



# Summary Record of Decision

DEC 25-H12

In the Matter of

Applicant NexGen Energy Ltd.

Subject Application for a Licence to Prepare a Site for  
and Construct the Rook I Uranium Mine and Mill  
Project

Public Hearing  
Dates November 19, 2025  
February 9 to 12, 2026

Summary  
Record of  
Decision  
Date March 04, 2026

## **SUMMARY RECORD OF DECISION – DEC 25-H12**

Applicant:	NexGen Energy Ltd.
Applicant Address:	3150 – 1021 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6E 0C3
Subject:	Application for a Licence to Prepare a Site for and Construct the Rook I Uranium Mine and Mill Project
Environmental assessment commenced:	May 2, 2019
Licence application received:	June 30, 2023
Public Hearing Dates	Part 1: November 19, 2025 Part 2: February 9 to 12, 2026
Public Hearing Location:	Part 1: 140 Promenade du Portage, Gatineau, Quebec and Virtual (via Zoom) Part 2: Delta Hotels Saskatoon Downtown, 405 20th St E, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and Virtual (via Zoom)
Summary Record of Decision Date:	March 04, 2026
Panel of Commission:	P. Tremblay A. Hardie V. Remenda
Commission Registrar:	C. Salmon
Recording Secretary:	C. Zou
Commission Counsel:	C. Maheux

Applicant Represented By		Document Number
L. Curyer	President & CEO	CMD 25-H12.1 CMD 25-H12.1A CMD 25-H12.1B CMD 25-H12.1C
L. Moger	Vice President, Environment, Permitting & Licensing	
A. Swerhone	Environmental Lead	
A. Engdahl	Vice President, Community	
M. Scansen	Director, Engagement	
J. Henderson	Director, Compliance	
F. Halliday	Manager, Environmental Assessment	
J. Vandenberg	Environmental Impact Statement Technical Lead/Water Lead	
R. Parker	Director, Nuclear	
D. Smart	Vice President, Regional Development	
T. McPherson	Chief Commercial Officer	
N. Bezuidenhout	Fellow, Geochemistry	
B. Dyck	Lead, Processing & Metallurgy	
C. Copley	Project Director	
B. Ting	Lead Engineer	
CNSC Staff		Document Number
R. Jammal	Executive Vice President, Regulatory Operations Branch, and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer	CMD 25-H12 CMD 25-H12.A CMD 25-H12.B CMD 25-H12.C CMD 25-H12.D
K. Campbell	Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation (DNCFR)	
P. Burton	Strategic Advisor, Director General's Office, DNCFR	
D. Pandolfi	Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division (UMMD), DNCFR	
J. Thelen	Director, Major Projects and Strategic Support Division, DNCFR	
A. Levine	Director, Indigenous Consultation and Engagement Division (ICED), Strategic Planning Directorate (SPD)	
H. Hunter	Senior Advisor, ICED, SPD	
J. McKeown	Team Lead, Western and Northern Regions, ICED, SPD	
D. Beaton	Director General, Directorate of Environmental and Radiation Protection and Assessment (DERPA)	
M. Fabian Mendoza	Director, Environmental Risk Assessment Division (ERAD), DERPA	
M. McConnell	Environmental Risk Assessment Specialist, ERAD, DERPA	
V. Sesin	Environmental Risk Assessment Officer, ERAD, DERPA	
Z. Li	Geoscience Assessment Officer, ERAD, DERPA	
T. Tarekegn	Geoscience Assessment Officer, ERAD, DERPA	
M. Yu	Environmental Risk Assessment Officer, ERAD, DERPA	

