



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

# Summary Record of Proceedings and Decision

In the Matter of

Applicant Cameco Corporation

Subject Application to Renew the Licence for the Rabbit  
Lake Operation

Public Hearing  
Date October 1, 2 and 3, 2013

## SUMMARY RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Cameco Corporation

Address/Location: 2121 – 11<sup>th</sup> Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1J3

Purpose: Application to renew the uranium mine and mill operation licence for its Rabbit Lake Operation

Application received: December 21, 2012

Dates of public hearing: October 1, 2 and 3, 2013

Location: Kikinahk Friendship Centre,  
320 Boardman Street, La Ronge, Saskatchewan

Members present: M. Binder, Chair  
R. Velshi S. McEwan  
R. J. Barriault M. J. McDill  
A. Harvey D.D. Tolgyesi

Secretary: M.A. Leblanc  
Recording Secretary: C.N. Taylor  
Senior General Counsel: J. Lavoie

<b>Applicant Represented By</b>			<b>Document Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L. Mooney, Vice-President, Safety, Health, Environment, Quality (SHEQ) and Regulatory Relations</li> <li>• K. Nagy, Director, SHEQ, Compliance and Licensing</li> <li>• K. England, Manager, SHEQ Compliance and Licensing</li> <li>• B. Esford, Manager, Geo-Environmental Engineering</li> <li>• D. Bronkhorst, Vice-President, Saskatchewan Mining South</li> <li>• K. Himbeault, Site Manager, SHEQ and Regulatory Relations</li> <li>• S. Britton, General Manager, Rabbit Lake Operations</li> <li>• K. Lamont, Manager, SHEQ and Regulatory Relations, Rabbit Lake</li> <li>• S. Willy, Director, Corporate Responsibility</li> </ul>			CMD 13-H15.1 CMD 13-H15.1A
<b>CNSC staff</b>			<b>Document Number</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R. Jammal</li> <li>• J. Leclair</li> <li>• S. Eaton</li> <li>• M. McKee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T. Gates</li> <li>• G. Groskopf</li> <li>• C. Purvis</li> <li>• B. Dowsley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F. Ryan</li> <li>• S. Demeter (Consultant)</li> </ul>	CMD 13-H15

<b>Other Representatives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ministry of Environment: W. Kotyk and K. McCullum</li><li>• Medical Health Officer for Northern Saskatchewan: J. Irvine</li><li>• Saskatchewan Ministry of Labour Relations and Workplace Safety: G. Jablan and G. Alderman</li></ul>
<b>Intervenor</b>
See appendix A

**Licence:**      Renewed

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## Introduction

1. Cameco Corporation (Cameco) has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission<sup>1</sup> for the renewal of the uranium mine and mill operation licence for its Rabbit Lake Operation located in northern Saskatchewan, approximately 750 kilometres north of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The current operating licence, UMOL-MINEMILL-RABBIT.00/2013, expires on October 31, 2013. Cameco requested a renewal of the licence for a period of 10 years.
2. The Rabbit Lake deposit was discovered in 1968. The Collins Bay A-Zone, B-Zone, D-Zone and Eagle Point deposits were discovered in 1971, 1977, 1979 and 1980 respectively. Open-pit mining of the Rabbit Lake deposit and the mill operations commenced in 1975. The Rabbit Lake deposit was mined out by 1984. The Collins Bay B-Zone deposit was subsequently open-pit mined from 1985 to 1991. Following a federal environmental assessment that concluded in 1993, underground mining of the Eagle Point deposit began in 1994 and continues at present. The Collins Bay D-Zone and A-Zone deposits were open-pit mined sequentially in 1995-1996 and 1996-1997 respectively. The Rabbit Lake Operation currently consists of one active underground uranium mine (Eagle Point mine), a mill, the Rabbit Lake In-pit Tailings Management Facility (RLITMF) and associated mine rock piles and water management infrastructure. The RLITMF was developed in the mined-out Rabbit Lake pit to securely manage tailings, and commenced operation in 1985. The site also has an inactive flooded open-pit mine (B-Zone), two reclaimed open-pit mines (A-Zone and D-Zone) and the partially-reclaimed Above Ground Tailings Management Facility (AGTMF) which contains the tailings from the milling of ore from the first open pit.
3. Cameco is currently authorized to operate a nuclear facility at Rabbit Lake and to maintain the facilities necessary to support this operation, including an underground mine, three flooded open-pit mines, a mill, waste management systems and associated site facilities. The current licence also authorizes Cameco to produce uranium concentrate, to possess, store, transfer, import, use, and dispose of nuclear substances and radiation devices.
4. This request for the licence renewal includes only the ongoing activities at the Rabbit Lake Operation site.

