



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5S9

C.P. 1046, Succursale B
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1P 5S9

Fax: (613) 995-5086

Télécopieur : (613) 995-5086

Directorate of Nuclear Cycle
and Facilities Regulation

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

4.05.03 /
37-5-4-0

December 9, 2008

Mr. Andrew J. Oliver
Vice-President
Fuel Services
Cameco Corporation
1 Eldorado Place
Port Hope, ON
L1A 3A1

**Subject: CNSC Request for Information pursuant to Subsection 12(2) of the
General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations: Effluent Discharge
Releases at the Welcome Waste Management Facility**

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This is in reference to your letter of November 14, 2008, containing Cameco's response to the above-mentioned 12(2) Request for Information on the effluent discharge releases at the Welcome Waste Management Facility.

CNSC staff has reviewed Cameco's response and has concluded that it meets the technical requests of CNSC staff except for two areas.

The first area deals with the Characterization Report submittal (report on the effluent characterization and the characterization of the receiving environment). CNSC Staff request that Cameco provide, as part of their proposed early 2009 Characterization Report submittal, a preliminary draft Conceptual Site Model (CSM) diagram.

Secondly, CNSC staff expects Cameco to have by March 2009 a plan in place to minimize the likelihood of emergency pond discharge at the Welcome Waste Management Facility, and be ready to implement this plan before Spring 2009. Cameco's plan should consider the following options recognizing that these are only suggested options:

- Optimization of the efficiency of the current Welcome Waste Management Facility treatment system (e.g. minimizing shutdown between now and Spring 2009 via increased operation and/or greater monitoring of system efficiency)

- Mechanical or structural upgrades of the current Welcome Waste Management Facility treatment system (e.g. increase pond capacities via berm redesign and/or increase discharge rates via pump or pipeline replacement)
- Other potential options to increase the Welcome Waste Management Facility treatment pond capacities (e.g. redirect "clean" surface runoff away from the ponds)

Also, it is expected that the plan evaluate timing issues for each option (i.e. whether or not each listed option can be implemented prior to Spring 2009).

We request that Cameco respond to the above by December 19, 2008.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact me at 613-947-3771 or by e-mail at anne.mclay@cnscccsn.gc.ca.

Sincerely,



Anne McLay
Project Officer
Wastes and Decommissioning Division