations.</p> <p>Preferred species, large-bodied fish, and older individuals are most likely to be targeted. This may have negative consequences on the population structure of fish in the lake as well as the ability of BNDN members to exercise fishing rights.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends that the policies Denison sets related to staff and contractors fishing while on site are determined collaboratively with BNDN through the Environmental Committee defined in a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>	<p>Please note that the Project will not change public access to the area. The existing gate on Highway 914 near Cameco's Key Lake Operation will remain in place and no changes to the gate and the process for controlling access to Highway 914 north of the Key Lake Operation are proposed as part of the Wheeler River Project. As described in the draft EIS, workforce members will be transported to/from site via a fly-in/fly-out rotation and will, therefore, not use ground travel options during shift changes, which will eliminate fishing on local lakes during commutes to/from the site and during time off work. Denison site vehicles will not be available for recreational purposes. While at the Project site and off duty, workers may opt to fish local waterbodies. To protect sustainable use of resources, only catch and release of fish will be encouraged, and fish storage or cooking facilities will not be provided. To prevent entry of land users from entering the Project Area, Denison will control access to the property with both a north and south security gate. Overall, given a lack of resources to access fishing locations and store fish harvests, workforce fishing is expected to cause minimal disturbances to local users. Section 11 of the draft EIS provides the assessment of potential Project effects on Indigenous Land and Resource Use (Section 11.1) and Other Land and Resource Use (Section 11.2). The mitigation measures proposed in the aquatic and terrestrial assessments translated into undetectable changes in resource availability to existing and future users and rightsholders. The assessment does not take a distinctions-based approach (i.e., the potential impact on</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				<p>each Indigenous community is not evaluated separately), but rather on the key indicators and associated measurable parameters. Mitigation to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous Land and Resource Use would apply to any uses proximal to the Project. Given proven mitigation is to be applied to traffic disturbances, noise, air quality, and increased competition for resources, the effects are expected to be minimal. As outlined in Denison's Indigenous Peoples Policy, Denison is committed to respecting Indigenous knowledge and values regarding environmental stewardship and Indigenous peoples' connection to the land, and to minimize potential effects, wherever possible.</p> <p>Detailed Project plans and programs related to staff and contractor fishing will be developed to support Project permitting and licensing efforts.</p>	
50	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.3.4 Assessment of Project- related Effects	<p>Comment #50: The EIS provides very few details regarding how spills, leaks, and other accidents and malfunctions will be managed to mitigate the impacts on fish and fish habitat. Over the life of the mine there will inevitably be accidents and malfunctions. One of the most common environmental issues that will be encountered is leaks and spills. These can typically be managed through good monitoring and preparedness, though if they occur near water, the ability to clean them quickly is difficult and can result in harm to aquatic communities.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p>	<p>A standalone Accidents and Malfunctions (A&amp;M) assessment was completed and is summarized in Section 14 of the EIS (full report is Appendix 14-A of the EIS). The A&amp;M assessment considered almost 70 accident scenarios including many that would relate to the unplanned release of chemicals and radiation to the environment with potential to effect country foods. Specific scenarios including the release of chemicals and radiation to the aquatic environment and to the terrestrial environment adjacent to the ERFN and KML culture camps located along Hwy 914. The overall risks in consideration of likelihood and consequence were characterized as low. The assessment concluded that with planned engineering / environmental design features, mitigation measures, and emergency response, as well as implementing industry best practices that the risks to the environment from accidents and malfunctions can be reduced to levels that are as low as reasonably practical.</p>	<p><b>Partially Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN appreciates the additional information provided on accidents and malfunctions and on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> <p>However, BNDN notes that the refusal to develop an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request additional information regarding the development of spill prevention programs, emergency management procedures, and monitoring and remediation programs for accidents and malfunctions. Representatives from BNDN need to be included in the planning and execution of monitoring and remediation activities to provide community perspectives in Project activities. One method through which BNDN can be involved in these discussions is through the development of an Environmental Committee (see comment #51 also).</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>	<p>Section 2.9.1.3 of the draft EIS provides Denison's commitment to develop an Environmental Management System, which includes an Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (EPRP) and an Environmental Protection Program (EPP; including an Environmental Monitoring Plan). The EPRP would be established to identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The EPRP would be developed in a manner that aligns with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1. The EPP would be established to provide an overarching framework for key environmental monitoring and management plans and to ensure a means to demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental regulatory requirements and other performance targets that Denison may set. As noted on the draft EIS, Denison has opted to execute the overall Project approvals process - that is, the environmental assessment and licensing / permitting processes - in series and not simultaneously. As such, the details of these programs and plans will be developed during the licensing / permitting phase and will be available for review at that time rather than as part of the final EIS. The level of information provided in the draft EIS is appropriate for the current stage of the Project approvals process.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not</p>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: programs will meet regulatory requirements, programs will confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, programs will be implemented in an adaptive management framework (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and program spatial boundaries will be sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.	
51	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.3.8 Monitoring and Follow-up	<p>Comment #51: There is no discussion on how Indigenous communities, such as BNDN, will be included in environmental management, emergency management, monitoring, and remediation. This includes issues related to ongoing permitting or specific remediation such as in the case of an accident or malfunction.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support BNDN's ongoing participation in monitoring and oversight of the Project, BNDN request the establishment of an Environmental Committee or similar oversight mechanism. The purpose of the committee will be to review monitoring data and monitoring reports produced during the life-of-mine to ensure that the</li> </ul>	<p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The refusal to develop an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism with BNDN is not reflective of the need for meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>environmental protection is sufficient for all VCs. The committee can also participate in permitting throughout the life-of-mine for all relevant applications (e.g., Fisheries Act Authorizations, water permits, Closure Plan updates etc.) and provide input to management plans (e.g., EPPs, Surface Water Management Plan, Environmental Monitoring Plans, etc.). The specific details of such a committee can be developed through consultation with BNDN and must be formalized through a BNDN-Denison project agreement.</p> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>		
52	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.3.5 Mitigation Measures	<p>Comment #52: Mitigation measures are an important component of Project management which are critical for environmental protection. Upon review of the suggested mitigation measures, BNDN has identified some opportunities for additional mitigation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p>	<p>Denison acknowledges the input and will consider the suggestions as the project moves forward. The draft EIS contains a number of mitigations referenced in different biophysical and human environment assessments; these mitigations together form Denison's fulsome commitment list of Project mitigation measures moving forward. Many of the proposed additional mitigation measures are already included in the draft EIS. A few examples are provided here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2.2.7.6: No fuels, oils, or other hazardous substances will be stored within 100 m of any water</li> </ul>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN request that the following standard mitigation measures be included as part of the list described in Section 8.3.5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain vegetated buffers of at least 100m with all waterbodies wherever practical;</li> <li>All equipment must be inspected prior to use on-site to ensure that they are clean and free of soil or other contaminants;</li> <li>Maintain spill kits on all vehicles used on-site;</li> <li>All machinery will be kept in good working order and inspected regularly for drips, leaks, and spills;</li> <li>In the event of a spill, Denison will take all necessary actions, where it is safe to do so, to immediately stop the spill, contain contaminants, clean up and dispose of</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>body. No equipment maintenance or re-fuelling will be conducted within 100 m of a water body.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2.8: Fuel storage and distribution infrastructure will be constructed in accordance with applicable legislation requirements; Fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with provincial regulations and standards; Stationary and mobile equipment will be fueled with a fuel-dispensing truck.</li> <li>Section 9.2.5.2.7: Standard operating procedures will be employed, and regular inspections of equipment and machinery will be completed to verify they are in good working order; Vehicles and equipment will be maintained in good working condition (e.g., no leaks) and furnished with industry-standard spill response kits.</li> </ul> <p>Denison also notes that Section 2.9.1.3 of the draft EIS provides Denison's commitment to develop an Environmental Management System, which includes an Emergency Preparedness and Response Program (EPRP) and an Environmental Protection Program (EPP; including an Environmental Monitoring Plan). The EPRP would be established to identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The EPRP would be developed in a manner that aligns with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1. The EPP would be established to provide an overarching framework for key environmental monitoring and management plans and to ensure a means to demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental regulatory requirements and other performance targets that Denison may set. As noted on the draft EIS, Denison has opted to execute the overall Project approvals process - that is, the</p>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>contaminated materials;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison will maintain a record of all spills and report upon each spill within 48 hours, including information on spill response, cleanup, and remediation;</li> <li>Vehicle refueling will occur at a distance of at least 100m;</li> <li>Fuel tanks will be located in areas that are lined and contained;</li> <li>Fuel tanks will be located at least 500m from known waterbodies.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>	<p>environmental assessment and licensing / permitting processes - in series and not simultaneously. A such, the details of these programs and plans will be developed during the licensing / permitting phase and will be available for review at that time rather than as part of the final EIS. The level of information provided in the draft EIS is appropriate for the current stage of the Project approvals process.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	
53	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.3 Fish and Fish Habitat	Comment #53: Unfortunately, due to the nature of planning and licensing for complex projects such as the Wheeler River mine, there are many documents, plans, licenses and approvals which may not be available for review during	As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The refusal to commit to involvement of BNDN in ongoing planning and licencing (including the development of an Environmental Committee or similar mechanism) is not reflective of the need for</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>the environmental assessment process, or which will take place subsequent to completion of the assessment. For example, Denison will be preparing important documentation governing environmental management of the Project following the Environmental Assessment. While these are not currently available, there is a need to engage with BNDN to obtain input on these documents as planning progresses. Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BNDN requests that Denison consult with our staff members and advisors on important environmental documentation/plans/licenses that are not available as part of the EA process. This list includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Surface Water Management Program</li> <li>○ Erosion and Sediment Control Plan</li> <li>○ Fish Salvage Plan</li> <li>○ Spill Response Plan</li> <li>○ MDMER approvals and EEM plans</li> <li>○ Saskatchewan Water Security Agency permits for Aquatic habitat protection</li> <li>○ Operating a waterworks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	<p>meaningful consultation and active involvement on this Project.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Operating a sewage works</li> <li>○ Effluent Monitoring Plan</li> <li>○ Environmental Monitoring Plan(s)</li> <li>○ Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan</li> </ul> <p>Engagement with BNDN on these plans should occur through an Environmental Committee or similar oversight mechanism (see above). The specific details of such a committee can be developed through consultation with BNDN and must be formalized through a BNDN- Denison project agreement for the Wheeler River Project. See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>		
54	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.4.3.1 Methodology and Metrics	<p>Comment #54: The collection of sediment samples was completed using cores and grab petit Ponar in three upstream reference locations (LA-7A, LA-8, and LA-9), Whitefish Lake (LA-5 and LA-6), McGowan Lake (LA-1), and Russell Lake (LAB-1 and LAB-2). Sediment quality testing was conducted to characterize COPC including nutrients, metals, and radionuclides.</p> <p>Only the top 2 cm of cores of grab samples were analyzed in the lab. It is not clear in the methodology</p>	<p>Baseline sediment chemistry was conducted on the 0-2cm horizon as this is the area in contact with surface water and the zone inhabited by benthic invertebrates. It is also the sediment layer in which changes in sediment chemistry would be expected to change in response to Project-related inputs and thus provides the most appropriate data for comparison to follow-up monitoring.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>why laboratory analysis was limited to the top 2 cm.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests additional information on the rationale for only analyzing COPC within the top 2 cm of sediment samples. This should include information on whether this limited data will negatively affect the ability to evaluate potential impacts of groundwater contamination entering Whitefish Lake from below during operations, decommissioning, and future centuries.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>	<p>collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>	
55	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	8.4.3.2.3 Metals	<p>Comment #55: Despite significant concerns regarding the presence of mercury in water and sediment, the Proponent has elected not to test sediments for it. BNDN acknowledges that the mining process does not use mercury and</p>	<p>Denison will collect background information pertaining to sediment total and methyl mercury from LSA lakes and rivers prior to site development.</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>it is present in low levels in the background environment. However, for the purposes of good stewardship, communications, and trust, having an assessment of the background levels of mercury is important to BNDN.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the proponent sample sediments for mercury to establish background levels. This is information that is culturally important given the potential harm and the psychological toll of mercury in aquatic ecosystems. Background levels can then be compared with ongoing monitoring throughout the life of mine.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).</p>		
56	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Table 8.5-2: Baseline Fish Tissue Chemistry Summary	<p>Comment #56: In Section 8.5 Fish Health, the Proponent has included a summary table with information on contaminants in fish tissue and bone tissue. The information provided does not include total number of samples.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests table 8.5-2 be updated with information on</li> </ul>	The requested information is presented in Appendix 8-D in the draft EIS.	<b>Addressed</b> – the information is found in Table 3-10 of Appendix 8-D

