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Oral Presentation

Exposé oral

**Written submission from the
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

**Mémoire de la Saskatchewan
Mining Association**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard de

**Cameco Corporation,
Cigar Lake Operation**

**Cameco Corporation,
établissement de Cigar Lake**

Application for the renewal of Cameco's
uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake
Operation

Demande de renouvellement du permis de mine
d'uranium de Cameco pour l'établissement de
Cigar Lake

Commission Public Hearing

Audience publique de la Commission

April 28-29, 2021

28 et 29 avril 2021

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March 10, 2021

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9
via e-mail: cnscc.interventions.ccsn@canada.ca

RE: SMA Written Intervention – Cameco Corporation: Application to renew Cameco’s uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation CMD 2021-H-02

The Saskatchewan Mining Association (SMA) is the voice of the mining industry in Saskatchewan and has the role of liaison and consultant with government and public to ensure the safe, profitable and orderly development of the mineral resources of the province. Environmental protection and stewardship are important to the members of the SMA as shown by their commitment to environmental planning, monitoring, compliance and reclamation. Our members are also among the largest industrial employers of Indigenous people in Canada.

The SMA represents over 35 member companies including producers and exploration companies. Our mission is to advance a safe, sustainable and globally competitive exploration and mining industry in Saskatchewan that benefits all residents of the province.

The SMA is providing this intervention in support of Cameco Corporation’s (Cameco’s) application for a renewal of their Cigar Lake operation’s licence for a 10-year period.

Cameco has a long history of successfully exploring for and operating mining and milling operations in northern Saskatchewan. With respect to their mining and milling operations, this history is more than 30 years and they have consistently demonstrated that they are responsible and competent operators. Cigar Lake successfully transitioned through commissioning to full production during the current licence term, while maintaining strong performance in the safety and control areas of worker safety, radiation protection, and environmental protection.

Cameco also has a long history of effectively engaging with communities in northern Saskatchewan, which includes Indigenous communities. They have continued to foster strong relationships in northern Saskatchewan, which is reflected in their ongoing work with northern people, communities and businesses. Their Collaboration Agreement speaks to mutual beneficial partnerships and formalizes commitments under 4 pillars (workforce development, business development, community investment, community engagement and environmental stewardship). Cameco continues to support community-based environmental monitoring, which continues to demonstrate that the country foods and water in northern Saskatchewan are safe to eat and drink.

The Cigar Lake operation, the second largest high-grade uranium mine in the world, continues to provide the world with a source of clean, reliable energy. As you know, climate change continues to be a challenge around the world and the International Energy Agency has identified nuclear as a key technology to help decarbonize world economies.

Ongoing market conditions have compelled Cameco to continue the suspension of operations at three of four uranium mining and milling operations in northern Saskatchewan. During this extended period of suppressed market conditions Cameco has successfully managed the Key Lake, McArthur River and Rabbit Lake operations into a state of safe and stable care and maintenance.

Cameco has continued to make sound science-based decisions with respect to the temporary suspension of production at their Cigar Lake operation in March 2020 due to the realities of the Coronavirus pandemic, and as they safely resumed production in September 2020. However, due to increased risks and uncertainty around the rising rates of Coronavirus infections in the fall of 2020 they made the responsible decision to temporarily cease production in December 2020. These decisions were made in consultation with the local health authority, as well as with community leaders. During this trying time, Cameco has shown both compassion and understanding for their workers and the communities in which they live.

Cameco has continued over the past year to take proactive precautionary measures during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the safety of its workers, their families, and communities. They have also been an active member of the SMA’s Industrial Hygiene Focus Group and have participated in the development of SMA COVID-19 “Precautionary Measures” best practice documents as well as during weekly and bi-weekly meetings where this group discusses emerging COVID-19 issues, best practices, screening and testing technologies, etc.

Cameco’s Cigar Lake operation continues to demonstrate strong management and have met performance expectations regarding the health and safety of persons and protection of the environment. We believe that Cameco, and specifically Cigar Lake, has the programs, processes and people in place to ensure continued safe production throughout the next licence term. It is for the reasons noted above that the SMA supports Cameco’s application for renewal of the Cigar Lake operation licence for a period of 10 years.

We would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our views in this written intervention to indicate our support for Cameco’s Cigar Lake operation. We would also appreciate the opportunity to share these views in person (virtually) during the Commission Hearing.

Yours sincerely,



Brad Sigurdson
Vice President – Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs

- cc Liam Mooney – Vice President, Safety, Health, Environment & Quality and Regulatory Relations (Cameco)
- Kevin Nagy – Director, Compliance and Licensing (Cameco)
- Kent England – Manager, Environment and Licensing (Cameco)
- Pam Schwann – President (SMA)