## Issues

5. In considering the application, the Commission was required to decide, pursuant to subsection 24(4) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*<sup>2</sup> (NSCA):
  - a) if Cameco is qualified to carry on the activity that the licence would authorize;

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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> Statutes of Canada (S.C.) 1997, chapter (c.) 9.

and

- b) if, in carrying on that activity, Cameco would 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.

### Public Hearing

6. The Commission, in making its decision, considered information presented for a public hearing held on October 1, 2 and 3, 2013 in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. The public hearing was conducted in accordance with the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*<sup>3</sup>. During the public hearing, the Commission considered written submissions and heard oral presentations from CNSC staff (CMD 13-H15) and Cameco (CMD 13-H15.1). The Commission also considered oral and written submissions from 24 intervenors (see Appendix A for a detailed list of interventions).

### **Decision**

7. Based on its consideration of the matter, the Commission concludes that Cameco is qualified to carry on the activity that the renewed licence will authorize. The Commission is also satisfied that Cameco, in carrying on that activity, 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. Therefore,

the Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, renews the uranium mine and mill operation licence issued to Cameco Corporation for its Rabbit Lake Operation located in northern Saskatchewan. The renewed licence, UMLOL-MINEMILL-RABBIT.00/2023, is valid from November 1, 2013 until October 31, 2023, unless suspended, amended, revoked or replaced.

8. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions as recommended by CNSC staff in CMD 13-H15.
9. With this decision, the Commission directs CNSC staff to provide annual reports on the performance of the Rabbit Lake Operation, as part of the CNSC's Annual Report on Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities in Canada. CNSC staff shall present these reports at public proceedings of the Commission. A special focus on the environmental performance of the Rabbit Lake Operation with emphasis on releases to air, water and

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<sup>3</sup> Statutory Orders and Regulations (SOR)/2000-211.

soil is expected to be part of the annual reports. Some of the proceedings may be held in Saskatchewan with public participation.

10. The Commission accepts the revised financial guarantee for decommissioning of the Rabbit Lake Operation site.
11. The Commission requests that Cameco prepare timeline estimates for completion of each of the major reclamation and decommissioning activities planned at the Rabbit Lake Operation site. Updates of the remediation and decommissioning plans and timelines will be presented as part of the aforementioned annual reports by CNSC staff on the performance of the Rabbit Lake Operation.
12. The Commission accepts CNSC staff's recommendation regarding the delegation of authority in the Licence Conditions Handbook (LCH). The Commission notes that CNSC staff can bring any matter to the Commission as applicable. The Commission directs CNSC staff to inform the Commission on an annual basis of any changes made to the LCH.

#### **Issues and Commission Findings**

13. In making its licensing decision, the Commission considered a number of issues relating to Cameco's qualification to carry out the proposed activities and the adequacy of the proposed measures for protecting the environment, the health and safety of persons, national security and international obligations to which Canada has agreed.
14. The Commission determined that there was no requirement for an Environmental Assessment pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*<sup>4</sup> (CEAA). The Commission is satisfied that all applicable requirements of the CEAA have been fulfilled.
15. The Commission notes that the NSCA provides a strong regulatory framework for environmental protection. Whether an EA is required or not, the CNSC regulatory system ensures that adequate measures are in place to protect the environment and human health in accordance with the NSCA and its Regulations.
16. The findings of the Commission will be presented in a detailed *Record of Proceedings, including Reasons for Decision*, to be published at a later date.