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			total number of fish (n) samples for each location. See Section 4.4 for additional information on this topic (p. 48-51).		
57	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.2.5.2 Additional Vegetation-specific Mitigation Measures	<p>Comment #57: The Proponent has committed to using seed that is certified weed-free, with a valid "Certificate of Seed Analysis" for the revegetation process.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends that, in addition to using weed-free certified seeds, consultation occur with Indigenous communities, including BNDN, to select an appropriate seed mix that closely mimics the pre-construction plant community and includes plants of medicinal and traditional importance. This could be done by either sourcing seed mix from a local seed distributor, or using wild seed propagated from plants collected from the Project Area. In addition, the seed mix should contain native plant species only.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>	<p>Specific details of the seed mixture and overall reclamation plan will be developed through updates to the Decommissioning Plan, on which Interested Parties will be provided opportunity for review and input. The decommission plan in the EIS is a conceptual plan. A preliminary decommissioning plan will be included with licence application and reviewed and updated during operations. Prior to executing Decommissioning activities, Denison shall prepare and submit a detailed decommissioning plan to regulators for acceptance, which builds on the preliminary decommissioning plan.</p> <p>Additionally, Denison has partnered with the University of Saskatchewan and Northwest Communities Environmental Services (an Indigenous-owned environmental company) under the Developing Eco-Restoration Together (DERT) program. This unique project aims to co-create ecological restoration practices that centre Indigenous peoples, worldviews, and values while also braiding knowledge from the land, Indigenous knowledge, and western science. The project is supported by the three partners but is ultimately guided by the Indigenous Project Advisory Board, and the Community Liaison/Education Coordinator. Through restoration trials, community engagement, and various planting techniques, Denison, with their partners are seeking to return ecosystem functions in areas where they have been previously disturbed (e.g., exploration cutlines). Through collaboration with community members, University of Saskatchewan, industry partners, two graduate students, and local youth, this project is expected to ultimately inform the creation of a framework</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				for effective restoration practices in northern Saskatchewan that centre on caribou and Indigenous communities.	
58	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.3.4.2.1 Alteration and/or Loss of Habitat Figure 9.3-9 Available Habitat for Moose	<p>Comment #58: The EIS uses a 500 m buffer around the Project Area to define indirect habitat alteration for moose (Figure 9.3-9). This includes habitat alteration from sensory disturbance such as anthropogenic noises, vehicle traffic, aircraft traffic, and increased predator access. However, the EIS references scientific research that states that roads and vehicle traffic can affect moose habitat selection, resulting in habitat avoidance up to 1 km from roads (Shanley and Pyare 2011).</p> <p>Furthermore, the EIS acknowledges uncertainty concerning the available background and baseline information used to identify available moose habitat in this assessment.</p> <p>Without considering a larger avoidance buffer (as demonstrated in various research) around proposed anthropogenic disturbances, BNDN believe that the EIS underestimates the potential extent of moose habitat alteration. To be more conservative, a 1000 m buffer</p>	<p>It is Denison's and their terrestrial SME's opinion that the approach used to characterize moose habitat alteration provided a sufficient basis for conducting the ungulate (VC) moose (KI) effects assessment (draft EIS Section 9.3). The Project Area had a 500 m buffer applied to account for indirect effects/habitat alteration; this area is within the wildlife LSA. Availability of habitat is not a key limiting factor for moose populations.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN's concern that the 500 m buffer underestimates the extent of moose habitat alteration. BNDN reiterates the following points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. The selection of a 500 m buffer appears arbitrary and is not substantiated by peer-reviewed literature. Research (Shanley and Pyare 2011) indicates that moose may avoid habitat up to 1 km from roads and vehicle traffic. Furthermore, the proponent cites professional opinion as justification for using a 500 m buffer. However, BNDN requires reassurances that are substantiated by peer-reviewed scientific literature rather than subjective interpretation.</li> <li>II. The EIS acknowledges uncertainty in available moose habitat data, yet the response does not clarify how this uncertainty was factored into the assessment or whether a precautionary approach was taken.</li> </ol>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>should be used surrounding the Project area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends using a 1000 m buffer surrounding the Project Area to measure the extent of moose habitat alteration. BNDN believe this analysis will provide a more accurate and conservative outcome with respect to potential project impacts to moose.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>		<p>III. Habitat selection is not simply based on availability but also on predation avoidance. Moose tend to avoid areas with increased risk of predation. Roads, trails, and clearings created by mining facilitate wolf movement, making predation more efficient and therefore reducing the available moose habitat. The proponent's response minimizes this risk by focusing only on habitat availability, failing to acknowledge that increased predator access and moose displacement fundamentally alter predation dynamics.</p> <p>BNDN reiterates our 1,000 m buffer be considered to provide a more conservative and ecologically relevant assessment of moose habitat alteration. Without further justification, the 500 m buffer appears insufficient to capture the full extent of indirect impacts.</p>
59	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.3.5.2.7 Mitigation Measures	<p>Comment #59: One of the mitigation measures implemented to protect ungulates, furbearers, and Woodland Caribou includes de-icing the Project roads for winter traction, which will result in fewer wildlife collisions.</p> <p>Salt used for de-icing is likely to attract ungulates, including moose,</p>	Denison has committed to using alternative measures on Project roads for de-icing and winter traction (e.g., sand, gravel) or dust suppression (e.g., water) whenever practicable.	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>to roadways to satisfy their mineral requirements (Rea et al 2021).</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the Proponent revise this mitigation measure to explicitly state that salt will not be used for de-icing Project roads to avoid attracting ungulates to the Project Area. This mitigation measure can be found in section 9.3.5.2.7 Road and Traffic Management.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>		
60	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.3.6.4.1 Alteration and/or Loss of Habitat Figure 9.3-14	<p>Comment #60: The EIS uses a 500 m buffer around the Project Area to define Woodland Caribou habitat alteration from sensory disturbance. However, scientific research expects up to 5 km (or greater) of Caribou avoidance around mining Projects, and that related semi- permeable barriers, such as roads, likely exacerbate this effective habitat loss [(Smith et al. 2000; Dyer et al. 2001; Courtois et al. 2008; Vistnes and Nellemann 2008; Nagy 2011; Polfus et al. 2011; Leblond et al. 2011, 2013; CPAWS Wildlands League 2013; Johnson et al. 2015)].</p>	<p>It is Denison's and their terrestrial SME's opinion that the approach used to characterize caribou habitat alteration provided a sufficient basis for conducting the caribou effects assessment (draft EIS Section 9.3).The Project Area had a 500 m buffer applied to account for indirect effects/habitat alteration; this area is within the wildlife LSA (refer to Figure 9.3-9 for a map showing the spatial areas). The 500 m buffer for habitat alteration was selected in accordance with ECCC's (2020) assessment of disturbed areas, which buffered (500 m) anthropogenic disturbances to evaluate the habitat. The alteration of available habitat is quantified in this EIS by applying a buffer of 500 m around the Project Area in which Project effects in the form of sensory disturbance are likely to affect available the habitat and make it functionally unavailable for use.</p> <p>Following submission of the draft EIS in October 2022, Denison has met with Saskatchewan Ministry of</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>The Environmental Assessment (EA) process is meant to safeguard BNDN's lands, waters and wildlife, yet it is fundamentally flawed in its ability to prevent significant adverse impacts on caribou. Despite decades of policy and regulatory measures, caribou populations continue to decline, highlighting the failure of existing approaches to provide effective protection. As Dene people, we have long understood that the EA process is insufficient to ensure the survival of caribou. In recent years, emerging western scientific research has confirmed this understanding, reinforcing the need for stronger protections (Collard et al., 2020; Cameron &amp; Kennedy, 2023). The EA process often downplays the</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>Without considering a larger avoidance buffer (as demonstrated in various research) around proposed anthropogenic disturbances, we believe that the EIS underestimates the potential extent of Caribou habitat alteration.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that the Proponent present the extent of caribou habitat alteration/loss from the proposed Project within a range of uncertainty informed by scientific research.</li> </ul> <p>Specifically, the percent alteration of habitats must be presented using a 500 m (low end) up to a 5,000 m (high end) buffer. BNDN believe this analysis will provide a more accurate range of outcomes with respect to potential project impacts to caribou.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>	<p>Environment (SK ENV) staff to develop a framework for future woodland caribou offset. This information has been presented to the provincial and federal review teams as part of the response to federal information requirements in August 2023 as the Conceptual Caribou Mitigation Plan. The Conceptual Caribou Mitigation Plan (the Plan), developed proactively by Denison, has a different objective than the draft EIS. The Plan builds on the assessment of potential Project effects and commitments to consider additional mitigation (offset) to account for non-significant residual effects highlighted in the draft EIS. The Plan is expected to be advanced with ongoing consultation with the SK ENV, as SK ENV finalize the caribou range plan for SK1. The EIS is a conservative planning tool, whereas the Plan is a practical, living document designed to define management works associated with caribou. The Plan is not a requirement for EA determination per se, but is provided as a guidance document to help Denison proactively describe and inform the development and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures related to caribou and their habitat. The Plan is an evergreen document. It will be consistent with the management goals of SK ENV for the SK-1 caribou conservation unit (once available) and will be developed/refined in consultation with local communities including English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local in Pinehouse and SK ENV. Denison is continuing to work with SK ENV to estimate habitat offset scenarios based on the current Project design which will be refined as the Project advances. A boreal caribou habitat offset calculator is under development by SK ENV and Denison is collaborating with SK ENV to define key scenario attributes.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). 2020. Amended Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou</p>	<p>risks to caribou populations and underestimates the true extent of impacts (Collard et al., 2020; Cameron &amp; Kennedy, 2023). The reliance on a 500-meter buffer as the basis for assessing habitat alteration is a clear example of this severe underestimation.</p> <p>Denison's reliance on a 500-meter buffer to assess caribou habitat alteration is insufficient and does not align with the broader scientific consensus on caribou avoidance of industrial disturbances. While ECCC (2020) recommends a 500-meter buffer to assess habitat disturbance, this buffer represents the low end of potential impacts and is insufficient to fully account for caribou avoidance behavior. Research has shown that caribou avoidance behavior extends significantly beyond this distance, with many studies supporting avoidance distances of up to 5 kilometers or greater (Dyer et al. 2001; Courtois et al. 2008; Vistnes and Nellemann 2008; Leblond et al. 2011, 2013; Johnson et al. 2015).</p> <p>Furthermore, Other jurisdictions, such as Ontario, apply much larger buffer distances, with recommendations extending to 10 kilometers to better reflect the true impact of sensory disturbances. This stark contrast highlights the severe underestimation in the EIS, where a 500-meter buffer fails to account for the full extent of caribou avoidance behavior.</p> <p>BNDN requests that the percent alteration of habitats be presented using a 500 m (low</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				(Rangifer tarandus caribou), Boreal Population, in Canada. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Ottawa. xiii + 143pp.	<p>end) up to a 5,000 m (high end) buffer. BNDN believes this analysis will provide a more accurate range of outcomes with respect to potential project impacts on caribou.</p> <p>Collard, R., Dempsey, J., &amp; Holmberg, M. (2020). Extirpation despite regulation? Environmental assessment and caribou. Conservation Science and Practice, 2(9).  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.166">https://doi.org/10.1111/csp2.166</a></p> <p>Cameron, E., &amp; Kennedy, S. (2023). Can environmental assessment protect caribou? Analysis of EA in Nunavut, Canada, 1999-2019. Conservation and Society, 21(2), 121-132.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs.54.22">https://doi.org/10.4103/cs.cs.54.22</a></p>
61	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3 Bird Species at Risk Appendix 9-B	Comment #61: Incidental observations of Barn Swallow (Hirundo rustica) occurred during baseline studies (Appendix 9- B). This bird SAR was not included as a Key Indicator for this Valued Component. Instead, the EIS represents the Barn Swallow using two other SAR birds including the Olive-sided Flycatcher (Contopus cooperi), and Common Nighthawk (Chordeiles minor). This does not make ecological sense because Barn Swallows use distinct habitat and exhibit distinct breeding behaviour from these other SAR. Therefore, the barn swallow should be its own key indicator because it	The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. The methodology for the habitat-based assessment appropriately evaluated potential adverse effects on avian species using the accepted VC and KI approach for focus of the assessment. As described in the EIS, the Common Nighthawk (similar to the Barn Swallow) is an aerial insectivore that uses a variety of habitats, including anthropogenically disturbed and cleared areas (Section 9.4.3.3.1). As such, effects on these anthropogenically disturbed areas were appropriately assessed in the habitat-based EA methodology. Since Barn Swallows nest almost exclusively on human-made structures, specific Barn Swallow exclusion methods will be added as mitigation	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>will have unique levels of habitat alteration/loss and levels of mortality than the other species.</p> <p>In addition, Barn Swallows have a higher likelihood of being impacted by project activities than the other representative SAR, because they nest directly on artificial structures. The EIS states that species that nest on buildings are more susceptible to entrapment in Project components. This species is listed as Threatened on SARA Schedule 1. In Canada, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994 protects Barn Swallow, its nests, and eggs.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) BNDN requests that the Barn Swallow is included as its own key indicator for the VC Bird SAR within the EIS.</li> <li>b) Additional surveys should be conducted to confirm the presence of any Barn Swallow nests on all buildings in the Project Area prior to commencement of construction.</li> <li>c) If Barn Swallow nests are located, contact the SK MOE for regulatory advice on the appropriate actions given the specific situation.</li> <li>d) The Proponent should monitor all barn swallow nests</li> </ul>	<p>measures to the EIS (Section 9.4.5). If Barn Swallow nests should be encountered, any subsequent activities would be conducted in accordance with the 2022 Migratory Birds Regulations. The habitat-based approach for the assessment supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Habitat loss and alteration were assessed for the Key Indicator species included in this Valued Component. A conservative approach of identifying available habitat for these species was chosen to include habitat for those species not directly assessed (i.e., Barn Swallow through Common Nighthawk habitat).</p> <p>Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on barn swallow.</p>	

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>found within the Project Area to confirm their continued usage throughout the lifecycle of the mine. If avoidance of nests is observed near Project activities, the Proponent should adopt an adaptive management approach and provide additional nesting sites elsewhere. Specifically, the Proponent could consider installing nesting structures in suitable areas to provide alternative nesting options for Barn Swallows.</p> <p>e) Staff should be trained to identify and report barn swallows and their nests.</p> <p>f) Future monitoring programs during the life of the project must include the barn swallow.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>		
62	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3 Bird Species at Risk Appendix 9-B	<p>Comment #62: Incidental observations of Horned Grebe (<i>Podiceps auratus</i>) occurred during baseline studies (Appendix 9- B). This species is listed as Special Concern on SARA Schedule</p> <p>1. The Horned Grebe was not included as a Key Indicator for this Valued Component. Instead, the EIS represents this species with two other bird SAR, Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>), and</p>	<p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. While Horned Grebe was not included as a avian SAR in the draft EIS, the EIS identified Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird as a surrogate species. To focus the effects assessment on key species, it was decided to use the provincially listed Yellow Rail (and Rusty Blackbird) as surrogates for Horned Grebe. Horned Grebe use similar wetland habitat types for nesting, foraging and protective</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The Horned Grebe and Yellow Rail exhibit some similar yet distinct habitat characteristics. While both species rely on wetlands with emergent vegetation, their specific habitat requirements differ significantly.</p> <p>The Horned Grebe is dependent on aquatic habitats year-round, requiring deeper wetlands with open water. It nests along the margins of ponds and marshes, anchoring its floating nest to emergent vegetation</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>). The Horned Grebe uses distinct habitat from these other species. Therefore, the Horned Grebe should be its own key indicator because it will have different levels of habitat alteration/loss and levels of mortality.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that the Horned Grebe is included as its own Key Indicator for the VC Bird SAR within the EIS.</p> <p>b) b. Future monitoring programs during the life of the Project must include the Horned Grebe.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>	<p>cover as Yellow Rail. The habitat-based approach for the assessment supports the use of surrogates that are known to utilize the same habitat types. Habitat loss and alteration were assessed for the Key Indicator species included in this Valued Component. A conservative approach of identifying available habitat for these species was chosen to include habitat for those species not directly assessed (i.e., Horned Grebe through Yellow Rail and Rusty Blackbird habitat). As such, potential effects on these habitat types were assessed appropriately in the draft EIS.</p> <p>Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on Horned Grebe.</p> <p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.</p>	<p>(Kuczynski et al., 2012). In contrast, the Yellow Rail prefers shallowly flooded wetlands dominated by dense grasses or sedges. These areas typically have minimal open water and provide the thick ground cover necessary for concealment (Austin &amp; Buhl, 2013).</p> <p>Given these ecological differences, the Horned Grebe should be assessed as its own Key Indicator within the EIS to ensure that its specific habitat needs and potential project-related effects are properly accounted for. Additionally, future monitoring programs must include the Horned Grebe to adequately assess its population trends and response to development activities.</p> <p>Kuczynski, E. C., Paszkowski, C. A., &amp; Gingras, B. A. (2012). <i>Horned grebe habitat use of constructed wetlands in Alberta, Canada. The Journal of Wildlife Management</i>, 76(8), 1694–1702. doi:10.1002/jwmg.421</p> <p>Austin, J. E., &amp; Buhl, D. A. (2013). <i>Relating Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>) occupancy to habitat and landscape features in the context of fire. Waterbirds</i>, 36(2), 199-213. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1675/063.036.0209">https://doi.org/10.1675/063.036.0209</a></p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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63	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3 Bird Species at Risk	<p>Comment #63: The Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>), a bird SAR may be present within the terrestrial RSA. This species was not included in the EIS as a key indicator for bird SAR. This species is listed as Threatened on SARA Schedule 1.</p> <p>The breeding range of the Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) overlaps with the terrestrial RSA. Bank swallows breed in varying natural and artificial habitat with sand-silt substrates including vertical banks, riverbanks, bluffs, stockpiles, aggregate pits, and roadcuts (COSEWIC 2013). Suitable habitat may be present because soil surface textures across the RSA are predominantly sand textured (sand, loam sand/sandy loam and silty sand). The creation of soil stockpiles during construction may create suitable breeding habitat for this species.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) BNDN requests a justification for excluding the Bank Swallow from the EIS.</li> <li>b) If a valid justification does not exist, BNDN requests this species be added as a Key Indicator for bird SAR unless it can be proven not present in the RSA.</li> <li>c) All soil stockpiles should be monitored for Bank Swallow</li> </ul>	<p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bank swallow.</p>	<p><b>Provisionally Addressed</b></p> <p>Mitigation measures in Appendix 9-D should include monitoring of potential nesting sites, particularly soil stockpiles, before disturbance. If active nests are found, appropriate avoidance measures should be implemented, and consultation with Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SK MOE) should be required to determine regulatory actions.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>nesting activity before the stockpiles are disturbed when needed for site reclamation.</p> <p>d) If Bank Swallow nests are located, contact the SK MOE for regulatory advice on the appropriate actions given the specific situation.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>		
64	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3.2 Information from Indigenous Knowledge, Local Knowledge, and Engagement	<p>Comment #64: The EIS states that knowledge providers reported that multiple Whooping Cranes (<i>Grus americana</i>) have been observed along the Wheeler River, Moore River, and along the Cree River (outside of the terrestrial RSA) (19-LK-ERFNTrip- 134.169) (19-LK-ERFNTrip-134.170). Whooping Cranes are listed as Endangered on SARA Schedule 1. The EIS does not include this species as a key indicator for SAR birds, nor does it include an explanation why this species was omitted despite being reported by a knowledge provider from English River First Nation.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests an explanation for excluding this species despite being reported by a Trapper from English River First Nation. If a valid justification does not exist, the</p>	<p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. The local trapper's observation of Whooping Crane was outside of the avian RSA. The rationale for the selection of the SAR Key Indicators was provided in draft EIS Section 9.4.1. For these reasons, Whooping Crane was not included as a SAR Key Indicator in the draft EIS. For further reference as noted above subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bank swallow.</p>	<p><b>Provisionally Addressed</b></p> <p>The proponent should confirm whether the reference to Bank Swallow was a typo and clarify that the response is intended to address Whooping Crane. The response refers to residual effects, mitigation measures, and project effects for Bank Swallow instead of Whooping Crane, which does not address the original comment</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>species Whooping Crane (<i>Grus americana</i>), should be included as a key indicator for SAR birds.</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs during the life of the Project must include surveys for the Whooping Crane.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>	As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project.	
65	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3.3 Baseline Studies	<p>Comment #65: Short-eared Owls (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) were not observed during the baseline surveys (Appendix 9-B). This is likely because targeted surveys for this species were not conducted. The detection probability of Short-eared Owls is very low at sunrise when the breeding songbird point count surveys were conducted. Short-eared Owls are most detectable from one hour before sunset to half an hour after sunset.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that short-eared Owls continue to be assumed present within suitable habitat, unless proven otherwise by a qualified biologist using the Short-Eared Owl Survey Protocol (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment 2015).</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs should utilize the protocol</p>	The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Short-eared Owl were included as a KI of the Bird SAR VC in the EIS. A review of life history requirements and discussion on effects assessment are included in the EIS (Section 9.3). In the EIS, Short-eared Owl were assumed to be present and breeding in the Project study areas. As described in the EIS, pre-construction surveys will be conducted prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or soil disturbance. Avian species will also be routinely monitored throughout the life of the Project. Results from the surveys and monitoring activities are expected to inform the adaptive management process to update Project design and identify the need for additional mitigation measures, if required.	Addressed.

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to better (2015) understand whether this species is present.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>		
66	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9.4.3.3.3 Baseline Studies	<p>Comment #66: Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>) were not observed during the baseline surveys (Appendix 9-B). This is likely because targeted surveys for this species were not conducted. The Yellow Rail is nocturnal; therefore, survey effort must take place between 23:00-3:00. Therefore, this species would not have been observed when the breeding songbird point count surveys were conducted.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests that Yellow Rail should continue to be assumed present within suitable habitat, unless proven otherwise by a qualified biologist using the Yellow Rail Survey Protocol (Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment 2014).</p> <p>b) Future monitoring programs should utilize the protocol developed by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (2014) to better understand whether this species is present.</p>	<p>The process and rationale for selection of VCs and establishment of KIs and associated MPs is described in Section 5.3 in Section 5. Raptors, Migratory Breeding Birds, and Bird Species at Risk VCs were selected based on their likelihood of interaction with the Project, as well as their contributing roles to biodiversity and ecosystem function. Yellow Rail were included as a KI of the Bird SAR VC in the EIS. A review of life history requirements and discussion on effects assessment are included in the EIS (Section 9.3). In the EIS, Yellow Rail were assumed to be present and breeding in the Project study areas. As described in the EIS, pre-construction surveys will be conducted prior to the commencement of any vegetation clearing or soil disturbance. Avian species will also be routinely monitored throughout the life of the Project. Results from the surveys and monitoring activities are expected to inform the adaptive management process to update Project design and identify the need for additional mitigation measures, if required.</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).		
67	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 9-B	<p>Comment #67: Two bat species, Little Brown Bat (<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>) and Northern Myotis (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>) were detected during passive acoustic surveys in 2019 (Appendix 9- b). These species are listed as Endangered by COSEWIC and SARA schedule. Despite being present, bats were completely excluded from the EIS. Areas that will be cleared for mine development and operations could contain maternity roost trees. Based on Appendix 9-b, this habitat was not adequately evaluated through field surveys.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests justification for excluding bat species from the EIS despite two Endangered species confirmed present.</p> <p>b) BNDN also request the Proponent put protocols in place to identify and assess bat maternity roost trees prior to clearing and employ mitigation measures such as retaining maternity roost trees, modifying the timing of clearing, and offsetting for the destruction of habitat for endangered species.</p>	Subsequent to filing the draft EIS, Denison has developed a new Species at Risk appendix to Section 9 which will be included in the final EIS and has been included in the response to YNLR (a new SAR appendix (new Appendix 9-D) will be added to Section 9 of the final EIS. It has been included here as Attachment IR-131. This new EIS appendix lists all SAR species potentially occurring in the Project study areas, with links to applicable and appropriate mitigation measures described in the draft EIS. The new appendix also includes a summary of the life history requirements, the expected Project effects, proposed mitigation measures, and anticipated residual effects on bats.	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).		
68	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	9 Terrestrial Ecology 9.1.8 Monitoring and Follow-up 9.2.8 Monitoring and Follow-up 9.3.8 Monitoring and Follow-up 9.4.8 Monitoring and Follow-up	<p>Comment #68: Denison's proposed terrestrial ecology mitigations described are generalized and conceptual in the EIS. With the level of detail provided in the EIS, it is not possible for BNDN to comment on the adequacy or effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures or whether proposed mitigations will meaningfully diminish Project impacts on BNDN rights and interests.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN holds invaluable indigenous knowledge related to terrestrial ecology topics including traditional and medicinal plants, ungulates, furbearers, game birds etc. within the RSA. BNDN must be meaningfully involved in the development and implementation of the various management and monitoring plans mentioned throughout Chapter 9 of the EIS to ensure that proposed impacts are sufficiently reduced. These plans include but are not limited to the wildlife monitoring plan, avian</li> </ul>	<p>As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>Denison has failed to acknowledge that the Project is located within Birch Narrows Dene Nation's (BNDN) Treaty 10 territory. BNDN members exercise constitutionally protected rights and actively use the lands surrounding the Project for hunting, trapping, gathering, and other traditional practices that will be directly impacted.</p> <p>BNDN holds rights and knowledge that must be meaningfully considered in the development and implementation of all terrestrial ecology-related monitoring and management plans, including the wildlife monitoring plan, avian monitoring plan, and Woodland Caribou Management Plan. Denison's current approach excludes BNDN from participating in planning processes that directly affect our rights and interests.</p>

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Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>monitoring, and Woodland Caribou Management Plan. The role that BNDN will have in developing management and monitoring plans should be defined within a project agreement between BNDN and Denison.</p> <p>See Section 4.5 for additional information on this topic (p. 59-60).</p>	assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).	
69	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #69: Denison's air dispersion model does not include any receptor locations related to BNDN traditional land and resources use (TLRU) and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) sites. BNDN members use the lands and waters in the Project area for TLRU and ceremonial purposes.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN TLRU and IK sites should be considered in Denison's air quality assessment. The geographic locations for TLRU and IK should be inputted into the air dispersion model as special receptors. This will provide site specific data for BNDN land users who use the LSA so they can effectively assess the Project's impact on land use and rights.</li> </ul>	Scoping of the air quality assessment followed a conservative approach and described where modelled concentrations returned to background levels. The air quality assessment included human receptors in the Project Area and Local Study Area (refer to draft EIS, Figure 6.1-3). These receptor locations are consistent with what was presented in the ERA (Section 10.1 and Appendix 10-A). See response to BNDN comment #1 for further details.	<p><b>Not Addressed</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN's concern that no BNDN Indigenous Knowledge or land use locations were included in the air dispersion model as special receptors.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).		
70	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #70: Denison states in the EIS “the Cameco McArthur River Operation and Key Lake sites are currently in Care and Maintenance mode; therefore, there is currently no truck traffic between the sites on Highway 914. When these sites are to become operational again, there is potential for a cumulative effect at sensitive locations near the highway.” On November 28th, 2022, operations resumed at Cameco’s McArthur River Uranium Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>Denison did not model Cameco related air emissions in their air dispersion model. The EIS model does not account for any of Cameco’s air emissions from the mill, mine, and associated truck traffic between sites. Without this data included in the model, the EIS does not adequately account for the cumulative effects of Cameco’s McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill on the atmospheric environment.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must redo air dispersion modeling to account for the Cameco</li> </ul>	<p>Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2 and 6.1.7. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco’s operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary.</p> <p>To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>McArthur River Uranium Mine and Key Lake Mill which have resumed operations since the EIS was released. Without this data included in the model the EIS does not accurately capture baseline conditions or cumulative effects on the atmospheric environment.</p> <p>Fugitive dust and uranium emissions (and potentially other contaminants) have increased potential for exceedances with the resumption of Cameco's operations, as exceedances are already predicted with the Wheeler River Project alone.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>		
71	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #71: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for TSP of 313% over the regulatory limit. 24-hour TSP concentrations exceed the criterion 28% of the time during Construction, 21% of the time during Operations.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include TSP emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill which have now resumed operations. There is also the potential for wildfire smoke to further exacerbate dust emissions.</p>	<p>a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-19 to 6.1-21 for the complete residual effect characterization for TSP exceedances. This includes a consideration of the residual effect related to TSP in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. In Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, the SMEs concluded that while there were</p>	<p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>Denison makes no commitment to reduce potential TSP exceedances related to the Project.</p> <p>Denison does not commit to collaborating with BNDN in the design and implementation of air quality monitoring. Denison only commits to informing BNDN which is totally unacceptable. Denison does not specify how it will notify BNDN of project-related air quality exceedances.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>TSP exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Especially for at-risk groups such as elders, youth, and people with existing respiratory conditions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce TSP emissions on site including enhanced dust suppression efforts.</p> <p>b) Denison must remodel TSP to include emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>c) Please provide information on how TSP will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</p> <p>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a TSP exceedance is discovered. Including discussion on how the Project will be managed during poor air quality events caused by wildfire smoke.</p> <p>e) Please provide information on how exceedances conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</p>	<p>predicted exceedances of air quality criteria for particulate matter, they were not identified for further assessment in the HHRA—these COPCs are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, and any exposures to people at elevated concentrations would be infrequent, short-term, and highly localized.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco's operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will</p>	<p>most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).	<p>incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested. In terms of worker health and safety while forest fire smoke is present, Denison will consider this through the Occupational Health and Safety Program. Information on how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property related to forest fires will be included in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> <p>e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p>	
72	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	Comment #72: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for PM10 of 232% over the	a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN disagrees with Denison's assessment and that particulate exceedances will not</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>regulatory limit. 24- hour PM10 concentrations exceed the criterion 17% of the time during Construction, 12% of the time during Operations.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include PM10 emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill which have now resumed operations. There is also the potential for wildfire smoke to further exacerbate dust emissions.</p> <p>PM10 exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Especially for at-risk groups such as elders, youth, and people with existing respiratory conditions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce PM10 emissions on site including enhanced dust suppression efforts.</p> <p>b) Denison must remodel PM10 to include emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>c) Please provide information on how PM10 will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</p>	<p>with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-22 and 6.1-23 for the complete residual effect characterization for PM10 exceedances. This includes a consideration of the residual effect related to PM10 in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. In Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, the SMEs concluded that while there were predicted exceedances of air quality criteria for particulate matter, they were not identified for further assessment in the HHRA—these COPCs are unlikely to be associated with a human health or environmental risk, and any exposures to people at elevated concentrations would be infrequent, short-term, and highly localized.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The regional SK MOE data presented in Table 6.1-12 were conservatively used to represent background concentrations of TSP, PM10, PM2.5, CO, SO2, and NO2 for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. While traffic associated with Cameco Operations was not modelled, conservative regional background concentrations from the Saskatchewan Air Quality Modelling Guideline (SK MOE 2012a) and the La Loche monitoring station were used for particulate matter, NO2, SO2, and CO (see Section 6.1.3.2.5 and Appendix 6-A). The La Loche monitoring station is located near anthropogenic sources, while the Project is in a remote area removed from anthropogenic sources. Accordingly, emissions to air from traffic associated with Cameco's operations are captured by the regional background concentrations used in the air dispersion model and are considered in the assessment of Project-related effects discussed in Section 6.1.4. Model predictions of COPC</p>	<p>have an impact on human health or the environment. Regulatory standards are in place for a reason (to protect human health and the environment) and if Denison cannot meet these standards they should not be constructing or operating.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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			<p>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a PM10 exceedance is discovered. Including discussion on how the Project will be managed during poor air quality events caused by wildfire smoke.</p> <p>e) Please provide information on how exceedances conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	<p>concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to the available standards summarized in Table 6.1-5 at receptors located outside the property boundary.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested. In terms of worker health and safety while forest fire smoke is present, Denison will consider this through the Occupational Health and Safety Program. Information on how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property related to forest fires will be included in the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</p> <p>e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and</p>	

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Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.	
73	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #73: The Project is predicted to produce exceedances for uranium of 148% over of the regulatory limit.</p> <p>These exceedance conditions do not include uranium emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill which have now resumed operations.</p> <p>Uranium exceedances represent a potential health risk for land users and workers near the Project site. Additionally, uranium deposition in the aquatic and terrestrial environment can cause effect pathways to humans through the food chain through the consumption of edible/medicinal plants, berries, fish, and wildlife.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) Denison must employ additional mitigation measures to reduce uranium emissions on site including enhanced scrubber systems and containment measures.</p>	<p>a) A change in a measurable parameter is not a significant effect, per the EA methodology outlined in Section 5. This threshold approach is both transparent and reasonable with the context of the assessment, though it is acknowledged that some level of change in the VC (or more precisely its measurable parameter) is deemed acceptable on condition that the change is not of a magnitude from which negative effects could accrue. Denison directs BNDN to Table 6.1-27: Air Quality – Summary of the Characteristics Ratings for Residual Effect 9 (Operation, 24-hour Uranium Exceedances) for the complete residual effect characterization. This includes a consideration of the residual effect (24-hour U exceedance during operation) in the full context of direction, magnitude, geographic extent, duration, frequency, reversibility, context, and likelihood. Further, in Section 10.1 of the draft EIS, all relevant radionuclides were assessed in the HHRA in terms of their contribution to the total radiological dose to human and ecological receptors and COPCs identified for air were radionuclides (U-238, U-234 and radon); refer to Table 10.1-7 for a summary of human health exposure pathways. The HHRA estimated dose and risk during all Project phases to the following receptors: camp worker, seasonal resident, recreational fisher/hunter, fisher/trapper. The incremental radiation dose to all human receptors during all Project phases is predicted to be below the regulatory public dose limit of 1 mSv/yr and the dose constraint of 0.3 mSv/yr during all</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN disagrees with Denison's assessment and that uranium exceedances will not have an impact on human health or the environment. Regulatory standards are in place for a reason (to protect human health and the environment) and if Denison cannot meet these standards they should not be constructing or operating.</p> <p>Denison mischaracterizes BNDN as not being part of "Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project". BNDN is located closer (232 km) to the Project than Kineepik Métis Local (235 km). Further, the Project is located on BNDN's Treaty Lands (Treaty 10), whereas Kineepik Métis Local has no Treaty lands or Treaty rights. As such, BNDN must be treated as a Indigenous Community of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, not as some secondary community. Denison's position of BNDN requiring consultation and accommodation that is less meaningful than KML is unacceptable and wrong.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>b) Denison must remodel uranium to include emissions from Cameco's McArthur River Mine and Key Lake Mill.</p> <p>c) Please provide information on how uranium emissions will be monitored during the Project and how Denison will know when exceedance conditions are occurring.</p> <p>d) Please provide information on how adaptive management will be used when a uranium exceedance is discovered.</p> <p>e) Please provide information on how exceedance conditions near the Project site will be communicated to the public.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	<p>Project phases. Overall, since the radiation dose estimates would be below the public dose limit, no discernable health effects are anticipated due to exposure of these receptors to radioactive releases from the Project.</p> <p>b) Please refer to Section 6.1.3.2. The Key Lake data from camp high volume air samplers from 2009 to 2018 (Table 6.1-13) were selected to represent background concentrations of uranium, arsenic, and nickel for the Wheeler River Project air quality assessment. Model predictions of COPC concentrations and depositions were added to background levels and compared to ambient air quality standards and criteria.</p> <p>c) and d) To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.</p> <p>e) As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time. BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and</p>	

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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				implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: meet regulatory requirements, confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, implementing adaptive management (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and will ensure that spatial boundaries are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.	
74	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #74: The Saskatchewan MOE Air Quality Modelling Guidelines specifies that the American Meteorological Society/Environmental Protection Agency Regulatory Model (AERMOD) should be used for assessments in Saskatchewan. Denison opted to use the CLAMET/CALPUFF dispersion model for the EIS.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please provide additional rationale for the selection of the CALPUFF model over the provincially recommended AERMOD.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	As described in Section B.1 of Appendix 6-A, staff at the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (Air Quality Branch) were consulted on the selection of CALPUFF and development of the CALMET meteorological data set, beginning in 2019. The CALMET consultation included an initial discussion about the general approach, and once the CALMET runs were completed, two technical memos were produced and reviewed by Ministry staff including: 1) a memo completed in March 2020 summarizing the general CALMET approach and results (e.g., wind roses, temperature data, precipitation data); and 2) a follow-up memo completed in May 2021, which answered specific questions posed by Ministry staff. Ministry staff also completed a review and provided feedback on the CALPUFF model setup in August 2021. The specific rationale for the use of CALPUFF in lieu of AERMOD as documented in the March 2020 memo was as follows: the domain size needed to generate inputs for the human health and ecological risk assessment (HHERA) is estimated to be 60 km by 60 km. The Saskatchewan Air Modelling Guide recommends CALPUFF for long-range transport (i.e., > 50 km); CALPUFF includes wet and dry removal processes and chemical transformation algorithms that are needed to generate inputs for the HHERA and the terrestrial and aquatic assessments; and the approach is consistent with other uranium mines in the area.	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
75	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Appendix 6-C Climate Baseline and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report	<p>Comment #75: Carbon dioxide emissions related to air travel for Project personnel were not included in the GHG emissions calculations. Project related emissions from air travel would be significant source due to the remote nature of the site. The GHG emission estimate included in EIS Appendix 6-C does not provide a fulsome representation of Project related GHG emissions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must include emissions from air travel for project personnel in the GHG emissions calculations. This will provide a more accurate representation of project-related GHG emissions.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	Assessment of upstream or Scope 3 GHGs under Environment and Climate Change Canada's Strategic Assessment of Climate Change guide are only required for projects that are likely to exceed the upstream threshold of 500 kt of CO <sub>2</sub> e per year. The upstream GHG emissions for the Project are expected to be well below this threshold (draft EIS Section 2.5) and in the range of 25 to 31 kt of CO <sub>2</sub> e.	<b>Addressed.</b>
76	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #76: Denison acknowledges the Project's contribution to climate change through GHG emissions but does not outline a plan to offset GHG emissions. Other mines in Canada, including the Canadian Malartic Mine in Quebec have GHG offset plans in which carbon emissions are tracked and offsetting activities are developed in collaboration with</p>	Denison anticipates being subject to ECCC's reporting requirements for emitters over 10,000 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e and the information is collected under section 26 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. In order to meet these reporting requirement, Denison will be tracking Scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions. Options to offset the Project's GHG emissions will be considered as the Project advances. In draft EIS Section 2.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Denison has committed to looking for opportunities to optimize energy management and	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>local First Nations (Canadian Malartic, 2014).</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must develop a GHG/Carbon offsetting plan to mitigate potential impacts of the Project to climate change. Denison could work with BNDN and other local First Nations on initiatives that help to offset the Project's GHG emissions (e.g., tree planting, wetland restoration, carbon offsets). This would demonstrate a commitment to corporate social responsibility, climate stewardship and reconciliation on Denison's behalf.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	improve the energy intensity of the Project where practical.	
77	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #77: The Project is reliant on burning diesel for construction, supplementary power generation, mine processing activities, and mine equipment. The GHG intensive nature of the Project's construction and operation phases are a concern for BNDN and not consistent with federal or provincial directives to reduce GHGs. Cleaner technology and fuel sources are available to</p>	<p>Thank you for the comment. The EIS is a planning tool and the details of Project design including use of fuels will be evaluated by Denison as the Project advances. However, we note that in Section 2.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions of the draft EIS that Denison will look for opportunities to optimize energy management and improve the energy intensity of the Project where practical.</p> <p>In terms of EIS scoping for the basis of effects assessments, Denison took a conservative approach to estimating combustion products use by assuming back-up diesel</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>reduce the Project's GHG emissions. For a project based around supplying fuel for the energy transition, a more progressive approach that utilizes Best Available Technology is required in order to reduce GHG emissions.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where feasible Denison must implement the use of low carbon technology and fuels in the final Project design to reduce GHG emissions. Specifically, Denison should redesign the Project to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace all diesel electricity generation with LNG/CNG generators (and add in renewables where feasible) for construction phase.</li> <li>Replace all diesel powered mine equipment and vehicles with electric or LNG/CNG models.</li> <li>Use renewable energy sources for electricity generation (e.g., wind, solar) as early</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>generators were running continually (worst-case scenario). This is expected to bound actual Project fuel use.</p>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			in the project lifecycle as possible.  See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).		
78	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #78: Denison does not specify how it will monitor air contaminant concentrations during all phases of the Project. Continuous on-site ambient air monitoring for all COPCs (including particulates, metals, and radon) is the only way to truly assess the Project's impact on air quality and compliance with government standards.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Denison must conduct continuous on-site monitoring for all contaminants of concern (including particulates, metals, and radon) in order to assure regulatory compliance and verify the accuracy of air dispersion models and EIS predictions.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	To confirm the residual effects of the Project on Air Quality and demonstrate compliance with provincial ambient air quality standards, an adaptive air quality management program will be implemented. The air quality management program will contain various plans which will be finalized during permitting and licensing. The plans within the air quality management program will incorporate monitoring requirements directed by provincial and federal regulators and by Indigenous groups and other Interested Parties as requested.	<b>Not Addressed.</b>
79	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 6.0	<p>Comment #79: Denison does not specify how BNDN will be involved in air quality monitoring during</p>	As the Indigenous Communities of Interest with reserves and residential communities most proximal to the Project, Denison has committed to collaborating with English River	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>The response does not adequately address BNDN's concern around the lack of BNDN</p>



# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests the implementation of robust and long-term environmental monitoring to verify protection of the environment, including community-led monitoring during Construction and Operations of the Project.</p> <p>b) Denison must develop specific roles and responsibilities to BNDN members in relation to air quality monitoring and site wide environmental monitoring. This should include, at a minimum, one environmental monitor position for BNDN. This would provide increased transparency and confidence to Denison's environmental management practices and performance.</p> <p>See Section 4.6 for additional information on this topic (p. 67-71).</p>	<p>First Nation and Kineepik Métis Local on a monitoring regime, suited to each of their interests and needs. As part of these programs, Denison and the Indigenous community of ERFN and KML will be sharing information in an agreed-upon fashion. It is expected that the data collected through such monitoring regimes as described above would also be relevant to other Indigenous nations who may have interest in the Project. Denison does not anticipate any funding to BNDN at this time.</p> <p>BNDN will be informed throughout the monitoring program design and implementation process. Monitoring program design and implementation will be guided by the following principles: programs will meet regulatory requirements, programs will confirm the effectiveness of mitigation measures and predictions made in the assessment, programs will be implemented in an adaptive management framework (if/where applicable) to reduce effects during the lifetime of the Project, and programs will have spatial boundaries that are sufficiently extensive to measure EIS predictions.</p> <p>The details of monitoring and follow-up plans are being developed to support the separate process of Project licensing and permitting. The specific means by which provincial and federal authorities, and Indigenous Nations and communities will be engaged in developing the follow-up and monitoring program, including the information-sharing program, are currently under consideration with the Denison project team. It is noted that Section 4.2.1 of the draft EIS provides the variety of ways in which Denison has engaged with Interested Parties to date and it is assumed it would continue to use these means and others that may be identified to fulfil its key corporate principals for developing positive relationships (see draft EIS Section 4.2).</p>	<p>involvement in the design and implementation Denison's air quality monitoring program. Denison does not specify how BNDN will be involved in air quality monitoring during construction, operations and decommissioning phases of the Project. Nor does Denison make any commitments for BNDN involvement in Denison's environmental monitoring programs including air quality monitoring.</p>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
80	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing Solution Holding Area	<p>Comment #80: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will have leak detection (Figure 2.2-18). The system is shown as a pipe running under the pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <p>a) BNDN requests more details on the leak detection system used for all ponds shown in Figure 2.2-18.</p> <p>b) BNDN requests that Denison respond to all the following questions in writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the pipe connected to an automated sensing system?</li> <li>If not, how frequently is the system monitored?</li> <li>What chemical or physical indicator(s) are used to detect a leak?</li> <li>What are the detection limits/thresholds for each indicator?</li> <li>What is the precision of each indicator?</li> <li>Who is notified, and how quickly would a response be mobilized?</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<p>It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included in Management System programs / plans including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>If Denison intends to defer the answering of these important questions to the licensing phase of the Project, BNDN requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement to formalize a process for engagement with BNDN and responding to BNDN concerns on these matters. BNDN requires this commitment for this concern to be addressed.</p>
81	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing	<p>Comment #81: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will have leak detection (Figure 2.2-</p>	<p>It is important to note that Denison is completing a sequential EA and licensing process for the Project (see draft EIS Section 1). Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the</p>	<p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to provide additional information on this matter. If Denison wishes to defer</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

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		Solution Holding Area Section 2.2.4.5 Process Precipitate Pond	<p>18). The system is shown as a pipe running under the pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know what specific containment/restoration methods will be used in the event that a leak is detected, and how quickly they would be implemented. This applies to both the UBS holding area and process precipitate pond.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. The details requested by BNDN will be developed to support licensing and will be included in the Project's future Management System documents including for example the Groundwater Monitoring Plan and the Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan.	this to the licensing phase our Nation requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement with our Nation now to have certainty that this will be addressed in a manner that mitigates our Nations concerns.
82	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.2.2.2 Uranium Bearing Solution Holding Area	<p>Comment #82: The Proponent states that the UBS holding area will be designed as a pond contained by a double composite liner system (Figure 2.2- 18), and that options to use tanks instead of holding area will be evaluated as engineering advances.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests that Denison undertake a risk assessment for the design of the UBS holding area. BNDN recommends the safer, less environmentally risky option be selected and that BNDN can review and provide input into the decision that Denison makes.</li> </ul>	Please see Denison's response to BNDN comment #33.	<p><b>Not addressed.</b></p> <p>BNDN sees it as a reasonable and necessary precaution to undertake a risk assessment for this particularly important and risky aspect of the overall operation. BNDN reiterates the request and reminds Denison that this concern would be best addressed through a formalized process for engagement defined in a project agreement between BNDN and Denison for the Wheeler River Project.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).		
83	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.1.4.5	<p>Comment #83: The Proponent states that the wellfield pipelines will be designed to have secondary containment or catchment and have leak detection systems in place at key locations.</p> <p>BNDN requests more details on the leak detection system used for wellfield lines. Specifically, BNDN requests that Denison respond to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is an automated sensing system used?</li> <li>• Will automated controls shut off pressure in the event of a significant leak?</li> <li>• If no automation is used, how frequently is the system monitored?</li> <li>• What chemical or physical indicator(s) are used to detect a leak?</li> <li>• What are the detection limits/thresholds for each indicator?</li> <li>• What is the precision of each indicator?</li> <li>• Who is notified, and how quickly would a response be mobilized?</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<p>Wellfield piping system will transport the mining solution to and from the processing plant. The flow rates and pressures of the individual well lines will be monitored in the pumphouses. This data will be transmitted to the processing plant for remote monitoring through a master control system. Through the master control system, operators will be capable of controlling pumphouse production lines remotely.</p> <p>The specific details requested by BNDN in this comment are not available at this time and will be developed as part of detailed design to support Project licensing and permitting. Denison considers the EA to be a planning and decision-making tool that assesses the potential effects of the Project in a careful and precautionary manner and integrates results of engagement with Indigenous nations and communities. Denison views the EIS as an important planning tool that will be used to support future activities and represents one stage in the rigorous overall approvals process for a uranium mining facility in Canada. Denison completed feasibility designs for the Project in 2023. The engineering design of the wellfield pipelines including control measures to monitor and respond to leaks will be included in the detailed design information provided to the CNSC during Project licensing.</p>	<p><b>Not Addressed.</b></p> <p>If Denison intends to defer the answering of these important questions to the licensing phase of the Project, BNDN requires a commitment to negotiate a Project Agreement to formalize a process for engagement with BNDN and responding to BNDN concerns on these matters. BNDN requires this commitment for this concern to be addressed.</p>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
84	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.1.4.5 Primary Containment of Mining Solution – Wells	<p>Comment #84: The Proponent states that the well designs and operational monitoring of the wellfield will mitigate accidental release of mining solution or UBS in the sandstone above the mining area.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know how Denison will monitor the integrity of wells once in production. Will tests be conducted at regular intervals?</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<p>The well designs and operational monitoring of the wellfield will mitigate accidental release of mining solution or UBS in the sandstone above the mining area. Each well will have double containment: mining solution will travel inside an inner casing with the outer casing acting as secondary containment for the mining fluids. Wells will be continually monitored for operational parameters such as injection pressures, injection flow rates, and recovery flow rates. This data will be transmitted to the processing plant for remote monitoring through a master control system. Through the master control system, operators will be capable of controlling pumphouse production lines remotely. Wellfield monitoring will facilitate detection of any issues with the injection and recovery wells.</p> <p>A network of monitoring wells installed within the freeze wall area will be equipped with pressure instrumentation for the determination of the vertical strain/stresses placed on the formation to do mining zone space creation. This monitoring network is designed to detect if these strains may be approaching their acceptable levels prior to failure. The injection and recovery wells will also be equipped with devices for pressure and temperature that can detect a breach in the well casing if one were to occur. As a preventative measure, annual mechanical integrity testing is conducted on the wells to ensure their containment and compliancy.</p> <p>Active monitoring will allow for operational shutdown if a scenario is approaching a failure mode.</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>
85	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.1.4.5 Fuel Storage and Dispensing Facility	<p>Comment #85: The Proponent states that fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, 25,000 L double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with</p>	<p>Details on when Denison will construct the permanent fuel storage facility or precisely where temporary fuel storage tanks will be located are not available at this phase of the Project and these details are not required to support EIS review. However, at the EIS stage it is important to note that Denison is committed to construction and operating all fuel storage and distribution infrastructure in</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>provincial regulations and standards.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to confirm when the permanent fuel storage facility will be constructed. If temporary fuel storage for construction is required, indicate how much, how it will be stored and dispensed, and show on a sketch where it will be located. Construction fuel requirements for site development may be significant.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<p>accordance with applicable legislative requirements. Fuels will be stored in approved, above-ground, double-walled storage tank(s) equipped with secondary containment in accordance with provincial regulations and standards. In Saskatchewan, the permitting process for hazardous substances including above ground storage tanks for diesel, propane, gas, and jet fuel are governed by The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations; Environmental Code Chapter E-10.2 Reg 3 (HSWDG). Denison will need to apply for an Approval to Construct, Install, Alter and Expand a Storage Facility and Store Hazardous Substances and/or Waste Dangerous Goods and secure an approval from the Ministry of Environment pursuant to The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010, and The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations. Denison will have to adhere to the Terms and Conditions of the approval, complete regular inspections of the facilities, and maintain an Emergency Response Contingency Plan. The Ministry of Environment staff also conduct regular inspections to ensure the conditions of the approval are being followed.</p>	
86	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.4.5 Process Precipitate Pond	<p>Comment #86: The Proponent states that process precipitates may be stored in totes inside the process precipitate pond.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests details on the procedures for placement and handling of precipitate totes within the pond. Care should be taken to ensure that equipment and totes do not compromise the pond lining. Totes should be sealed and</li> </ul>	<p>The precipitate pond is proposed as a lined area with berms (as shown in Section 2, Figure 2.2-18) and may be more clearly described as being a lined pad. As such, process precipitates can be placed into totes, which can be placed on the lined area ('pond') for containment during storage. Details on the plans for precipitate management, placement and handling will be developed to support Project licensing and permitting. Denison agrees the integrity of the liner and totes are important considerations which will be factors in the plans. We also refer BNDN to the following draft EIS sections and comments responses:</p>	<b>Addressed.</b>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>transport of totes from the plant to the pond should be carefully planned to minimize the risk of a spill, and in the event of a spill ensure that runoff is captured on the site.</p> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste Management: Waste management is described in Section 2.2.4 of the draft EIS and includes discussion of all waste types that will be generated by Project-related activities. The following is noted in Section 2.2.4 for reference, "Conventional waste, radiologically contaminated waste, and hazardous waste will be managed at the Project. Denison is committed to conducting stringent waste characterization throughout the life of the Project. This includes physical, radiological, and chemical characterization to maintain accurate waste inventories and determine how wastes will be dispositioned through either re-use, recycling, temporary storage, or permanent disposal (on or off site). This includes clearance of material that meets unconditional release requirements and can be safely removed from site. A waste management program will be developed for the Project to support licensing and permitting. The waste management program and associated plans developed to support licensing will be based on the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover, and will detail how each type of waste generated on site will be managed. Resources used to develop the waste management program will include, but are not limited to, the CNSC's REGDOC-2.11 series, related Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards, and the Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations (Government of Saskatchewan 2000)."</li> <li>Water Management: Water management is described in Section 2.2.3 of the draft EIS and includes Denison's commitment to capturing any contact water. Clean, non-contact runoff will be diverted around Project components where possible. Contact water, including, for example, runoff from the wellfield and around the processing plant, will be</li> </ul>	

# Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				<p>collected in various ponds and eventually routed through the IWWTP for treatment prior to release to Whitefish Lake. Refer to Figure 2.2-17 for runoff collection assumptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Preparedness and Response Program: Please also see Denison's response to BNDN comments 87 and 88 below for information on the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program.</li> </ul>	
87	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.8 Project Design Features	<p>Comments #87 and 88: Denison states that they will maintain an up-to-date record of the various hazardous substances on site and will maintain Safety Data Sheets and appropriate procedures for spill management, handling, and clean up in an accessible location.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests a description of the safety and spill response training programs that employees will undergo. What is the duration of each training program and how often will retraining be conducted?</li> <li>BNDN requests to know what resources will be kept on site for management and clean-up of spills, for example spill kits, absorbents, neutralization agents, vacuum trucks, PPE, hand tools, etc.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	<p>The details requested related to the Emergency Preparedness and Response Program are being developed to support licensing efforts. The EIS is a planning tool to provide an assessment of the potential Project effects on the human and biophysical environment; at the EIS stage a detailed Management System is not required.</p> <p>A brief description of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is provided in the draft EIS, Section 2.9.1.3.5: and included below for reference. Please also refer to draft EIS, Section 14 Accidents and Malfunctions for an assessment of the potential accidents and malfunctions that could occur in association with the Project and a description of the potential effects on human health or the biophysical environment, considering environmental design features and mitigation measures that would be implemented to reduce such effects.</p> <p>2.9.1.3.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Program</p> <p>The Emergency Preparedness and Response Program would identify how the Project will prepare for and addresses emergencies that may affect the health and safety of persons, the environment, and the protection of property. The objectives of the program would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identification of accidents and emergencies and the actions and responsibilities in the event of an emergency;</li> </ul>	<b>Addressed.</b>



Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project requirements for emergency response equipment and personnel;</li> <li>• internal incident command structure to effectively manage complex, lengthy, and large-scale emergencies;</li> <li>• required communications with external emergency services, statutory bodies, and public, Indigenous groups, and regulatory agencies;</li> <li>• development of appropriate emergency procedures; and</li> <li>• assurance of availability of vital information during an emergency.</li> </ul> <p>Emergency Preparedness and Response Program would be developed consistent with guidance provided by CNSC in REGDOC-2.10.1, Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response.</p>	
88	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Section 2.2.2.2.4 Yellowcake drying and packaging	Comment #89: The Proponent describes various measures used to mitigate yellowcake dust emissions: the yellowcake drying and packaging area will be outfitted with hygiene systems to capture dust generated during the material handling of the yellowcake product and sent to either the dryer or calciner venturi scrubbers. All equipment located after the dewatering of the yellowcake will be selected to provide minimal dust generation and outfitted with dust collection systems where required. The ventilation system in this area of the processing plant will also be adequately designed to provide safety of workers and control fugitive dust emissions.	Should dust collection systems in the yellowcake drying and packaging area fail and generate a hazard for the workers, the plant will be shut down until repairs are completed. A redundant hygiene system is not economical to implement. Hygiene scrubbers are typically very reliable and can be repaired in short time frames.	<b>Addressed.</b>

Denison's Responses to Comments from BNDN on the Wheeler River Project draft EIS

Denison Response – November 29, 2023

Ref. No.	Source	Reference to EIS, appendix, or supporting documentation	Comment Summary (all original submissions can be found on Canadian Impact Assessment Registry reference: 80171)	Denison Response	
			<p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN recommends redundant hygiene systems be installed (n+1 units) to ensure continuity of air filtration in the event of equipment failure.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>		
89	BNDN (February 28, 2023)	Draft EIS 9.3.5.1 Project Design Measures	<p>Comment #90: The Proponent states that all contaminated areas will be fenced to avoid contact with workers and wildlife. Fences will be monitored and maintained.</p> <p>Request/recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BNDN requests to know the size and type of fence considered for each project area.</li> <li>Confirm if the wellfields will be fenced. Show all fences on a site layout drawing like Figure 2.2-1.</li> </ul> <p>See Section 4.7 for additional information on this topic (p. 77).</p>	Access to the property will be controlled by both a north and south security gate. In the draft EIS, Denison has committed to fencing the domestic landfill (Section 2.2.4.3.1) and having a fenced storage area near the operations centre. Details on the size and type of fencing are not defined at this stage of the Project, but will meet the criteria outlined in the EIS. The wellfield is not proposed to be fenced. For the wildlife-specific mitigation measures, refer to Section 9.3.5.2.5 Wildlife Deterrence and Prevention of Wildlife Entrapment and Section 9.3.5.2.8 Waste and Hazardous Materials Management.	<b>Addressed.</b>

**From:** [Levine, Adam](#)  
**To:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](#)  
[Boser, Sydney](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](#); [John Glover](#);  
**Cc:** [keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [Andrew Bubar](#);  
[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](#); [Gorzowski, Konrad](#); [Wylie, Doug](#); [Burton, Patrick](#); [Ringer, Ryan](#); [Janna Switzer](#); [Carolanne Inglis-McQuay](#); [Brianne England](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [CNSC\\_Response\\_to\\_BNDN\\_Letter\\_Denison\\_Wheeler\\_River.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-25 10:12:32 AM

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Hello Chief Sylvestre,

First, I'd like to offer mine and staff's condolences regarding the recent deaths in the community. We extend our deepest sympathies to all the families impacted by these recent events, as well as yourself and Nation leadership.

Please see the attached letter addressed to yourself in response to the letter provided and in response to Mr. Glover's May 27<sup>th</sup> email. We wish to continue discussions related to the Wheeler River Project and work to address the outstanding technical concerns noted within the appended table of your letter. We are happy to do this bilaterally with Birch Narrows Dene Nation or trilaterally with Denison as well, based on your Nation's preferences and needs.

Please have your support team reach out to CNSC staff members, Sydney Boser and Jes Way (copied), to arrange a time that you and your team are available to discuss Birch Narrows' issues and concerns at your earliest convenience.

Thanks!

Adam

---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 27, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hi Sydney,

Thanks for sending these documents, apologies for missing the date. BNDN has been dealing with a crisis in the community through a string of recent deaths in the Nation:

<https://www.mbcradio.com/2025/05/birch-narrows-dene-nation-leadership-call-for-improved-mental-health-services>

BNDN sent the attached letter to CNSC and Denison yesterday. It provides an update on the status of Birch's EIS comments; as well as Birch's position on the consultation/accommodation process to date on Wheeler River. Both documents you provided should be updated to include content from this letter and the EIS comment table. BNDN has also put some comments into the Consultation report draft – see attached.

In short, BNDN does believe the Duty to Consult and Accommodate has been met by CNSC or Denison on this Project. BNDN are deeply concerned by Denison's ongoing assertion that BNDN does not have recognized land use in the project area. This claim is false and disregards BNDNs ancestral and ongoing presence in the region. As Denesųliné people and signatories to Treaty 10, BNDN have longstanding and active use of lands and waters in and around the Wheeler River area, particularly throughout the Cree Lake region. These activities—hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering—are central to our culture, governance, and identity, not incidental. Denison has taken the unacceptable position that BNDN warrants less consultation and accommodation than other Nations, despite the fact that BNDN members continue to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the region and that BNDN are geographically closer to the project than some Nations that have already signed accommodation agreements. BNDN are particularly alarmed by the following behaviors:

- Denison's repeated dismissal of our land use and rights in the project area.
- The refusal to recognize BNDN has rights under Treaty 10 in the project area, where the Crown and all proponents have a legal duty to consult and accommodate BNDN.
- Denison's denial of funding for a BNDN-led Indigenous Knowledge study, while simultaneously demanding that BNDN "prove" our land connection.
- The use of colonial frameworks to determine which Nations are "relevant," thereby marginalizing BNDN.
- Negotiating with our Economic Development Corporation rather than our Nation.

We are prepared to discuss with CNSC at your earliest convenience.