N. Frigault	Environmental Review Specialist, Environmental Review Division (ERD), DERPA	
R. Froess	Environmental Review Officer, ERD, DERPA	
J. Lam	Environmental Program Specialist, Health Sciences and Environmental Compliance Division, DERPA	
C. Dodkin	Radiation Protection Specialist, Radiation Protection Division, DERPA	
G. Cornett	Training Program Evaluation Officer, Training Program Evaluation Division, Directorate of Safety Management (DSM)	
G. Giobbe	Senior Management System Specialist, Management Systems Division, DSM	
L. Nicolai	Human and Organizational Factors Specialist, Human and Organizational Performance Division, DSM	
C. Androuet	Technical Specialist, Engineering Design Assessment Division, Directorate of Assessment and Analysis	
B. Holland	Communications Advisor, Corporate and Regulatory Communications Division, Strategic Communications Directorate (SCD)	
<b>Intervenors</b>		
See Appendix A		
<b>Other Government Representatives</b>		
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment: A. Rempel, S. Wilkie, T. Charabin, K. Webb, W. Kotyk, C. Piper, T. Moulding, and S. Francis Saskatchewan Health Authority: H. MacDonald, B. Quinn, K. Chokani, and D. Sampson Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety: D. Rezansoff and B. Preston Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources: K. Brecht Environment and Climate Change Canada: C. Epp, O. O'Sullivan, J. Sabourin, D. Kim, R. Ejeckam, A. Calderhead, A. Bugajski, and J. Small Health Canada: A. James, P. Partridge, D. Kitchen, and C. Dutchak Natural Resources Canada: N. Robinson and R. Holmberg Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways: J. Kotylak and J. Fertuck Transport Canada: S. Kidd Fisheries and Oceans Canada: B. Schmidt and L. Phalen		

**Decision under Section 52(1) of CEAA 2012:**

Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects

**Licence:** Issued

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1. On June 30, 2023, NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen) [applied](#) to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission<sup>1</sup> under subsection 24(2) of the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#),<sup>2</sup> for a licence to prepare a site for and construct its [Rook I uranium mine and mill project](#) (the Project). The Project is located in northern Saskatchewan within the southern Athabasca Basin, adjacent to Patterson Lake along the upper Clearwater River system, approximately 155 km north of the town of La Loche. The Project is situated on Treaty 8 territory (1899), the Homeland of the Métis, and is within territories of the Denesūliné, Cree, and Métis.
2. The Project is a proposed uranium mine and mill that would extract and process uranium from the Arrow deposit, a high-grade uranium deposit discovered by NexGen in 2014. The proposed Project would produce up to 14 million kilograms of triuranium octoxide (U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>) annually for 24 years.
3. NexGen is seeking authorization to prepare a site for and construct the Project, as well as to possess, use and store nuclear substances and radiation devices for associated activities. A licence to prepare a site for and construct the Project would not authorize the operation of the facility.
4. NexGen proposes to use the conventional underground long hole stope mining method for the Project. Ore extracted from the underground workings would be processed through strong acid stripping to produce U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> as the final product. Tailings would be permanently stored underground to minimize the surface footprint.
5. The Project is subject to an environmental assessment (EA) under the [Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#)<sup>3</sup> (CEAA 2012). The EA commenced on May 2, 2019, following NexGen's submission of the project description. The CNSC is the responsible authority for the EA under CEAA 2012, and the Commission must render a decision on the EA prior to making a licensing decision under the NSCA.<sup>4</sup>
6. This *Summary Record of Decision* reflects the Commission's decision with respect to the application for a licence to prepare a site for and construct the Project. The detailed reasons for the Commission's decision will be provided in a detailed *Record of Decision*, to be published at a later date.

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<sup>1</sup> The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is referred to as the "CNSC" when referring to the organization and its staff in general, and as the "Commission" when referring to the tribunal component.

<sup>2</sup> *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, SC 1997, c 9.

<sup>3</sup> S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52.

<sup>4</sup> In August 2019, the [Impact Assessment Act](#), (IAA) came into force, repealing CEAA 2012. Section 182 of the IAA includes transitional provisions which state that EAs of designated projects that began under CEAA 2012, and for which the CNSC is the responsible authority, will continue under CEAA 2012 if a decision had not been issued before the IAA took effect.

