



## **Oral presentation**

### **Written submission from the Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries**

In the Matter of the

#### **Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)**

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Application from the CNL to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility

#### **Commission Public Hearing Part 2**

**May and June 2022**

## **Exposé oral**

### **Mémoire de l’ Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries**

À l’égard des

#### **Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)**

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Demande des LNC visant à modifier le permis du site des Laboratoires de Chalk River pour autoriser la construction d’une installation de gestion des déchets près de la surface

#### **Audience publique de la Commission Partie 2**

**Mai et juin 2022**

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater Street P.O. Box 1046, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

March 10, 2022

Subject: Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site license to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility IAA Reference Number: 80122

Dear Secretariat:

The Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries (OCNI) is the leading voice of the Canadian nuclear supply chain and its 240 members and associates. Founded in 1979, OCNI actively promotes the production of safe, clean, and reliable nuclear energy, as well as the establishment of the needed infrastructure to carry out and manage nuclear projects in Canada. Today, OCNI is proud to support the Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) application to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility (NSDF) for low-level radioactive waste.

Canada has a long history of safely executing nuclear projects and managing nuclear assets, all under the governance of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). For approximately 70 years the Canadian nuclear industry has developed and refined its expertise as a Tier One nuclear country, and this includes its world class nuclear regulatory regime, evidenced through its influence on the nuclear regulatory practices in other CANDU countries. The CNSC, through its continuous investigation of new technologies and international collaboration, can provide Canadians a strong and reliable licensing framework for nuclear operators that helps ensure the safest and most robust nuclear activities.

To continue our tradition as a strong Tier One nuclear country Canada must now implement solutions to ensure the safe and secure disposal of the waste products from its many nuclear activities. To date, the industry has mostly relied upon interim solutions for storage either because the current volume or requirements did not yet require a more permanent solution. Now, with active refurbishments and revitalization projects across the industry, the time has come for the Canadian nuclear industry to execute its long-planned solutions for the disposal of waste from nuclear projects and operations.

In this case, the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility is a permanent and environmentally sound technological solution that includes a highly engineered containment mound, site infrastructure and wastewater treatment facilities. This design uses natural and synthetic barriers that work together to ensure the integrity of the facility will last more than a thousand years – much longer than the time it will take for the radioactivity contained within to decay to a safe level.

In addition to presenting OCNI's support for this project I wish to add my personal endorsement as a long-time resident of Deep River. Today, my family maintains waterfront property in Deep River and we

regularly enjoy water activities and the beauty of the river upstream and downstream of CNL. I am fortunate to have lived in Deep River and to have benefited from an education about the benefits and safe use of nuclear energy, all while enjoying the pristine natural environment surrounding the site. As a result, I am extremely confident in CNL's ability to safely execute and operate the proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility according to the terms of the proposed license amendment.

Sincerely

*Brian Fehrenbach*

Brian Fehrenbach  
Director of Business Development  
Organization of Canadian Nuclear Industries