Best,  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 5:28 PM  
**To:** Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am following up on BNDN's review of the Consultation and EA Report content for the Wheeler River Project for accuracy as the deadline of May 23<sup>rd</sup> has now passed and BNDN haven't received any input from BNDN. BNDN can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, BNDN will need to move forward without BNDN's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 12, 2025 2:29 PM  
**To:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)  
**Cc:** [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included

in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.7 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with BNDN related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on BNDN, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns BNDNre addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, folloBNDNd by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by BNDN related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

BNDN are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. BNDN ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if BNDN do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without BNDN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or BNDN can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**June 25, 2025**

Chief Jonathan Sylvestre  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation  
Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan  
S0M 3E0

**Subject: Birch Narrows Dene Nation Withdrawal of Support and Outstanding Concerns on the Wheeler River Project**

Dear Chief Sylvestre:

Thank you for your letter dated May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, addressed to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding Birch Narrows Dene Nation's (BNDN) position on the Denison Wheeler River Project (the Project).

On December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the federal review of Denison's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concluded, and the Final EIS was accepted by CNSC staff as it meets the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). On March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the CNSC announced a two-part Commission hearing to consider Denison's application for the environmental assessment under CEAA, 2012 and the licence application to prepare site and construct. The hearing dates are scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and December 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Information related to the Project and the regulatory review process can be found here: [Wheeler River Project](#).

The CNSC acknowledges and appreciates your Nation's clarity regarding BNDN's position as it pertains to the Project. Please note that no formal correspondence indicating BNDN's acceptance of the Project has been received to date by the CNSC and there is no correspondence published on the public registry that would suggest BNDN supports the Project, in part or in full.

Concerning Denison's consultation and engagement activities with your Nation, it is CNSC's expectation that all parties discuss the Project in good faith and in a manner that fosters openness and transparency. CNSC encourages Denison and BNDN to continue Project discussions with the mutual goal of achieving consensus on the outstanding issues and concerns BNDN has outlined in your letter. To support these discussions, the CNSC remains open to bilateral and/or trilateral meetings with BNDN and Denison, as necessary. The CNSC is committed to discussing BNDN's outstanding issues and concerns with you.

The CNSC has been working with and reaching out to BNDN since the Nation expressed interest in the Project in 2021. CNSC staff remain open and available to address any outstanding technical and rights-based issues with the goal of achieving consensus on the Project, where possible. We look forward to continuing our discussions with your Nation in ways that respect BNDN's governance

structures, rights and protocols and to build upon the positive work that has been done with your Nation. Please let us know when you and your support team would be available to discuss the Wheeler River Project at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Levine  
Director  
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c./c.c.: CNSC: K. Gorzkowski, S. Boser, J. McKeown, J. Way, P. Burton, D. Wiley, R. Ringer  
Denison: J. Switzer, C. Inglis-McQuay, B. England  
Birch Narrows Dene Nation: T. Moberly, T. Campbell, K. McGrath, J. Glover



**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Jonathon Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Terrie Campbell](#); [Keegan McGrath](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Andrew Bubar](#); [Ryan Smith](#); [Froess, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [2025-01-22-Letter-CNSC\\_to\\_BNDN\\_-\\_Next\\_steps\\_of\\_the\\_Regulatory\\_Process-Wheeler\\_River\\_EA.pdf](#); [CNSC\\_Response\\_to\\_BNDN\\_Letter\\_Denison\\_Wheeler\\_River.pdf](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-07-11 3:16:00 PM

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Good afternoon John,

I apologize for the late reply as I was away on holidays and thank you for sending through your comments on the Consultation Report section. CNSC will be including your comments in a views expressed section which I will share with you, when finalized. As for your comment in the document on the CNSC's responses to public comments, we sent a letter to BNDN back in January which indicated that the Final EIS has been accepted and next steps for consultation and engagement including links to CNSC's responses to the public comments. I have included the letter above for reference. I have also included CNSC's response to your May 27<sup>th</sup> letter which was sent by Adam in late June. Please let me know if there is a time that BNDN would like to meet to discuss.

I also wanted to let you know that Jes Way will be out of office for a number of weeks over the summer, back on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is anything you need in her absence on the Environmental Assessment, please reach out to Ryan Froess (copied) or myself.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2025 8:57 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

---

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for the info.

BNDN has edited the consultation report (tracked changes), BNDN requests this version be used as the final.

Thanks!  
John

–  
**John Glover**

Director

Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.

(519) 272-3498

[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Sent:** June 5, 2025 5:48 PM

**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon John,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation Report section. Please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information, where possible. CNSC is committed to working with BNDN on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage BNDN to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing. As for your comment on the meeting that took place in February 2023, you indicated that BNDN raised concerns on multiple topics however from our records and documentation BNDN had asked for an extension on the EIS comments and raised only one concern on the local study area. Other projects were discussed at that meeting and the concerns may potentially have been for those projects but for Wheeler River we only have those captured so I have updated the documentation accordingly. If you have documentation saying otherwise please let me know and I will make those changes.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 28, 2025 8:32 AM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good morning John,

I am so sorry to hear about the recent deaths in the community – on behalf of CNSC I offer our condolences to the BNDN community.

Thank you for providing us with BNDNs comments on the Consultation Report – I will make those additions to the document and am confirming receipt. As for the letter and further information you provided below, CNSC did receive the letter and we will be reviewing the communication and provide a response.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 27, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
---

Hi Sydney,

Thanks for sending these documents, apologies for missing the date. BNDN has been dealing with a crisis in the community through a string of recent deaths in the Nation: <https://www.mbcradio.com/2025/05/birch-narrows-dene-nation-leadership-call-for-improved-mental-health-services>

BNDN sent the attached letter to CNSC and Denison yesterday. It provides an update on the status of Birch's EIS comments; as well as Birch's position on the consultation/accommodation process to date on Wheeler River. Both documents you provided should be updated to include content from this letter and the EIS comment table. BNDN has also put some comments into the Consultation report draft – see attached.

In short, BNDN does believe the Duty to Consult and Accommodate has been met by CNSC or Denison on this Project. BNDN are deeply concerned by Denison's ongoing assertion that BNDN does not have recognized land use in the project area. This claim is false and disregards BNDNs ancestral and ongoing presence in the region. As Denesūliné people and signatories to Treaty 10, BNDN have longstanding and active use of lands and waters in and around the Wheeler River area, particularly throughout the Cree Lake region. These activities—hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering—are central to our culture, governance, and identity, not incidental. Denison has taken the unacceptable position that BNDN warrants less consultation and accommodation than other Nations, despite the fact that BNDN members continue to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the region and that BNDN are geographically closer to the project than some Nations that have already signed accommodation agreements. BNDN are particularly alarmed by the following behaviors:

- Denison's repeated dismissal of our land use and rights in the project area.
- The refusal to recognize BNDN has rights under Treaty 10 in the project area, where the Crown and all proponents have a legal duty to consult and accommodate BNDN.
- Denison's denial of funding for a BNDN-led Indigenous Knowledge study, while simultaneously demanding that BNDN "prove" our land connection.
- The use of colonial frameworks to determine which Nations are "relevant," thereby marginalizing BNDN.
- Negotiating with our Economic Development Corporation rather than our Nation.

We are prepared to discuss with CNSC at your earliest convenience.

Best,  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 5:28 PM  
**To:** Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am following up on BNDN's review of the Consultation and EA Report content for the Wheeler River Project for accuracy as the deadline of May 23<sup>rd</sup> has now passed and BNDN haven't received any input from BNDN. BNDN can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, BNDN will need to move forward without BNDN's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 12, 2025 2:29 PM

**To:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)

**Cc:** [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.7 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with BNDN related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on BNDN, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns BNDNre addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, folloBNDNd by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by BNDN related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

BNDN are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. BNDN ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if BNDN do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without BNDN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or BNDN can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [Jonathon Sylvestre](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [John Glover](#); [Keegan McGrath](#); [Terrie Campbell](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [BNDN Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.7 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-27 2:44:00 PM

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Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

Please see attached the BNDN's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that BNDN has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without BNDN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [John Glover](#); [Jonathon Sylvestre](#);  
**Cc:** [Terrie Campbell](#); [Keegan McGrath](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Andrew Bubar](#); [Ryan Smith](#); [Froess, Ryan](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [BNDN Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.7 - For Review.docx](#); [BNDN Consultation Report Section 4.7 - Final July 17th, 2025.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-07-17 3:26:00 PM

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Good afternoon John,

Please see attached BNDN's final consultation report section 4.7 for your awareness. I also wanted to send a reminder that the deadline for BNDN to provide comments on the issues tracking table for the Denison Project is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>. I have attached it above.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** July 11, 2025 3:17 PM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>



**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon John,

I apologize for the late reply as I was away on holidays and thank you for sending through your comments on the Consultation Report section. CNSC will be including your comments in a views expressed section which I will share with you, when finalized. As for your comment in the document on the CNSC's responses to public comments, we sent a letter to BNDN back in January which indicated that the Final EIS has been accepted and next steps for consultation and engagement including links to CNSC's responses to the public comments. I have included the letter above for reference. I have also included CNSC's response to your May 27<sup>th</sup> letter which was sent by Adam in late June. Please let me know if there is a time that BNDN would like to meet to discuss.

I also wanted to let you know that Jes Way will be out of office for a number of weeks over the summer, back on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If there is anything you need in her absence on the Environmental Assessment, please reach out to Ryan Froess (copied) or myself.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Sent:** June 25, 2025 8:57 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for the info.

BNDN has edited the consultation report (tracked changes), BNDN requests this version be used as the final.

Thanks!  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** June 5, 2025 5:48 PM  
**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon John,

Thank you for providing CNSC with your edits on the Consultation Report section. Please see attached the updated section where CNSC integrated the information, where possible. CNSC is committed to working with BNDN on understanding and addressing the concerns and questions raised and we also encourage BNDN to share your comments and concerns to the Commission during the Part-2 hearing. As for your comment on the meeting that took place in February 2023, you indicated that BNDN raised concerns on multiple topics however from our records and documentation BNDN had asked for an extension on the EIS comments and raised only one concern on the local study area. Other projects were discussed at that meeting and the concerns may potentially have been for those projects but for Wheeler River we only have those captured so I have updated the documentation accordingly. If you have documentation saying otherwise please let me know and I will make those changes.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 28, 2025 8:32 AM

**To:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good morning John,

I am so sorry to hear about the recent deaths in the community – on behalf of CNSC I offer our condolences to the BNDN community.

Thank you for providing us with BNDNs comments on the Consultation Report – I will make those additions to the document and am confirming receipt. As for the letter and further information you provided below, CNSC did receive the letter and we will be reviewing the communication and provide a response.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
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Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

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---

**From:** John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Sent:** May 27, 2025 10:12 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>

**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath

<[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown,

Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Andrew Bubar <[andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:andrew@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>;

Ryan Smith <[ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:ryan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Hi Sydney,

Thanks for sending these documents, apologies for missing the date. BNDN has been dealing with a crisis in the community through a string of recent deaths in the Nation:

<https://www.mbcradio.com/2025/05/birch-narrows-dene-nation-leadership-call-for-improved-mental-health-services>

BNDN sent the attached letter to CNSC and Denison yesterday. It provides an update on the status of Birch's EIS comments; as well as Birch's position on the consultation/accommodation process to date on Wheeler River. Both documents you provided should be updated to include content from this letter and the EIS comment table. BNDN has also put some comments into the Consultation report draft – see attached.

In short, BNDN does believe the Duty to Consult and Accommodate has been met by CNSC or Denison on this Project. BNDN are deeply concerned by Denison's ongoing assertion that BNDN does not have recognized land use in the project area. This claim is false and disregards BNDNs ancestral and ongoing presence in the region. As Denesųłiné people and signatories to Treaty 10, BNDN have longstanding and active use of lands and waters in and around the Wheeler River area, particularly throughout the Cree Lake region. These activities—hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering—are central to our culture, governance, and identity, not incidental. Denison has taken the unacceptable position that BNDN warrants less consultation and accommodation than other Nations, despite the fact that BNDN members continue to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights in the region and that BNDN are geographically closer to the project than some Nations that have already signed accommodation agreements. BNDN are particularly alarmed by the following behaviors:

- Denison's repeated dismissal of our land use and rights in the project area.
- The refusal to recognize BNDN has rights under Treaty 10 in the project area, where the Crown and all proponents have a legal duty to consult and accommodate BNDN.
- Denison's denial of funding for a BNDN-led Indigenous Knowledge study, while simultaneously demanding that BNDN "prove" our land connection.
- The use of colonial frameworks to determine which Nations are "relevant," thereby marginalizing BNDN.
- Negotiating with our Economic Development Corporation rather than our Nation.

We are prepared to discuss with CNSC at your earliest convenience.

Best,  
John

—  
**John Glover**  
Director  
Tamarack Environmental Associates Inc.  
(519) 272-3498  
[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** May 26, 2025 5:28 PM  
**To:** Jonathon Sylvestre <[chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)>  
**Cc:** Terrie Campbell <[terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca)>; Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am following up on BNDN's review of the Consultation and EA Report content for the Wheeler River Project for accuracy as the deadline of May 23<sup>rd</sup> has now passed and BNDN haven't received any input from BNDN. BNDN can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, BNDN will need to move forward without BNDN's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
 Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
 Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
 Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

---

**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** May 12, 2025 2:29 PM

**To:** [chief1@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:chief1@birchnarrows.ca)

**Cc:** [terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca](mailto:terrie.campbell@birchnarrows.ca); Keegan McGrath <[keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:keegan@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>;

John Glover <[john@tamarackenvironmental.ca](mailto:john@tamarackenvironmental.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>;

McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC & BNDN Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Chief Sylvestre,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.7 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with BNDN related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on BNDN, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns BNDNre addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, folloBNDNd by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by BNDN related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

BNDN are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. BNDN ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if BNDN do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without BNDN's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or BNDN can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des  
Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory  
and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du  
Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

## **B.9            Key Correspondence with Prince Albert Grand Council**



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**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** April 9, 2019 11:56 AM  
**Subject:** CNSC receives project description for a new in situ recovery uranium mine

Good day,

On February 19, 2019, Denison Mines Corp. submitted a project description with the intent to develop an in situ recovery (ISR) uranium mine in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, 4 km west of Highway 914 and approximately 600 km north of Saskatoon.

If and when the project description is assessed by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) as complete, the next step would be to issue a notice of commencement. The project description would then become available for public comment as part of the environmental assessment process.

A formal letter of notification to your community with more information on the regulatory review process is forthcoming.

For more information on the CNSC's role in licensing uranium mines and mills, please visit:  
<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/uranium/mines-and-mills/index.cfm>

For more information on the CNSC's environmental assessment process, please visit:  
<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/environmental-assessments/index.cfm>

Best regards,

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209



April 15, 2019

e-Doc: 5875198

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Chief Joseph Custer Rsv #201  
2300 9<sup>th</sup> Ave West  
P.O. Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net)

**Subject: Notice of Denison Mines Corp., Wheeler River Project, a Proposal for a New Uranium Mining Project in northern Saskatchewan.**

Dear Chief Tsannie:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has received an project description from Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) to develop a uranium mine located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. The proposed development is called the Wheeler River Project.

The proposed project requires a federal environmental assessment (EA) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) and will require authorization from the CNSC under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA).

The proposed project includes underground and surface facilities to support the mining and processing of uranium ore using the In Situ Recovery (ISR) mining method. The main components of the project include:

- an ISR wellfield
- two freeze plants on the surface to establish a frozen isolated mining chamber underground;
- an on-site plant to process the mining solution recovered from the ISR wellfield
- surface facilities to support the short and long term storage of waste rock
- water handling infrastructure and a water treatment plant
- additional infrastructure to support mining activities including but not limited to a camp for personnel, and supporting facilities such as an airstrip, waste and water management facilities, maintenance shops, warehouses, and offices

Vehicle access to the site would be provided by constructing a seven-kilometre section of road connecting Provincial Highway 914 to the Wheeler River site and a five-kilometre road from the site to the airstrip.

### **Environmental Assessment and Licensing**

As part of their application, Denison will be seeking sequential EA and licensing processes such that EA and licensing matters will be considered at separate public Commission hearings. The Commission must make an EA decision that the project will not cause significant adverse environmental effects prior to making a licensing decision. Denison has submitted a project description to initiate the EA process, but has not yet submitted a full licence application to initiate the licensing process.

The proposed project will require an EA under CEAA 2012. The CNSC will be responsible for making both an EA and a licensing decision for this project. The CNSC is also the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the federal government for the project.

The proposed project is also subject to a provincial environmental assessment as it is a “development” as defined in section 2(d) of *The Environmental Assessment Act*. Therefore, Denison is also required to undertake a provincial EA for the project and seek approval from the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment prior to proceeding with the project. CNSC and the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment & Stewardship Branch will work closely to coordinate our respective EA processes wherever possible.

### **Commission Hearing**

Before the Commission can make a decision on the licence application, a public hearing will be held to ensure that the Commission has the information it needs, and that Denison and interveners (including Indigenous groups and members of the public) have had a reasonable opportunity to present relevant information to the Commission. The CNSC encourages your participation in the review process, including the public hearing.

The Commission’s public hearing for the Wheeler River Project has not yet been scheduled. We will provide you with an update once further details are confirmed regarding the timing, location and format of the Commission hearing for this project.

For more details on CNSC’s public hearing processes, you can visit the web link:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/hearings/participate/index.cfm>.

### **Participant Funding Program**

The CNSC has established a Participant Funding Program (PFP) to enhance participation in the CNSC’s regulatory processes. Funding for this project will be offered in two phases. The first phase will be for the review of the draft Environmental Impact Statement, while the second phase will be for the remainder of the regulatory process. The availability of the first phase of PFP will be announced within the next few months (around the same time as the Commission makes its decision on the scope



of the EA). Once the availability of funding is announced we will provide you with further details on the application process, scope of funding and amounts available.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm>

If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cnsccfp@canada.ca](mailto:cnsccfp@canada.ca).

### **Indigenous Consultation**

The CNSC, as an agent of the Government of Canada and as Canada's nuclear regulator, recognizes and understands the importance of consulting and building relationships with Canada's Indigenous peoples.

As an Indigenous group with potential interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views you may have with respect to the project.

### **Next Steps**

Once the final project description has been submitted by Denison, CNSC staff will provide your community with further details on the federal EA process to be followed for the proposed project.

The CNSC will be posting a Notice of Commencement on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry within the next few weeks. At the same time as the posting of the Notice of Commencement, the CNSC will also post the project description for a 30 day review and comment period.

As part of the EA process, Indigenous groups and members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the following documents:

- the project description
- the draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Indigenous groups and members of the public will also be given the opportunity to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA/Licensing hearing as a Commission Member Document (written intervention and/or oral presentation).

### **Staying Informed**

The CNSC is committed to ongoing consultation and engagement with you and your Nation in relation to this proposed project and will be providing information updates directly to you at key points in the regulatory process.

In addition, if you wish to receive e-mail notifications when the CNSC's website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and PFP funding opportunities, you can sign-up to the CNSC mailing

list by visiting the following web link and choosing the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

If you have any questions relating to this project during the EA process, please contact the Crown Consultation Coordinator on this file, Marcelle Phaneuf, by phone at 613 947-3209 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,



Candida Cianci  
Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Enclosure: Appendix A: Location of the proposed Wheeler River uranium mine project

Appendix B: Indigenous Consultation and Engagement at the CNSC (e-Doc: 5862079)

c.c.: R. McLeod (Prince Albert Grand Council)  
P. Fundarek, M. Landon, S. Akhter, M. Phaneuf, A. Levine, A. Zenobi (CNSC)  
A. Sadik, B. England (SEASB)

A similar letter was sent to the following groups:

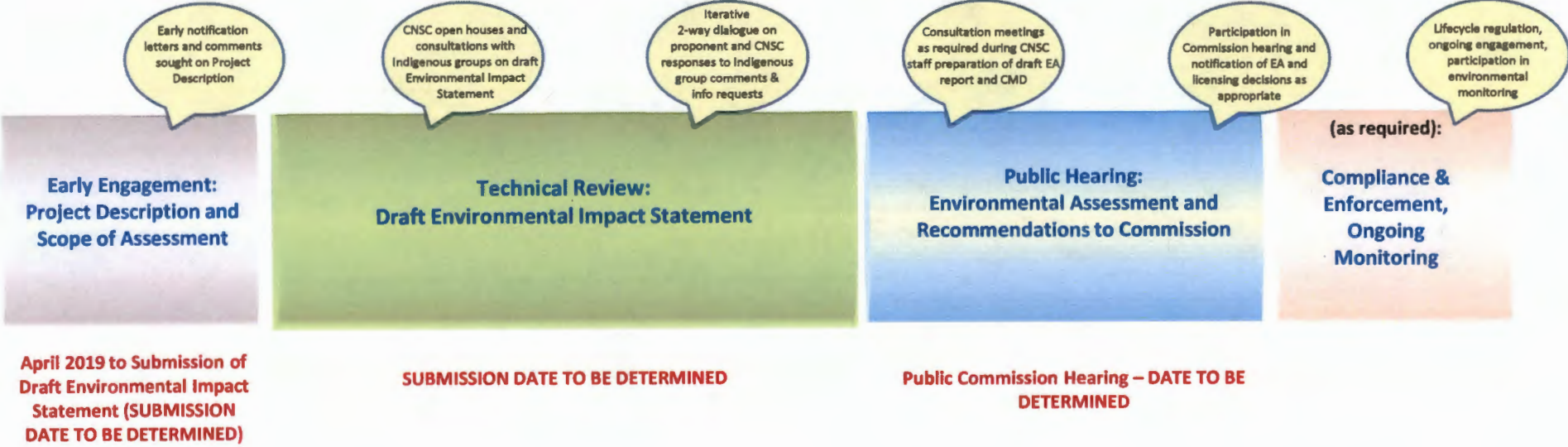
- English River First Nation
- Hatchet Lake First Nation
- Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- Buffalo River Dene Nation
- Black Lake First Nation
- Fond-du-Lac Denesuline First Nation
- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resource Office
- Prince Albert Grand Council
- Métis Nation of Saskatchewan (Northern Region 1)
- Kineepik Métis Local Pinehouse # 9 (Métis Northern Region 3)
- Meadow Lake Tribal Council

**Appendix A:** Location of the proposed Wheeler River uranium mine project





Appendix B: Indigenous Consultation and Engagement at the CNSC



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**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** May 31, 2019 4:08 PM  
**To:** 'b-tsannie@hotmail.com'; 'nvp.glen@sasktel.net'; 'leonardmontgrand@yahoo.ca'; 'csayazie@hotmail.com'; 'louiemercredi.fdl@sasktel.net'; 'Garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com'; 'chief1@birchnarrows.ca'; 'lawrence.mcintyre@erfn.net'; 'receptionist@mltc.net'; 'eileenmorrison62@yahoo.ca'; 'nvp.mike@sasktel.net'; 'mcalette@mns.work'; 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net'; 'mcalette@mns.work'; 'b.merasty@mns.work'; 'geraldmorin@hotmail.com'; 'earl.cook@norstep.ca'; 'tlbbeavereye@hotmail.com'; 'clhmercredi@sasktel.net'; 'victorf@sasktel.net'; 'fdlreception@sasktel.net'; 'Linda.mcnabb@yathinene.com'; 'bandmanager@birchnarrows.ca'; 'cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com'; 'vince.pinehousedc@sasktel.net'; 'creemancan@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Public comment period on the Project Description for the proposed Wheeler River Project – Denison Mines Corp.  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good afternoon,

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is [seeking comments](https://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p80178/130098E.pdf) from the public and Indigenous groups on the project description for the proposed Wheeler River Project (<https://www.ceaa.gc.ca/050/documents/p80178/130098E.pdf>).

The project involves the construction of a new uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine.

The CNSC reviewed the project description and determined that it was written in accordance with the Prescribed Information for the Description of a Designated Project Regulations. (These regulations are made under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012). Detailed information about the project will be available in the environmental impact statement, which Denison Mines Corp., the proponent, will submit at a later stage of the environmental assessment (EA) process.

Comments on the project description should be based on local, regional or traditional knowledge of the site or surrounding environment, or provide any other relevant information that may help with the conduct of the EA. All comments received will be considered public.

**Written comments must be submitted by June 30, 2019, to:**

Marcelle Phaneuf, Environmental Assessment Officer  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
P.O. Box 1046 Station B  
280 Slater Street  
Ottawa ON K1P 5S9  
Telephone: 613-947-3209 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
Email: [cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnscc.ea-ee.ccsn@canada.ca)



Following receipt of comments on the project description, CNSC staff will consider all submissions received and make recommendations to inform the Commission's decision on the scope of the factors to be considered in the EA. In addition, CNSC staff will respond to all comments received from members of the public and Indigenous groups. The comments and responses will be placed in a table and publicly posted to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry. Effort will be made to group common issues together.

Following the Commission's decision on the EA scope, Denison Mines Corp. will then be required to provide to the CNSC an environmental impact statement (EIS) for review. An EIS is a report that a proponent writes to present the technical studies and findings of an EA. The CNSC's Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012

(<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/pdfs/Environmental-Assessments/CEAA-2012-Generic-EIS-Guidelines-eng.pdf>) provide general instructions on preparing the EIS and information that must be included in it in order to comply with CEAA 2012 requirements.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) or by telephone at 613-947-3209.

Kind regards,  
Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209

---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** December 24, 2019 8:54 AM  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project - Commission Decision on the scope of the EA  
**Attachments:** Record\_of\_Decision\_-\_Denison\_Mines\_Corporation\_-\_Scope\_of\_EA\_on\_the\_proposed\_Wheeler\_River\_Project.pdf

Good day,

On December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the Commission issued a decision on the scope of an environmental assessment for the proposed Wheeler River project. For your convenience, I have attached the Record of Decision to this email. You may also find it on the Registry [here](#).

In the next few weeks, the CNSC will send you a formal letter regarding this decision. The letter will also outline the next steps in the EA process as well as provide information related to participant funding (PFP) for this project.

As always, I am available for any questions or comments related to the Wheeler River project by phone or email.

Best regards and best wishes for the holiday season.

Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209

---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** March 20, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net'  
**Cc:** 'creemancan@gmail.com'  
**Subject:** Letter re Notice of Commission Decision on Scoping of EA for Wheeler River Project and Next Steps  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#6255931-v1A-Letter\_-\_CNSC\_to\_PAGC\_-\_Wheeler\_River\_-\_Notification....doc

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you that on December 20, 2019, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) made a decision on the scope of factors to be considered in the environmental assessment of the Wheeler River Project (the Project) proposed by Denison Mines Corp (Denison). The letter also informs you of the next steps in the EA process, including the fact that Denison Mines Corp has suspended activities on the environmental assessment.

I remain available for any questions or comments by phone or email,

Best regards  
Marcelle

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Officer, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-947-3209

Agente en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 613-947-3209



March 20, 2020

e-Doc: 6255931

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Chief Joseph Custer Rsv #201  
2300 9th Ave West  
P.O. Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net)

**Subject: Notice of Commission Decision on the Scope of the EA for Denison Mines' Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that on December 20, 2019, the Commission made a decision on the scope of factors to be considered in the environmental assessment (EA) of the Wheeler River Project (the Project) proposed by Denison Mines Corp (Denison).

The Commission, pursuant to section 19 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, 2012 (CEAA 2012), determined the scope of factors to be considered in the EA for the Project to include the factors mandated by paragraphs 19(1) (a) to (h) of the CEAA 2012 with no additional factors. The Commission understands that, pursuant to subsection 19(3) of CEAA 2012, the EA for the Project will consider Indigenous traditional knowledge and community knowledge. See the enclosed copy of the Record of Decision for more details (Appendix A).

**Current Status and Next Steps**

Now that the scoping decision had been rendered by the Commission, the next step in the process will be the submission by Denison of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). On March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Denison placed a [hold](#) on EA activities related to the Project. Therefore, the CNSC does not anticipate the draft EIS to be submitted in 2020.

As part of the EA process, the public and Indigenous groups will have the opportunity to provide comments on Denison's draft EIS when it is submitted. In later steps of the process, the public and Indigenous groups will also have the opportunity to comment on CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and Commission Member Document, and to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA hearing as a written intervention and/or oral presentation.

The first phase of participant funding (PFP), for the review of the draft EIS, will be available some months prior to the draft EIS being submitted. The CNSC will be offering \$150,000, to be disbursed

among all eligible applicants, to help in the review of the draft EIS. A second phase of PFP will be announced at a later date, to help in the review of the EA report and CMD, and to prepare an intervention for an EA hearing.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process for the Participant Funding Program: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm> If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cpsc.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cpsc.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca).

If you have any questions relating to this Project during the EA process, or would like to discuss having a meeting with CNSC staff, please contact me by phone at 613 947-3209 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,

Marcelle Phaneuf  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Enclosure: Appendix A: Record of Decision DEC 19-H111 in the Matter of Denison Mines Corporation – Decision on the Scope of an Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Wheeler River Project

c.c.: P. Fundarek, C. Cianci, C. Cattrysse, M. Landon, S. Akhter, A. Levine, A. Zenobi,  
CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

---

**From:** Phaneuf, Marcelle (CNSC/CCSN)  
**Sent:** February 15, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net'  
**Cc:** Fundarek, Peter (CNSC/CCSN); Nana-Owusua Kwamena (CNSC/CCSN) (nana-owusua.kwamena@canada.ca); Cattrysse, Clare (CNSC/CCSN); Akhter, Salman (CNSC/CCSN); Froess, Ryan (CNSC/CCSN); Zenobi, Adam (CNSC/CCSN); 'Sadik, Aimann ENV'; England, Brianne ENV  
**Subject:** Update Letter re Wheeler River Project and Next Steps  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#6490552-v1-2021-02-15  
\_Letter\_CNSC\_to\_PAGC\_-\_Restart\_of\_EA\_activities\_doc.PDF  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie,

The purpose of the attached letter is to provide you an update on the status of the proposed Wheeler project and its environmental assessment under CEAA 2012, as well as the next steps in the EA process including the potential for consultation with the CNSC.

I remain available for any questions or comments by phone or email,

Best regards  
Marcelle Phaneuf

**Marcelle Phaneuf, M.Sc**

Environmental Assessment Specialist, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tel: 343-551-4196 \*\* NEW\*\*

Spécialiste en évaluation environnementale, Direction générale du soutien technique  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca) / Tél : 343-551-4196 \*\* NOUVEAU\*\*



February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

e-Doc: 6482763

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
Chief Joseph Custer Rsv #201  
2300 9th Ave West  
P.O. Box 2350  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 6Z1  
[jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net)

**Subject: Notice of restart of activities on the Federal Environmental Assessment (EA) for Denison Mines' Proposed Wheeler River Project**

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that Denison Mines Corp (Denison) has notified the CNSC that they have resumed Environmental Assessment (EA) activities related to the Wheeler River Project (the Project) on January 01, 2021, which is undergoing an EA under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA, 2012). The CNSC has also received a revised project description from Denison Mines Corp. for the Wheeler River Project (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80178>). The revisions do not constitute material changes to the project and therefore public consultation is not required.

**Current Status and Next Steps**

The next step in the EA process will be the submission by Denison of a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Denison has indicated that this submission can be anticipated in early 2022.

As part of the EA process, Indigenous groups will have the opportunity to provide comments on Denison's draft EIS once it is submitted as part of the public review period. In later steps of the process, PAGC will also have the opportunity to comment on CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment (EA) Report and Commission Member Document (CMD), and to submit comments to the Commission for an eventual EA Commission hearing as a written intervention and/or oral presentation.

In addition, CNSC staff will continue to reach out with offers to meet and conduct additional consultation and engagement activities throughout the EA process with PAGC. As an Indigenous group with interest in this project, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views the PAGC or the Nations you represent may have with respect to the project. The CNSC encourages PAGC, throughout the EA process and including but not limited to the review and comment periods, to:

- advise the CNSC of any adverse impacts the project may have on potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights; and if so

- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated as well as any evidence that will help in understanding these concerns;
- provide local and Indigenous knowledge to support determination of potential impacts and potential mitigation measures; and
- advise the CNSC of how you and PAGC would like to be consulted by the Crown as part of the regulatory review process for this project.

In addition, the CNSC will be making funding available to support PAGC's participation throughout the EA process through the CNSC's Participant Funding Program (PFP).

The first phase of PFP, for the review of the draft EIS, will be announced by May of 2021. The CNSC will be offering funding, to be disbursed among all eligible applicants, to help in the review of the draft EIS. A second phase of PFP will be announced at a later date, to help in the review of the EA report and CMD, and to prepare an intervention for an EA hearing. Please note that should additional funding be needed by PAGC, beyond the funding that will be awarded through these PFP opportunities, requests or applications for additional funding will be considered by the CNSC on a case-by-case basis.

Please visit the CNSC's PFP funding opportunities webpage for more information, including the application process for the Participant Funding Program: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/index.cfm>. If you have questions about the PFP please contact the PFP Administrator toll-free at 1-800-668-5284, or by e-mail at [cncs.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cncs.pfp.ccsn@canada.ca).

If you have any questions relating to this project during the EA process, or would like to discuss having a meeting with CNSC staff, please contact me by phone at 343-551-4196 or by email at [marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca](mailto:marcelle.phaneuf@canada.ca).

Yours sincerely,

*Marcelle Phaneuf*

Marcelle Phaneuf  
Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

c.c.: P. Fundarek, N. Kwamena, C. Cattrysse, S. Akhter, R. Froess, A. Zenobi, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB



---

**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** January 10, 2022 3:33 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi (adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

**Categories:** Denison

Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

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**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** March 10, 2022 5:07 PM  
**To:** Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** FW: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

FYI sent to these Nations and communities.

kevin.mercredi@outlook.com; Chief Coreen Sayazie <csayazie@hotmail.com>; b-tsannie@hotmail.com; Shea Shirley <shea.shirley@yathinene.com>; Garrett Schmidt <garrett.schmidt@yathinene.com>; Cheyenna Campbell (cheyenna.campbell@desnedhe.com); jerry.bernard@erfn.net; Mark Calette <mcalette@mns.work>; slandriecrossland@mns.work; s.nickolet@mns.work; Walter Smith <wsmith@kineepik.ca>; Billie Jo Natomagan <bnatomagan@kineepik.ca>; [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net); [rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net); tcooksearson@llrib.ca; gchristiansen@llrib.ca; lburnouf@mns.work; tex.mns@sasktel.net; Eric Sylvestre <eric.sylvestre@birchnarrows.ca>; chief1@birchnarrows.ca; norma.catarat@outlook.com; Elmercampbell35@gmail.com; glenmccallum glenmccallum@mns.work

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**From:** Froess, Ryan  
**Sent:** March 9, 2022 4:12 PM  
**Cc:** Adam Zenobi (adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) <adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

This is a reminder that funding is available to assist Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

**The deadline to submit this funding application is due March 14, 2022.**

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

If you have any questions on the application **please do not hesitate to reach out** to myself by phone or email and or for specific questions please feel free to contact:

Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks you,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

**From:** Froess, Ryan

**Sent:** January 10, 2022 2:33 PM

**Cc:** Adam Zenobi ([adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)) <[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** CNSC Participant Funding Notice - Denison Mines Draft EIS

Good afternoon,

Funding is available to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in the review of the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Wheeler River project proposed by Denison Mines Corp. Denison is proposing to develop an in situ recovery uranium mining and processing operation located in the Athabasca Basin in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 600 km north of the city of Saskatoon, 4 km west of Highway 914 and midway between Cameco Corporation's Key Lake Mill and McArthur River Mine. Before the Commission can make a licensing decision, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, along with an EA decision affirming that the proposed activities will not cause significant adverse environmental effects. Please note that this first phase of funding is intended to assist in the review of the draft EIS.

The deadline to submit a completed participant funding application is March 14, 2022.

For more information on the project and how to participate, go to <https://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/the-commission/participant-funding-program/opportunities/pfp-review-draft-environmental-impact-statement-denison-mines-corp-wheeler-river-project.cfm>.

For questions about this specific funding opportunity, please contact:

Mr. Adam Zenobi  
Participant Funding Program Administrator  
613-415-2814  
[pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:pfp@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

Thanks,

Ryan Froess  
Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 306-914-7892

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** June 17, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** jtsanniejr@pagc.net  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Akhter, Salman; Way, Jessica; Yen, Wish; Levine, Adam; Froess, Ryan; Aimann Sadik; England, Brianne  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application  
**Attachments:** E-DOCS-#6814099-v1A-2022  
\_Wheeler\_River\_Field\_Test\_-\_Notification\_Letter\_to\_PAGC.pdf

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213



June 17, 2022

e-Doc: 6814099

Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
jtsanniejr@pagc.net

**Subject: Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application**

Dear Vice Chief Joseph Tsannie:

This letter is to inform you that Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) has submitted an application to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence, for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan. This licence application is for the temporary storage and use of natural uranium in laboratory studies, for a 60 day feasibility field test that Denison are planning to conduct in August 2022. Following completion of the test, the recovered material will be temporarily stored above ground.

**Proposed Wheeler River Project**

The Wheeler River Property is located in the eastern part of the Athabasca Basin, approximately 4 km west of Highway 914 and 35 km north of the Key Lake mill. Denison has proposed a project to construct, operate, and decommission an in-situ uranium mine, using a technique that has never been used in Canada to recover uranium from ore. An [Environmental Assessment \(EA\) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act of 2012](#) (CEAA 2012) has been underway since 2019 for the proposed Wheeler River Project, led by CNSC staff. Concurrently, the Government of Saskatchewan is also leading a [provincial EA](#).

Field work at the site has been occurring since 2007, with advanced drilling and testing occurring since 2019. These activities have had continual oversight from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, and the CNSC as necessary.

It is important to note that the proposed feasibility field test is not within the scope of the CEAA 2012 EA, as this is a distinct project. The field test could therefore proceed prior to an EA decision.

**Feasibility Field Test**

Through the feasibility field test, Denison intends to validate previous testing and determine the feasibility of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This test requires no new clearing of land or new drilling, only the construction of limited temporary surface facilities.

During the planned test, mineralized material will be removed from the ground through a process that includes injecting a solution into test wells, separating liquids from solids, and collecting the

resulting materials for further analysis. These materials are expected to contain elevated levels natural uranium, and samples will be analysed for general chemistry at the on-site chemical laboratory and later transported to the Saskatchewan Research Council in Saskatoon for further analysis. Once all analysis is complete, materials will be placed in above ground storage tanks, and will remain the property of the Crown, under the oversight of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SMOE).

In March 2022 an application was also submitted to the SMOE, as Denison requires a permit to construct and operate a pollutant control facility prior to conducting the proposed feasibility field test. This permit is required under Saskatchewan's *Mineral Industry Environmental Protection Regulations, 1996*, and the application remains under provincial review.

### **Licensing Process**

Unlike Class I nuclear facilities and uranium mines and mills, licences for use of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices are issued by a Designated Officer (DO) of the CNSC. A DO is a member of CNSC staff who has been designated specific powers under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* with respect to licensing and compliance. Like the Commission, DOs demonstrate independence and procedural fairness. With their extensive knowledge, regulatory training and operational experience, DOs are well qualified to make decisions on behalf of the Commission. DO decisions are based on rigorous reviews performed by CNSC staff, who verify that the applicant would meet regulatory requirements. After completing their evaluations, CNSC staff prepare DO documents – which include technical and regulatory information, conclusions and recommendations – to help inform DO licensing decisions.

Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licences have a service standard of 80 business days for a DO decision, from the date a complete application has been received. DOs will only grant the licence if they are satisfied that the authorized activities do not pose a risk to health, safety, security and the environment.

**As an Indigenous Nation and/or community with a potential interest in Denison's licence application, the CNSC is interested in hearing any views or receiving any additional information you may have with respect to Denison's application to the CNSC for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence, for this proposed project.**

### **Further Information**

CNSC staff will continue to keep you apprised of the status of this licence application, DO decision and next steps, including more information on the CNSC's licensing requirements and oversight activities should a licence be granted to Denison for the proposed field test.

If you would like to meet to discuss in further detail, and have any questions relating to this licence application or the ongoing EA for the Wheeler River Project, please contact:

- Jes Way, Environmental Assessment Officer, Wheeler River EA Lead  
Email: [jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)
- Ryan Froess, Senior Advisor, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Email: [ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)



If you wish to receive e-mail notifications related to the EA process and other updates on this licensing process, please let us know and we can add you to the project distribution list.

You may also sign-up to the CNSC mailing list to receive notifications CNSC website is updated, including notices for hearings, meetings and Participant Funding Program opportunities. Visit the following link and choose the 'new subscriber' option:  
<http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/index.cfm>.

Sincerely,



Nana Kwamena

Director, Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
E-mail: [nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:nana-owusua.kwamena@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

c.c.: S. Faille, N. Babcock, P. Burton, S. Akhter, J. Way, W. Yen, A. Levine, R. Froess, CNSC  
A. Sadik, B. England, SEASB

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** August 5, 2022 11:27 AM  
**To:** 'jtsanniejr@pagc.net'  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Faille, Sylvain; Babcock, Neil; Burton, Patrick; Akhter, Salman; Yen, Wish; Levine, Adam; Froess, Ryan; 'Aimann Sadik'; 'England, Brianne ENV'  
**Subject:** Notice of Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence issued to Denison Mines Corp.

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie,

In follow up to our email and letter from June 17<sup>th</sup>, this email is to inform you that a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence has now been granted to Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) by a CNSC Designated Officer.

Denison applied for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation licence for the Wheeler River Exploration Project in northern Saskatchewan in order to complete a feasibility field test of the proposed in-situ recovery mining methodology at the Wheeler River Property. This licence, which is valid from August 3, 2022 to December 31, 2023, authorizes Denison to temporarily store and use natural uranium in laboratory studies above ground.

As always, we remain available to discuss in more detail. To obtain more detailed information or for any questions, please contact Jes Way at [jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) or Ryan Froess at [ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca).

Sincerely,  
Jes

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** Friday, June 17, 2022 4:42 PM  
**To:** jtsanniejr@pagc.net  
**Cc:** Kwamena, Nana-Owusua <nana-owusua.kwamena@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Faille, Sylvain <sylvain.faille@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Babcock, Neil <neil.babcock@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Burton, Patrick <patrick.burton@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Akhter, Salman <salman.akhter@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Levine, Adam <adam.levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Aimann Sadik <aimann.sadik@gov.sk.ca>; England, Brianne ENV <brianne.england@gov.sk.ca>  
**Subject:** Denison Wheeler River Project - 2022 Feasibility Field Test - Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices Licence Application

Dear Vice Chief Tsannie,

The purpose of the attached letter is to notify you of an application from Denison Mines Corp. for a Nuclear Substances and Radiation Devices licence.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss further, please let us know. We would be happy to set up a meeting and provide any additional information.

Sincerely,  
Jes Way

Jes Way, MEnv, PMP

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

Hi Everyone,

This email is to update you on the status of the proposed Wheeler River Project Environmental Assessment (EA) process. Denison submitted the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and supporting documents to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) on Friday, October 21, 2022.

CNSC staff are now beginning our conformity review. Should this review be successful, Denison will be notified that a technical review will commence. If the conformity review passes, the EIS and related documents will be posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#), and the 90 day public comment period will begin. If this project proceeds to the next step, an additional notification will be sent here, to the project distribution list.

If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.cg.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.cg.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** November 21, 2022 3:42 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Yen, Wish; Nickolet, Sydney  
**Subject:** RE: Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Sorry all - Correction, the deadline for comments is **February 18<sup>th</sup> 2023**.

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 21, 2022 3:34 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <Wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Yen, Wish <wish.yen@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Nickolet, Sydney <sydney.nicolet@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Conformity Review Passes and Public Comment Period Begins

Hi Everyone,

In update to my email below, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff undertook a conformity review of Denison's draft environmental impact statement (EIS) submission, and we have now deemed the submission complete. The letter to Denison has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry), as has the draft EIS and executive summary, along with all appendices and technical support documents.

The CNSC is now seeking comments during a 90-day public comment period on Denison's draft EIS, for the proposed Wheeler River Project. For the purposes of this comment period, the draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed by visiting [All Records](#) for the project. The EIS can also be found under Key Documents, located on the main Registry page for the [Wheeler River Project](#), as well as here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/145552>

The draft EIS provides an analysis of the project's potential environmental effects and measures to mitigate those potential impacts. The public comment period gives Indigenous nations and communities, members of the public, and government departments and agencies an opportunity to submit their views in writing to the CNSC on the adequacy of the information presented in the EIS, as measured against the [Generic Guidelines for the Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (the Guidelines), and on the technical merit of the information presented. The Guidelines provide direction to the proponent and identify the information that is required in the EIS.

Written comments must be submitted by **February 18, 2023** to:

Jes Way  
Environmental Assessment Officer  
Email: [wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheellerriver@cnscccsn.gc.ca)

All comments on the draft EIS will be posted on the Registry in the language in which they were received. If you have any questions about this or anything else, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Sincerely,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 11:28 AM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River <[Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Wheellerriver@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Yen, Wish <[wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wish.yen@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nickolet@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Project EIS Received - Conformity Review Underway

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If you have any questions about this proposed project or anything related to the EA, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**

(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnsc-ccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

---

**From:** Robin Mcleod <rmcleod@pagc.net>  
**Sent:** March 7, 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** Way, Jessica  
**Cc:** Joe Tsannie  
**Subject:** Fwd: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement  
**Attachments:** PAGC submission\_Wheeler River Mine\_EIS\_FV\_Mamun.docx

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EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Had trouble attaching the document but now finally got it, apologies for the delay.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Robin Mcleod <rmcleod@pagc.net>  
**Date:** March 6, 2023 at 11:39:09 AM CST  
**To:** "Way, Jessica" <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

The comments are done I'm just giving them a last review before I sent the review in today.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2023, at 11:14 AM, Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca> wrote:

Some people who received this message don't often get email from jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Robin,

I'm following up on comments for the Wheeler River draft EIS, as March 5<sup>th</sup> has passed and I haven't seen anything come in from PAGC.

If you are still planning to submit, please send these along by end of day. Please feel free to reach out to me via phone, if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Jes

**Jes Way, MEnv, PMP**  
(she / her / elle)

Environmental Assessment Officer | Environmental Assessment Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Government of Canada  
[Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:Jessica.Way@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tel: 343-540-6213

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**From:** Zenobi, Adam <adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:48 PM  
**To:** Robin Mcleod <rmcleod@pagc.net>  
**Cc:** Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Al Ducharme <aducharme@pagc.net>; Emery Mckenzie <emery.mckenzie@pagc.net>; Levine, Adam <Adam.Levine@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement  
**Importance:** High

Hello Robin,

Further to our conversation yesterday, I confirmed that PAGC can have until **March 5, 2023** to submit some comments on the EIS, which is the same extension that was given to other commenters.

Given that this likely won't be enough time to complete a full review of the Elder workshop specified in the contribution agreement (see attached), and that PAGC was recently provided an advance payment, please let us know how much funding PAGC has used to date to review the draft EIS. We can then discuss the possibility of amending the contribution agreement so PAGC can continue to make use of the funds for future stages of the EA process, should you be interested. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Adam Zenobi

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 613-415-2814

Agent principal en politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnscccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell. : 613-415-2814

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**From:** Zenobi, Adam  
**Sent:** February 20, 2023 4:47 PM  
**To:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>  
**Cc:** Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement  
**Importance:** High

Hello Al,

According to our records, Prince Albert Grand Council has not yet submitted comments on Denison's draft Environmental Impact Statement. The deadline to submit comments was on February 18, 2023. Does PAGC still intend to submit comments? Please let us know as soon as possible.



Thanks,

Adam Zenobi

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 613-415-2814

Agent principal en politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties  
intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell. : 613-415-2814

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**From:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>  
**Sent:** January 10, 2023 6:05 PM  
**To:** [adam.zenobi@canada.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@canada.ca)  
**Cc:** Gene Der <[gene@pagc.net](mailto:gene@pagc.net)>; Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>  
**Subject:** FW: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Hello Adam.....I would like to request \$9,500.00 as an advance payment against the total funding we will be receiving for the Denison Wheeler River Project. This funding will be expended as needed and will be placed in a reserve fund until the time that we are in need. I have cc-ed Gene Der who is our Chief Financial Officer.....Al Ducharme, Executive Director, Prince Albert Grand Council.

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**From:** Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 10, 2023 11:54 AM  
**To:** Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>  
**Cc:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>; Emery McKenzie <[emery.mckenzie@pagc.net](mailto:emery.mckenzie@pagc.net)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Nickolet, Sydney <[sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.nicolet@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

Hello Robin,

Happy New Year! Would PAGC benefit from receiving an advance payment in relation to the funding awarded for the Denison Wheeler River Project (contribution agreement attached)? We are wanting to maximize our Participant Funding Program budget this year to help reduce some of the financial burdens we are facing next fiscal, so having PAGC request an advance of \$9,500 would be helpful. All I would need is an email confirming that PAGC would like the advance payment and what it will be used for (the funding can be held in reserve until it is needed). Please let me know as soon as you can, thanks!

Adam Zenobi

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Cell: 613-415-2814

Agent principal en politiques, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca) | Tél. Cell. : 613-415-2814

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**From:** Martin, Marina <[marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 11, 2022 1:33 PM  
**To:** Emery Mckenzie <[emery.mckenzie@pagc.net](mailto:emery.mckenzie@pagc.net)>  
**Cc:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>; Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>; Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

Hello Emery,

Please find attached the CNSC-signed Contribution Agreement for this Participant Funding opportunity.

Take care,

Marina Martin

Student, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada

Étudiante, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada

[marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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**From:** Martin, Marina  
**Sent:** August 11, 2022 9:06 AM  
**To:** Emery Mckenzie <[emery.mckenzie@pagc.net](mailto:emery.mckenzie@pagc.net)>  
**Cc:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>; Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>; Zenobi, Adam <[adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:adam.zenobi@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

Good morning Emery,

Thank you very much for this submission. We will soon return a CNSC-signed copy of this Contribution Agreement via email.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns,

Marina Martin

Student, Indigenous and Stakeholder Relations Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission / Government of Canada

Étudiante, Division des relations avec les Autochtones et les parties intéressées  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire / Gouvernement du Canada  
[marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

---

**From:** Emery Mckenzie <[emery.mckenzie@pagc.net](mailto:emery.mckenzie@pagc.net)>  
**Sent:** August 10, 2022 4:41 PM  
**To:** Martin, Marina <[marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:marina.martin@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Al Ducharme <[aducharme@pagc.net](mailto:aducharme@pagc.net)>; Robin Mcleod <[rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net)>  
**Subject:** Participant Funding Contribution Agreement

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
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Good afternoon,

Please find the attached signed document. Original will be sent in the mail.

Regards,

*Emery J Mckenzie*  
Executive Assistant  
Prince Albert Grand Council  
P 306-953-7200

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**From:** Way, Jessica  
**Sent:** August 31, 2023 5:49 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Additional August 2023 Completeness Check and Next Phase of EIS Technical Review

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide another update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) Process.

On August 18, 2023, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted responses to information requests (IRs) for the proposed Wheeler River Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are sufficient to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [August 28, 2023 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The 90-day technical review has since begun, and will conclude by November 27, 2023. The focus of this review will be the following documents, all posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(August 18, 2023\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Wheeler River Project Team

[wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:wheelerriver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Environmental Review Division | Division de l'examen de l'environnement  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission | Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** December 8, 2023 2:05 PM  
**To:** Yen, Wish; Froess, Ryan; Nickolet, Sydney; Way, Jessica; Gorzkowski, Konrad; Takala, Torin; Kwamena, Nana-Owusua; Burton, Patrick  
**Subject:** Full Public and Indigenous Distro List  
**Attachments:** Wheeler River Project Bulletin - English.pdf

To all participants of the Wheeler River regulatory review process,

CNSC staff will be providing regular updates to all those who have participated and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project, in the form of project bulletins.

Please find the Winter Project Bulletin (dated December 2023) attached to this email which will provide a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a “Feature Article”, in both English and French.

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>.

If you would prefer not to receive these updates, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject(iaac-aeic.gc.ca))

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** February 23, 2024 5:27 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Revised EIS and Submission Package - February 2024

Hi Everyone,

This email is to provide an update on the Wheeler River Environmental Assessment (EA) process.

On February 10, 2024, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) submitted a revised draft EIS package for the proposed Wheeler River Project to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding information requests (IRs) have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the next phase of EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [February 21, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT) will run from February 21, 2024 to May 20, 2024. Subject Matter experts will review the responses to IRs provided by Denison, which includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Draft Environmental Impact Statement \(February 21, 2024\)](#)
- [Update to Indigenous Engagement Activities for the Wheeler River Project - draft EIS](#)
- [Wheeler River Project Commitments Table - draft EIS](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** August 23, 2024 6:18 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** Wheeler River Update - Summer 2024  
**Attachments:** Project\_Bulletin-Denison\_Wheeler\_River\_EA-Summer 2024.pdf

Hi Everyone,

You are receiving this email because you have participated in and/or expressed interest in the regulatory review process for the proposed Wheeler River Project.

Please see that attached project bulletin for summer 2024, which provides a brief update on the status of the project, as well as next steps. This will soon be posted to the CNSC website in the form of a "Feature Article", as well as the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page for this project](#).

Please ensure you are signed up to receive notifications and additional information regarding future correspondence from the CNSC: <http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/stay-connected/get-involved/subscribe/new-subscription.cfm>

If you would prefer not to receive updates like this in the future, please reply to this email to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://WheelerRiverProject(iaac-aeic.gc.ca))

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** October 18, 2024 8:22 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Completion of the Technical Review of Denison's February 2024 EIS Package

Hi Everyone,

I am reaching out to provide an update on the Wheeler River EIS technical review.

Following Denison's February 10<sup>th</sup> submission of responses to Information Requests (IRs) and the revised Environmental Impact Statement package, on February 20, 2024, CNSC staff found the submission to contain the required information to proceed with an additional round of review by the Federal-Indigenous Review Team (FIRT). This 90-day review was intended to conclude by May 20, 2024.

When the review initially started, Denison requested the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the review process, to discuss the paths to resolution with relevant FIRT members, where elements of IRs remained unresolved. On May 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, CNSC staff shared draft reviews of responses to IRs with Denison, and on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, a draft Advice to Proponent table. Of the 256 IRs (238 original and 18 follow-up), 24 IRs were not accepted. From June 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, CNSC and Denison held 5 hybrid and 3 virtual meetings to discuss unresolved IRs. Between July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Denison provided supplementary responses for further review by the FIRT. The activities that have occurred between May and October have resulted in a significantly extended review period. Following these meetings and supplemental submissions, the FIRT's technical review found that the submission does not fully meet EA regulatory requirements. Currently, 6 IRs remain not accepted and 5 IRs remain under CNSC staff review.

