



**CMD 25-H12.22**

Date: 2026-01-08

**Written Submission from the  
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

**Mémoire de la  
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

In the matter of

À l'égard de

**NexGen Energy Ltd.**

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License application to prepare a site for  
and construct its Rook I uranium mine and  
mill project

**NexGen Energy Ltd.**

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Demande de permis concernant la  
préparation de l'emplacement et la  
construction de son projet de mine et  
d'usine de concentration d'uranium Rook I

**Commission Public Hearing**

**Audience publique de la Commission**

February 2026

Février 2026

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

January 6, 2026

via e-mail: [cnsc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca](mailto:cnsc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca)

**RE: Saskatchewan Mining Association Written and Oral Intervention – NexGen Energy Ltd. Rook I Project**

The Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) is an industry organization representing over 50 exploration and mining companies operating in Saskatchewan. SMA is recognized as the voice of the exploration and mining industry in Saskatchewan and has the role of liaison and advocacy agent with provincial and federal governments and the public.

Our members are leading global producers of critical minerals potash (>33%) and uranium (>24%) that contribute to global food and clean energy security for the world's growing population. Our members also explore for and produce coal, copper, gold, salt, nickel, zinc, lithium, graphite, rare earth elements, and more.

SMA members are committed to safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible development, and for decades our members have been Canadian and international leaders in including Indigenous peoples, businesses, and communities in their operations. As an example, in 2024, Saskatchewan mining operations purchased over \$913 Million in goods and services from Indigenous-owned businesses.

The SMA provides this intervention in strong support of NexGen Energy's (NexGen's) application for two critical regulatory decisions before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) regarding its 100%-owned Rook I Project (Project) in northern Saskatchewan:

1. Approval of the Environmental Assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA 2012).
2. A Licence to Prepare a Site for and Construct a Uranium Mine and Mill under the Nuclear Safety and Control Act.

NexGen's Rook I Project offers significant benefits for the province of Saskatchewan, including substantial economic impact through job creation, government revenue, and regional development. NexGen's high-grade Arrow uranium deposit underscores the strength of the Athabasca Basin and the Province of Saskatchewan as a premier mining jurisdiction, strengthens Canada's position as a global uranium supplier, and supports low carbon nuclear energy, contributing to climate goals.

SMA acknowledges NexGen for its high standards of environmental stewardship along with its highly successful local and regional community engagement and proactive collaboration with Indigenous Nations and local communities. The Project emphasizes environmental stewardship with underground tailings management and progressive reclamation, while fostering strong Indigenous and local community partnerships through employment, training, and industry-leading benefit agreements that are setting new standards for responsible resource development. Notably, the Benefit Agreements signed between NexGen and all four Local Priority Area Communities—Clearwater Dene Nation, Birch Narrows Dene Nation, Buffalo River Dene Nation, and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Northern Region 2—stand as a testament to the company's commitment to

fostering vibrant communities, honoring Indigenous culture, and delivering enduring social, economic, and environmental benefits to the region. Ultimately, the Project represents a strategic, responsibly managed investment with lasting social, economic, and environmental value for Saskatchewan.

SMA also appreciates that NexGen is a regular contributor to sharing experiences and best-practices at SMA events, including the annual Indigenous Mining Supply Chain Forum, and most recently at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SMA Mineral Exploration Expo and the 6<sup>th</sup> SMA Biannual Environment Forum where they spoke on their innovative community-based, native species collection and planting program. This program involves school students from Clearwater River Dene Nation learning and actively participating in multi-year, land-based vegetation regeneration programs alongside elders.

Drawing on the findings of the comprehensive Environmental Assessment, including approval by the Province of Saskatchewan in November 2023, and recognizing NexGen's exemplary leadership in safety, environmental stewardship, and community engagement, the Saskatchewan Mining Association expresses its strong support for the Rook I Project. Given the Project's strong technical merit, regulatory readiness, and alignment with responsible industry best practices, we respectfully urge the Commission to conclude that the Environmental Assessment is complete and satisfactory, and grant approval for NexGen's application to obtain a licence to prepare the site and construct a uranium mine.

We thank you for the opportunity to share our views in this written intervention to indicate our support for NexGen Energy Ltd.'s Rook I Project and look forward to participating in related hearings in Saskatoon February 9 – 13, 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Pamela Schwann, M.Sc., P. Geo  
President  
Saskatchewan Mining Association

cc. Leigh Curyer, CEO, NexGen Energy Ltd.  
Dylan Smart, Vice President of Regional Development, NexGen Energy Ltd.  
Ryan Morelli, SMA Vice President, Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs