Regulatory Oversight of Major Decommissioning Projects under the Canadian GoCo Model

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Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

- Regulates the nuclear industry to protect the health, safety and security of people and protect the environment
- Implements Canada’s international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Disseminates objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public

More than 70 years of nuclear safety in Canada
Independent Commission

- Quasi-judicial administrative tribunal
- Independent Commission members
- Reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources
- Science-based decision making
- Open and transparent public participation in Commission decision making process

*Transparent, science-based decisions*
CNSC Regulates All Nuclear-related Facilities and Activities

- Uranium mines and mills
- Uranium fuel fabrication and processing
- Nuclear power plants
- Waste management facilities
- Nuclear substance processing
- Industrial and medical applications
- Nuclear research and educational
- Transport
- Export/import controls

*From cradle to grave*
Canadian GoCo Model

• **Government owned – Contractor operated (GoCo) model:**
  – Contractual arrangement between Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (federal crown corporation who is the owner of the facilities) and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (private company who is the licensee)

• CNSC authorized the transfer of licences from AECL to CNL in 2014, after it had been satisfied that:
  – CNL is competent to operate AECL’s facilities and sites
  – CNL will make adequate provisions for health, safety, security and the environment
  – CNL has sufficient autonomy to carry out its regulatory obligations
  – Adequate financial guarantees are maintained
CNL Proposed Decommissioning Projects

In spring 2016, CNSC received regulatory submissions from CNL for three major projects:

1. Construction of the Near-Surface Disposal Facility at the Chalk River Laboratories (Ontario)
2. Closure (in-situ disposal) of the Nuclear Power Demonstration (NPD) Reactor site in Rolphton (Ontario)
3. In-situ disposal of the WR-1 research reactor at the Whiteshell Laboratories (Manitoba)

*Environmental Assessments started in May 2016*
CNSC Regulatory Review of the 3 Projects

• Regulatory review process for the three projects involves taking into consideration the GoCo model, the accelerated project timelines and their novel approaches for Canada (e.g., first in-situ disposal of reactors)

• CNSC initiated the regulatory review of the three projects by:
  – Having in place a sound and flexible regulatory framework
  – Ensuring effective and efficient capacity for regulatory review
  – Enabling the delivery of results
  – Having in place open and transparent stakeholder information and engagement program
Sound Regulatory Framework

• Effective legislation and regulations provide robust, yet flexible regulatory oversight for nuclear safety
• Regulatory documents provide greater clarity on requirements
• Clear, pragmatic and comprehensive CNSC licensing and compliance processes
• No changes needed to the Canadian regulatory framework for the three CNL major decommissioning projects
CNSC Licensing Process

- Licence (project) application
  - Prepare site
  - Construction
  - Operate
  - Decommission
  - Abandon
  - Others

- Environmental assessment
- Technical assessment

- Public hearing

- Licence decision
Capacity for Regulatory Review

- Proper strategic planning and alignment
  - Regulatory work plans
  - Human and financial resource plans

- Maintaining regulatory focus
  - Environmental and technical assessments of projects
  - Continued regulatory oversight of current operations

- Matrixing resources
  - Integrated project management
  - Effective regulatory review governance
  - Dedicated expert regulatory team
Enabling Delivery of Results

• CNSC program and project management
  – Program charter
  – Technical assessment reference matrices
• Administrative Protocols between CNSC and CNL
  – Set out framework, milestones and service standards for environmental assessment and licensing
  – Transparent and predictable timelines
• Coordination with other federal agencies
  – Environment and Climate Change Canada
  – Health Canada
Stakeholder Engagement

- Consultation with the public, Aboriginal peoples and non-government organizations (NGOs)
  - CNSC posts information on website and conducts public outreach activities
  - CNSC has a duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples
  - CNSC sets out requirements and guidance for licensee public information programs and Aboriginal engagement

- Regulatory process provides for public, Aboriginal and NGO participation in environmental and licensing decisions

- CNSC’s Participant Funding Program
Next Steps

• CNL to submit full environmental assessments and licensing applications to CNSC for the 3 major decommissioning projects in 2017 and 2018

• CNSC to complete the regulatory review of the 3 projects within the service standards and timeframes agreed to in the administrative protocols with CNL

• Commission decisions are required for authorization of the 3 projects, through public hearings planned in 2017 and 2018

We will never compromise safety!
We will never compromise safety!

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