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<sup>4</sup> S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52.



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OCT 29 2013

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Michael Binder  
President,  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Date



## Appendix A – Intervenors

Kineepik Métis Local. Inc., represented by V. Natomagan and M. Vermette	CMD 13-H13.2 CMD 13-H14.2 CMD 13-H15.2
Prince Albert Grand Council, represented by L. Hardlotte, J. Tsannie, P. Robillard, A. Charles, J. Tsannie and E. Hansen	CMD 13-H13.3 CMD 13-H13.3A CMD 13-H14.3 CMD 13-H14.3A CMD 13-H15.3 CMD 13-H15.3A
Tavio Morin	CMD 13-H13.4
Candyce Paul	CMD 13-H13.5 CMD 13-H14.4 CMD 13-H15.4
Canadian Nuclear Worker’s Council and United Steelworkers Union (USW) local 891, represented by D. Shier, S. Daigneault, E. Morelli, J. MacEacheran and K. Cartier	CMD 13-H13.6 CMD 13-H13.6A CMD 13-H14.5 CMD 13-H14.5A
Saskatchewan Mining Association, represented by P. Schwann	CMD 13-H13.7 CMD 13-H13.7A CMD 13-H14.6 CMD 13-H14.6A CMD 13-H15.5 CMD 13-H15.5A
Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership, represented by G. Gay	CMD 13-H13.8 CMD 13-H14.7 CMD 13-H15.6
Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy	CMD 13-H13.9 CMD 13-H14.8 CMD 13-H15.7
Steve Lawrence	CMD 13-H13.10 CMD 13-H14.9 CMD 13-H15.8
Canadian Nuclear Association, represented by H. Kleb and M. Bernard	CMD 13-H13.12 CMD 13-H14.11 CMD 13-H15.10
Dale Dewar	CMD 13-H13.13 CMD 13-H14.12 CMD 13-H15.11

Dwayne Buffin	CMD 13-H13.14
James Little	CMD 13-H13.15 CMD 13-H14.13 CMD 13-H15.12
Snake Lake Group of Companies, represented by R. Rediron	CMD 13-H13.16 CMD 13-H14.13 CMD 13-H15.13
Rose Roberts	CMD 13-H13.17 CMD 13-H13.17A CMD 13-H14.15 CMD 13-H14.15A CMD 13-H15.14 CMD 13-H15.14A
English River First Nation, represented by M. Black and D. Reynolds	CMD 13-H13.18 CMD 13-H14.15 CMD 13-H15.15
Pinehouse Business North Development Inc., represented by J. Wriston	CMD 13-H13.19 CMD 13-H14.17 CMD 13-H15.15
Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership, represented by R. Roberts	CMD 13-H13.20 CMD 13-H14.18 CMD 13-H15.17
Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, represented by K. McCullum	CMD 13-H13.21 CMD 13-H13.21A CMD 13-H14.19 CMD 13-H14.19A CMD 13-H15.18 CMD 13-H15.18A
Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee, represented by N. Wolverine and S. Boyes	CMD 13-H13.22 CMD 13-H14.20 CMD 13-H15.19
Saskatchewan Environmental Society, represented by A. Coxworth and P. Prebble	CMD 13-H13.23 CMD 13-H14.21 CMD 13-H15.20
Committee for Future Generations, represented by D. Mihalicz, D. Smith and B. Lee	CMD 13-H13.24 CMD 13-H14.22 CMD 13-H15.21
Clarence Natomagan	CMD 13-H13.25 CMD 13-H14.23 CMD 13-H15.21

Sierra Club Canada, represented by J. Bennett and C. Elwell	CMD 13-H13.26 CMD 13-H13.26A CMD 13-H14.24 CMD 13-H14.24A CMD 13-H15.23 CMD 13-H15.23A
Lac La Ronge Indian Band, represented by Chief Cook-Searson, K. England and S. Willy	CMD 13-H13.27 CMD 13-H14.25 CMD 13-H15.24
Kirstin Scansen	CMD 13-H13.28 CMD 13-H14.26 CMD 13-H15.25