



APR 17 2010
10:00:47 AM -035

CNSC CCSN



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March 26, 2010

Peter Elder
Director-General
Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
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4-05-02

FILE DOSSIER	37-8-4-0
REMERCIÉ À	Elder, P.

Dear Mr. Elder:

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

Further to your correspondence dated March 4, 2010 with respect to the above-captioned (the Request), Cameco Corporation (Cameco) provides the following in response.

Cameco has structured this response to first provide a status update on the Welcome Waste Management Facility (WWMF) followed by a response to the two actions identified by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

Current Status

At the WWMF, the installation of new twin 4" diameter treated effluent discharge lines was completed in December 2009, as previously committed. To date in 2010, no collected water has been discharged other than through treatment and the new pipes.

The WWMF is in the queue to be remediated by the federal government under the auspices of the Port Hope Area Initiative (PHAI), with the licensing process already completed by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL). Cameco anticipates that the required land transfer will occur shortly and that AECL will become the licensee and operator at that time.

Cameco has entered into an agreement with the federal government to provide Transition Management Services for the WWMF. This agreement comes into effect on March 31, 2010. Cameco is committed to provide the advice and agreed support services so that AECL can manage the site safely and in accordance with all regulatory requirements during the transition period.

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Response to the Request

Cameco provides the following response to the actions set out in the Request:

- ***By the end of May 2010, submit an action plan for modification of the collection ponds for increasing their capacity and avoiding emergency discharges to Clark's ditch during events of heavy precipitations.***

Cameco completed preliminary engineering on modifications to the collection ponds in 2009. Based on this preliminary engineering, the plan includes removal of the berm between the east and west collection ponds and raising the height of the perimeter berm. These modifications would result in an increased capacity of approximately 10,000 m³.

Cameco has since shared a preliminary engineering package with AECL, which has recently engaged the same consultant to develop the detailed engineering. Cameco has been advised that AECL is committed to providing the CNSC with an action plan to modify the collection ponds no later than the end of May.

- ***Submit to the CNSC the results of acute toxicity testing performed during 2009. It is expected that this will include results from 12 consecutive months of toxicity testing. The licensee is required to continue performing monthly toxicity tests for the remaining operating life of the current Welcome WMF.***

Cameco undertook both acute and chronic toxicity testing in 2008, as part of the response to the initial section 12(2) request made in your letter dated October 17, 2008, Attachment 1, Section A1. Cameco began monthly acute toxicity testing on a voluntary basis in May 2009. The data for both test species indicates a pass for every month that samples were collected in 2009 and is reported in the 2009 Annual Report. For your ease of reference, this data is included as an Appendix to this correspondence.

The acute toxicity testing will be continued monthly throughout 2010. In discussions with AECL, both parties are of the view that monthly testing may not be required beyond 2010, provided pass results continue to be obtained. Accordingly, AECL may choose to propose a reduced frequency of acute toxicity testing beyond 2010 to the CNSC.

We trust that the above and the attached is satisfactory, and we would be pleased to discuss further.

Yours truly,



Andy Thorne
Vice-President, Fuel Services