### Matters for Decision

7. In accordance with section 52 of the CEAA 2012, the Commission must decide if, taking into account the implementation of any mitigation measures that it considers appropriate, the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects as described in subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of CEAA 2012.
8. If the Commission determines that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects, then it may turn to considering the licence application pursuant to the NSCA.
9. Pursuant to paragraphs 24(4)(a) and (b) of the NSCA, in order to issue the licence to prepare a site and construct, the Commission must be satisfied that:
  - a) NexGen is qualified to carry on the activity that the licence will authorize; and
  - b) in carrying on that activity, NexGen 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.
10. As an agent of the Crown, the Commission recognizes its role in upholding the honour of the Crown, fulfilling the Crown's constitutional obligations, along with advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples of Canada. The Commission's responsibilities include the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate Indigenous Peoples where the Crown contemplates conduct which may adversely impact potential or established Aboriginal<sup>5</sup> or treaty rights.<sup>6</sup>
11. The Commission must determine whether the duty to consult is triggered and, if so, whether the duty is satisfied. The determination of what is required to satisfy the duty is informed by the principles and the provisions of the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)<sup>7</sup> (UNDRIP), as a result of its adoption into Canadian law via the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#)<sup>8</sup> (UNDA).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "Aboriginal" is the term used in this document when referring to the Crown's duty to consult as that is the term used in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. In all other cases, "Indigenous" is the preferred terminology and used accordingly.

<sup>6</sup> *Haida Nation v. British Columbia (Minister of Forests)*, 2004 SCC 73; *Taku River Tlingit First Nation v. British Columbia (Project Assessment Director)*, 2004 SCC 74.

<sup>7</sup> *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, United Nations, September 2007.

<sup>8</sup> S.C. 2021, c. 14.

<sup>9</sup> *Kebaowek First Nation v. Canadian Nuclear Laboratories*, 2025 FC 319.

## Public Hearing

12. On March 11, 2025, the Commission published a [\*Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding\*](#)<sup>10</sup> for this matter, which invited requests to intervene by January 9, 2026. The Commission subsequently published two revised notices. The first, on [\*August 20, 2025\*](#),<sup>11</sup> provided the location for Part 1 of the hearing. The second, on [\*January 23, 2026\*](#),<sup>12</sup> provided the location and dates for Part 2 of the hearing and clarified that the purpose and scope of the hearing included the Commission's duties as an agent of the Crown.
13. To consider NexGen's application, the President of the Commission established a Panel of the Commission, over which he presided, and that included Commission Members Andrea Hardie and Dr. Victoria Remenda.<sup>13</sup>
14. The Commission conducted a two-part oral public hearing in accordance with the [\*Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure\*](#)<sup>14</sup> (the Rules). During the two-part public hearing, the Commission considered written submissions and heard oral presentations from NexGen, CNSC staff, and 48 intervenors.<sup>15</sup> Interpretation was offered in English, French, Dene, and Cree. The hearing was webcast live, and video archives are available on the [CNSC website](#).

## **2.0 DECISION**

15. The Commission finds that the EA and licensing decisions trigger the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate, with respect to the following rights holders:
  - Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN)
  - Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S)<sup>16</sup>
  - Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN)
  - Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN)
16. The Commission recognizes that, even if the duty to consult is not triggered with respect to the Indigenous Nations and communities listed below, these Nations and communities have expressed interest in the Project and, through licence condition 15.1, NexGen will be required to continue engagement with them:

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<sup>10</sup> *Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding*, CNSC, March 11, 2025.

<sup>11</sup> *Revised Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding*, CNSC, August 20, 2025.

<sup>12</sup> *Revised Notice of Public Hearing*, CNSC, January 23, 2026.

<sup>13</sup> Pursuant to section 22 of the NSCA.

<sup>14</sup> *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, SOR/2000-211.

<sup>15</sup> A list of hearing participants and hearing submissions is provided in Appendix A of this *Summary Record of Decision*.

<sup>16</sup> MN-S is an Indigenous organization which represents rights holders.



- Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources (YNLR), which represents the communities of Hatchet Lake First Nation, Black Lake First Nation and Fond du Lac First Nation, as well as the municipalities of Camsell Portage, Uranium City, Stony Rapids and Wollaston Lake
  - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN)
  - Willow Lake Métis Nation (WLMN)
  - Mikisew Cree First Nation (MCFN)
17. The Commission's responsibility to uphold the honour of the Crown and its legal obligation to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate under section 35 of the [\*Constitution Act, 1982\*](#)<sup>17</sup> has been satisfied for all Indigenous Nations and communities listed in paragraphs 15 and 16. The Commission finds that the actions taken and measures proposed satisfy the duty to consult and, where appropriate, accommodate.
18. The Commission also concludes that the Project is not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects as defined in subsections 5(1) and 5(2) of CEAA 2012, considering the proposed mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring.
19. The Commission is satisfied that NexGen is qualified to carry on the licensed activities that the licence will authorize and, in carrying on those activities, 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.
20. Having established the above, the Commission issues a licence to prepare a site for and construct the Project to NexGen for a period of 10 years. The licence, UML-MINEMILL-ROOK1.00/2036, is valid from March 04, 2026 until March 31, 2036.
21. The Commission issues the licence as proposed by CNSC staff in CMD 25-H12.D, with the following change:
- licensed activity IV) a) is changed from:  
*"prepare site and construct a nuclear facility (hereinafter, "the facility") for the mining of uranium ore and the production of uranium concentrate at a site known as the Rook-I Project in the province of Saskatchewan, as shown on the drawings referenced in appendix A to this licence"*  
to  
*"prepare **a** site **for** and construct a nuclear facility (hereinafter, "the facility") for the mining of uranium ore and the production of uranium concentrate at a*

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<sup>17</sup> *Constitution Act, 1982*, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11.


*site known as the Rook-I Project in the province of Saskatchewan, as shown on the drawings referenced in appendix A to this licence”*

22. The Commission delegates its authority for the administration of licence conditions 3.2 and 14.1 to the following CNSC staff:
- Director, Uranium Mines and Mills Division
  - Director General, Directorate of Nuclear Cycles and Facilities Regulation
  - Executive Vice-President and Chief Regulatory Operations Officer, Regulatory Operations Branch
23. The Commission accepts NexGen’s proposed financial guarantee of \$61.848 million, in the form of a surety bond for which the Province of Saskatchewan is the beneficiary. The Commission also accepts the proposed financial guarantee implementation schedule, detailed in Table 6.5-1 of CMD 25-H12.1. The financial guarantee will be implemented in 4 phases, reaching its full amount in year 4 of the licence to prepare site and construct.
24. With this decision, NexGen is required to implement the commitments made during the EA and regulatory review process, including the following:
- implement the 3 EA conditions and the 6 regulatory commitments outlined in Appendix D of the draft Licence Conditions Handbook submitted in CMD 25-H12.D, as required under licence condition 14.1
  - implement NexGen’s commitments in the *Rook I Project Federal Commitments Report* (the Commitments Registry)<sup>18</sup> that are applicable to the construction and pre-operation activities and that are within the scope of the CNSC’s mandate, as required under the compliance verification criteria for licence condition 14.1
  - implement an Indigenous engagement program, as required under licence condition 15.1
  - submit the finalized financial guarantee instrument to the CNSC within 60 days of this decision, as required under licence condition 16.1
25. With this decision, the Commission directs CNSC staff to fulfill its commitments to Indigenous Nations and communities. These commitments include those described in the Rights Impact Assessments with CRDN, MN-S, and BNDN. The Commission also expects CNSC staff to continue to engage with all Indigenous Nations and communities identified in this decision and to report to the Commission on those engagement activities throughout the subsequent licensing phases of the Project.

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<sup>18</sup> *Rook I Project Federal Commitments Report* (the Commitments Registry), NexGen, November 2024 (attached in CMD 25-H12.1-Ref18).

26. The Commission directs CNSC staff to report to the Commission on the status of CNSC staff's commitments and ongoing engagement and consultation on an annual basis.
27. The Commission directs CNSC staff to include an update on NexGen's performance on the Project as part of CNSC staff's periodic reporting. This update should include information on NexGen's ongoing engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities, and CNSC staff should inform the Commission, as part of this reporting, of any changes made to NexGen's Licence Conditions Handbook.
28. The Commission notes that CNSC staff may bring any matter to the Commission's attention at any time, as required.
29. Details of the Commission's rationale, and its consideration of information submitted as part of this proceeding, will be provided in a detailed *Record of Decision*, to be published at a later date.