The results of this review, along with the supplemental information provided throughout the June meetings and July submissions, have all been posted to the Registry:

- [Cover Letter - CNSC to Denison - Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Annex 1 – FIRT - Wheeler River Draft Review of Responses to IRs - Draft Table \(2024-05-24\)](#)
- [Annex 2 – FIRT - Wheeler River Draft Review of Responses to IRs - Draft Table \(2024-05-31\)](#)
- [Annex 3 – FIRT – Wheeler River Advice to Proponent Table - Draft Table \(2024-06-28\)](#)
- [Annex 4 - Joint FIRT-Denison IR Technical Meetings for Wheeler River – Meeting minutes and presentations \(2024-06\)](#)
- [Annex 5 – Wheeler River – Combined Supplementary Submissions from Denison \(2024-07\)](#)
- [Annex 6 - Information Requests for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Annex 7 - FIRT Advice to Proponent for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)

CNSC staff expect Denison to submit complete revised responses to all IRs. It is expected that along with each response, Denison clearly indicate what changes will be made to the EIS and supporting documents, to be validated upon a future submission of a Final EIS. Following a submission that meets all outstanding regulatory requirements for the EA, CNSC staff will signal that a Final EIS can be submitted. CNSC staff expect that supplementary documentation that has been revised over the course of recent months will accompany the Final EIS package, including a revised Commitment Register and IER. Once the revised EIS meets regulatory standards, CNSC staff will develop an EA report.

The following documents were also provided by Denison during this review period, on July 17, 2024. These have been posted to the Registry:



- [Indigenous Engagement Report \(2024-07-17\)](#)
- [Indigenous Engagement Report - Appendix B: Records of Engagement \(2024-07-17\)](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 2 \(2024-07-17\)](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** November 4, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Review of October 2024 EIS Package

Hi Everyone,

We are reaching out to provide another update on the Wheeler River EIS technical review.

Following our previous update on October 11<sup>th</sup>, Denison Mines Corp. (Denison) re-submitted revised responses and supporting documentation for the proposed Wheeler River Project, on October 18<sup>th</sup>. CNSC staff conducted a completeness check and determined that outstanding IRs have passed completeness and supporting submissions are adequate to proceed to the EIS Technical Review. More information can be found in the [October 25, 2024 letter to Denison](#), and [completeness check table](#).

The next phase of technical review by CNSC Subject Matter Experts is underway, for completion by November 15th, 2024. The review includes the following documents:

- [Wheeler River Project: Denison's Responses to Information Requests from the Federal and Indigenous Review Team \(October 18, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Appendix A to Denison's Responses to Information Request \(October 18, 2024\)](#)
- [Wheeler River Project: Advice to Proponent Table \(October 25, 2024\)](#)

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** November 22, 2024 5:40 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River EA Update - Accepted IRs and Completion of EIS Technical Review

Hi Everyone,

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) completed their technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS) technical review. CNSC has found that the information fully addresses the regulatory requirements for the environmental assessment (EA). All responses to IRs are now deemed as accepted.

The following documents have now been posted to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#):

- [Cover Letter - CNSC to Denison - Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-11-20\)](#)
- [Annex 1 – Results of the Federal Indigenous Technical Review of the Wheeler River Project – Resolved Information Requests for the Wheeler River Project Submission \(2024-10-11\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – October 30<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission for IR-174 from Denison - Memo: Omnia Ecological Services, Denison Wheeler River 2024 Replicate Bat Surveys \(2024-10-30\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – November 13<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission from Denison for IR-114 and IR-174 \(2024-11-13\)](#)
- [Wheeler River – November 19<sup>th</sup> Supplementary Submission from Denison for IR-114 \(2024-11-19\)](#)

As we have indicated in the past, the next steps involved Denison submitting a Final EIS package, including revised responses to the Consolidated Comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and the Public on the Wheeler River Project. This submission will undergo a 30-day review by CNSC staff to ensure all documents have been updated accordingly and that all comments from Indigenous Nations and Communities and members of the public have been addressed in an acceptable manner.

As of this afternoon, Denison has submitted the final EIS package. Once we have validated that the submission is complete, staff will begin our review. Once CNSC staff deems the submission as Final, staff will notify Denison that the EIS has been accepted and will proceed with developing the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) EA Report summarizing the results of the technical review and staff's recommendations to the Commission. Please note, this documentation will not be posted until it has been accepted as final.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team

Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

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**From:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Sent:** December 24, 2024 12:29 PM  
**To:** Wheeler River Project - Projet de Wheeler River  
**Cc:** Froess, Ryan; Way, Jessica  
**Subject:** CNSC Wheeler River December 2024 EA Update - Accepted Final EIS

Hi Everyone,

In our last update, we noted the completion of the technical review of Denison Mines Corp.'s (Denison) responses to outstanding Information Requests (IRs) for the Wheeler River environmental impacts statement (EIS). This update had also indicated that on November 22<sup>nd</sup> Denison submitted a final EIS package.

Following a 30 day review, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) has accepted the final EIS. This acceptance follows a comprehensive EIS technical review process by the Federal Indigenous Review Team (FIRT), including consultations with Indigenous Nations and communities and members of the public. CNSC staff will now proceed with the preparation of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* Environmental Assessment (EA) Report, which will be made available, along with a Commission Member Document, for review by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public prior to a public Commission hearing.

The following documents have now been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR) for this project:

- [Letter: CNSC to Denison - Wheeler Project - Acceptance of the Final EIS and Supporting Documents](#)
- [Final environmental Impact Statement](#)
- [Combined Final EIS Appendices](#)
- [Commitments Register Version 5 - Wheeler River Final EIS Submission](#)

With these conclusions, along with the sufficient licence application, CNSC staff will notify CNSC Commission Registrar of this acceptance, who will proceed with scheduling public hearing dates. Further details regarding how to participate will be provided once the Commission Secretariat has announced the hearing dates. In early January, notifications will be sent to Indigenous Nations and communities with detailed next steps in the consultation process.

Additional information can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (CIAR Reference: 80178) page for this project: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

If you have any questions about this or anything else related to the EA process for this project, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Regards,

The CNSC Wheeler River Project Team  
Email: [WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:WheelerRiver@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Wheeler River Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](#)

**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [mamun](#)  
**Cc:** [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [rmcleod@pagc.net](#); [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#);  
**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Attachments:** [PAGC\\_EA\\_Content\\_For\\_Review.DOCX](#); [PAGC Consultation Report Section 4.8 - For Review.docx](#);  
**Sent:** 2025-05-09 1:56:00 PM

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Good afternoon Mamun,  
I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.8 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with PAGC related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on PAGC, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
2. The EA Report content for review includes a "Views Expressed" sections for each topic area. As you will see from the table of contents included in the first part of the attachment, the EA report will contain sections for each topic area (ie. Atmospheric, aquatic environment, etc.), each of which will include a description of the environment, the proponents assessment, other views expressed (including how concerns were addressed), CNSC staff's analysis, followed by CNSC staff's conclusions on the significance of effects. The content attached for review includes the Views Expressed section, relevant to issues and concerns raised by PAGC related to each topic area. This information will be included in the EA report, as written and will be publicly accessible, once published.

We are asking you to review both documents for **accuracy** and to provide any comments and suggested edits as necessary. We ask that these documents are returned to us no later than **May 23rd, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PAGC's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Jes Way or we can set up a meeting to discuss further.

Thanks,  
Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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---

**From:** [mamun](#)  
**To:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**Cc:** [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-05-27 11:11:54 AM

---

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Completed

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE  
DE PRUDENCE

---

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for the reminder. I had a chance to review Section 4.8 of the PAGC Consultation Report as well as the PAGC content included in the Environmental Assessment (EA) documentation. I noted two different positions regarding our participation in the review process. Based on the latter point (see below), it appears the Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) still can contribute meaningfully to the CNSC review process. I will be discussing this matter further with PAGC executives and colleagues and will follow up regarding our written response to the Wheeler River EA process. I've copied them here for awareness.

We would appreciate clarification regarding whether any funding support is available where PAGC can apply for its participation in this work. Additionally, given that we are currently in the process of finalizing several reports and planning for landbased knowledge braining camps, we respectfully request an extension for the submission deadline to mid-June, if possible.

We are grateful that PAGC's comments have been considered in the decision-making process and we remain committed to working collaboratively with the CNSC team on matters concerning mining oversight and Indigenous engagement.

As context, I'd like to highlight the following passages from the documentation:

Section 4.8.1 states:

“CNSC have been working directly with YNLR for consultation and engagement purposes for this Project who represent the interests of HLFN, BLFN and FLFN. These Nations have delegated consultation to YNLR not PAGC for the purposes of this Project.”

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Section 4.8.2 states:

“CNSC staff have and will continue to provide opportunities for PAGC to provide input and feedback on how they would like to be engaged for the Project and what would be meaningful to them.”

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We need a bit of change in here fully reflect our view point. Section 8.2 of the EA Content notes:

“PAGC raised that there are no details on Indigenous partnership in the economic benefit of the mines, including equity-based participation in the workforce with training opportunities for Indigenous personnel to operate in management roles. PAGC stressed that Denison’s Wheeler River mines can set an example for other mining companies through activities such as providing training for Indigenous members to run mining-related businesses or participate in environmental monitoring.”

While this reflects many of our previous comments, we would like to emphasize more explicitly the need to address employment equity, particularly in managerial and decision-making roles. That was actually our main concern. In our earlier review of employment practices in the mining sector, I think we noted that Indigenous community members are too often confined to low-wage labour roles, with limited access to management-level positions.

Accordingly, we respectfully propose that the CNSC initiate a national review of employment categories across the mining sector to determine the proportion of higher-paid and management positions currently held by Indigenous individuals. PAGC would strongly support such an initiative. A formal investigation into this matter could provide valuable insights into employment equity in resource sectors and help identify any structural barriers Indigenous people face.

If significant disparities are identified, PAGC encourages the CNSC and other relevant authorities to take appropriate steps to close this gap in the spirit of fairness, equity, and reconciliation. Mining projects often operate on Indigenous traditional lands, yet our communities continue to face marginalization from the economic benefits they generate.



As Ronnie A. Augier said during the October 2018 Ottawa meeting on the Mining Oversight Report:

“We sit on uranium, and we stay hungry.”

I still remember a young man—about 25 at the time and now Chief of the Fond du Lac Band—sharing that powerful truth during the commission hearings. It is a sentiment that still resonates across northern Saskatchewan and other Indigenous territories in Canada and globally.

Thank you again for your continued collaboration. We look forward to working together on this important work concerning Wheeler River mine EA review process.

Warm regards,

Mamun

On Monday, May 26, 2025 at 03:30:43 p.m. CST, Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mamun,

I am following up on PAGC's review of the Consultation and EA Report content for the Wheeler River Project for accuracy as the deadline of May 23<sup>rd</sup> has now passed and we haven't received any input from PAGC. We can give you an extension till Thursday May 29th to provide input but if CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without PAGC's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones  
Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire  
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---

**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 9, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** mamun <[mamun\\_fish@yahoo.com](mailto:mamun_fish@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** jtsanniejr@pagc.net; rmcleod@pagc.net; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

ccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>

**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Mamun,

I am writing to provide you with sections of the Consultation and Environmental Assessment Reports. These documents are CNSC staff submissions that will be included in the CNSC Commission Member Document that will be presented to the Commission for the Denison Wheeler River Project hearings. There are two documents attached to this email which contain the following information:

1. Section 4.8 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with PAGC related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on PAGC, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
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Thanks,

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [mamun](#)  
**Cc:** [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [McKeown, Justin](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River:  
Consultation Report and EERRs  
**Sent:** 2025-05-28 1:03:00 PM

---

Hi Mamun,

Thank you for the context. For the upcoming hearings, Part 1 in October will be virtual and will not include intervenors but Part 2 in December will be held in-person in Saskatoon and will include intervenors which PAGC could participate in, if you would like. I don't have a location set yet for it but once known, I will let PAGC know.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** mamun <mamun\_fish@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** May 28, 2025 9:19 AM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** jtsanniejr@pagc.net; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE
--

Hello Sydney,

Thank you for your reply. We appreciate that PAGC's contributions to the CNSC review process are considered valuable.

Apologies that we were unable to apply this time — typically, we receive a bit more lead time to prepare our funding applications to CNSC. You might consider reaching out to Adam Levin to further discuss the matter to see if he is still supporting this file.

As an Indigenous organization with limited staff capacity, it can be challenging to stay on top of all the files we're involved in. It would be helpful if we could be considered for participation through the Participant Funding Program (PPF). We are hoping to involve some Elders in the process, particularly to share our understanding and perspectives on the Wheeler River EA process.

We'll do our best to attend the upcoming meetings. Could you please confirm whether they are being held online or in person? And if they are in person, could you share the meeting locations?

Best regards,

On Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 08:19:36 a.m. CST, Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Hello Mamun,

Thank you for this feedback regarding the documentation for the Wheeler River project. I will add in your comments below on PAGC's concerns regarding employment to the document. As for your comment on CNSC working with YNLR, CNSC works with YNLR on a consultation basis for this project as that was the delegation from YNLR however, CNSC remains open to keeping PAGC informed on this project and providing opportunities for participation, where feasible.

As for funding, the PFP opportunity was open for this project earlier this year and closed on April 4<sup>th</sup>. PAGC was informed of this opportunity but unfortunately missed the window to apply. PAGC is still welcome to participate in the Wheeler River hearing process happening in October (Part 1) and December (Part 2) of this year. More information can be found in the CNSC's public notice

here: <https://api.cnscccsn.gc.ca/dms/digital-medias/Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Participant-Funding-2025-H-09.pdf/object>

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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---

**From:** mamun <[mamun\\_fish@yahoo.com](mailto:mamun_fish@yahoo.com)>

**Sent:** May 27, 2025 11:12 AM

**To:** Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** [jtsanniejr@pasc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pasc.net); Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PASC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

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Thank you again for your continued collaboration. We look forward to working together on this important work concerning Wheeler River mine EA review process.

Warm regards,

Mamun

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CNSC does not receive comments by that date, we will need to move forward without PAGC's input.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

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**From:** Boser, Sydney  
**Sent:** May 9, 2025 1:57 PM  
**To:** mamun <[mamun\\_fish@yahoo.com](mailto:mamun_fish@yahoo.com)>  
**Cc:** [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net); [rmcleod@pagc.net](mailto:rmcleod@pagc.net); McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca)>  
**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC Documents for Review - Denison Wheeler River: Consultation Report and EERRs

Good afternoon Mamun,

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1. Section 4.8 of the Consultation Report which outlines our engagement activities with PAGC related to the Wheeler River project. The Report contains background information on PAGC, a table with key engagement activities to date, a summary of concerns raised to date, and CNSC staff's response. This information will be publicly accessible, once published.
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Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [mamun](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net);  
**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [PAGC Issues Tracking Table Appendix A.8 - For Review.docx](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-06-27 2:46:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Mamun,

Please see attached the PAGC's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that PAGC has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PAGC's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** [Boser, Sydney](#)  
**To:** [mamun](#)  
**Cc:** [McKeown, Justin](#); [Way, Jessica](#); [Froess, Ryan](#); [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](#);  
**Subject:** RE: CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River  
**Attachments:** [Notice-of-Public-Hearing-and-Participant-Funding-2025-H-09.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 2025-07-30 2:47:00 PM

---

Good afternoon Mamun,

Thank you for the update. I do not see an attachment included in this email but unfortunately since it is a week passed the deadline, CNSC won't be able to incorporate PAGC's comments into the table however, we may be able to incorporate them into our supplemental submission which will be submitted for the Part 2 Wheeler River Commission Hearing.

Unfortunately, the participant funding deadline for this project has passed but PAGC is still welcome to participate in the public hearing process. I have attached the public hearing notice that has more information.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
Email: [sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca)  
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**From:** mamun <mamun\_fish@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** July 29, 2025 4:07 PM  
**To:** Boser, Sydney <sydney.boser@cnscccsn.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <justin.mckeown@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Way, Jessica <jessica.way@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; Froess, Ryan <ryan.froess@cnscccsn.gc.ca>; jtsanniejr@pagc.net  
**Subject:** Re: CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

EXTERNAL EMAIL – USE CAUTION / COURRIEL EXTERNE – FAITES  
PREUVE DE PRUDENCE

Hello Sydney,

Please find attached additional comments on the response table you shared regarding the Wheeler Mine review. I have also copied two colleagues who are familiar with the file—should they have any further input, I will be sure to forward their comments for inclusion in the development of the public document you are preparing for posting.

In addition, we would appreciate any information on potential funding opportunities related to this and other review work, particularly regarding similar initiatives that PAGC may have received support for in the past.

We remain committed to contributing our efforts toward the review of CNSC-related mining documents and supporting public hearings and other important processes associated with these activities.

Best regards,

Regards,

On Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 03:35:43 p.m. CST, Boser, Sydney <[sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)> wrote:

Good afternoon Mamun,

I just wanted to send a reminder that the deadline to provide feedback on the issues tracking table is Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thank you,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

Phone Number: 343-596-9556

Agente principale en politiques, Division de la consultation et de la mobilisation des Autochtones

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

*I acknowledge that the land on which I live and work is the traditional Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis*

Je reconnais que les terres sur lesquelles je vis et travaille sont le territoire traditionnel du Traité no 6 et la patrie des Métis

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**From:** Boser, Sydney

**Sent:** June 27, 2025 2:46 PM

**To:** mamun <[mamun\\_fish@yahoo.com](mailto:mamun_fish@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** McKeown, Justin <[justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:justin.mckeown@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Way, Jessica <[jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:jessica.way@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; Froess, Ryan <[ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:ryan.froess@cnsccsn.gc.ca)>; [jtsanniejr@pagc.net](mailto:jtsanniejr@pagc.net)

**Subject:** CNSC & PAGC - Issues Tracking Table - For Review: Wheeler River

Good afternoon Mamun,

Please see attached the PAGC's issues tracking table for the Denison Wheeler River Project for your review. This tracking table includes concerns that PAGC has raised throughout the EA process for the Project and includes CNSC's response. This table will be appended to the Consultation Report for the Project in advance of the Part 1 hearing.

Please review the document for **accuracy** and return to us no later than **July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**. Please note that if we do not receive comments by the deadline then this information will be included without PAGC's feedback. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or Ryan Froess.

Thanks,

Sydney Boser née Nickolet (she/her/elle)

Senior Policy Officer, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Email: [sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:sydney.boser@cnsccsn.gc.ca)

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Canada