  
Digitally signed by Tremblay, Pierre  
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, CN="Tremblay, Pierre"  
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Pierre F. Tremblay  
President  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

March 04, 2026  
Date

## Appendix A – Intervenors

<b>Intervenors - Oral Presentations</b>	<b>Document Number</b>
Jamie Gailey	CMD 25-H12.2
Rise Air, represented by D. Gold	CMD 25-H12.5 CMD 25-H12.5A
Morris Interactive Inc, represented by L. Cey	CMD 25-H12.14 CMD 25-H12.14A CMD 25-H12.14B
Buffalo River Dene Nation, represented by Chief K. Montgrand and Elder E. Campbell	CMD 25-H12.17
Jimmy Montgrand	CMD 25-H12.19
Saskatchewan Mining Association, represented by R. Morelli and P. Schwann	CMD 25-H12.22 CMD 25-H12.22A
Birch Narrows Dene Nation, represented by Chief J. Sylvestre, K. McGrath, and R. Laprise	CMD 25-H12.26 CMD 25-H12.26A
Triall Consulting, represented by V. Bachiu	CMD 25-H12.28 CMD 25-H12.28A
Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, represented by President G. McCallum, B. Laroque, K. Shewchuk, and Elder A. Lemaigre	CMD 25-H12.31 CMD 25-H12.31A
Clearwater River Dene Nation, represented by Chief T. Clark, J. Barretto, J. Hoher, Lester Herman, D. Lemaigre, and C. Willier	CMD 25-H12.32 CMD 25-H12.32A
Marlene Hansen	CMD 25-H12.36
John Desjarlais	CMD 25-H12.37
Buffalo Narrows – Métis Community Council, represented by President Raymond Laliberte	CMD 25-H12.39
Northern Village of La Loche, represented by Mayor Lyle Herman	CMD 25-H12.41
Mikisew Cree First Nation, represented by E. Barnes	CMD 25-H12.42
Northern Village of Beauval, represented by Mayor Rick Laliberte	CMD 25-H12.44
Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources, represented by M. Denechezhe, A. Disain, M. MacDonald, Elder F. Throassie, L. Bougie-Still, B. Hanbidge, C. Toutsaint, E. Dzenlioun, and G. Schmidt	CMD 25-H12.45 CMD 25-H12.45A
Traditional Trappers and Harvesters of the N-19 Fur Block, represented by D. Montgrand and Elder W. Herman	CMD 25-H12.46 CMD 25-H12.46A

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, represented by C. Davies-Flett, M. Olsgard, and M. Gerchikov	CMD 25-H12.47 CMD 25-H12.47A
English River First Nation, represented by C. Hunt, Elder I. Campbell, and K. Maurice	CMD 25-H12.48
Willow Lake Métis Nation, represented by D. G. Roth, M. Michetti, and K. Winnitoy	CMD 25-H12.49

<b>Intervenors – Written Submissions</b>	<b>Document Number</b>
Canadian Nuclear Association	CMD 25-H12.3
Dene High School	CMD 25-H12.4
Rebecca Sylvestre	CMD 25-H12.6
Barbara Hannah of the Clearwater River Dene School	CMD 25-H12.7
Saskatoon Industry Education Council	CMD 25-H12.8
Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce	CMD 25-H12.9
North Saskatoon Business Association	CMD 25-H12.10
Saskatchewan Roughriders	CMD 25-H12.11
Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce	CMD 25-H12.12
Paul Haynes of the Clearwater River Dene School	CMD 25-H12.13
Nítélazētúé Elementary School	CMD 25-H12.15
North American Young Generation in Nuclear - University of Regina Chapter	CMD 25-H12.16
Twin Lakes Community School	CMD 25-H12.18
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies	CMD 25-H12.20
Dumont Technical Institute	CMD 25-H12.21
Saskatchewan Industrial and Mining Suppliers Association	CMD 25-H12.23
Northern Village of Buffalo Narrows	CMD 25-H12.24
Canucks Sports & Entertainment	CMD 25-H12.25
Northern Settlement of Bear Creek	CMD 25-H12.27
Canadian Chamber of Commerce	CMD 25-H12.29
Ava Haynes	CMD 25-H12.30
Steve Lawrence	CMD 25-H12.33
La Loche Sport, Recreation, & Culture	CMD 25-H12.34

Integral Ecology Group	CMD 25-H12.35
Women in Nuclear Canada	CMD 25-H12.38
Northlands College	CMD 25-H12.40
North American Young Generation in Nuclear	CMD 25-H12.43