



Supplementary Information

Presentation from the Nuclear Waste Watch

In the Matter of the

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)

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 30 to June 3, 2022

Renseignements supplémentaires

Présentation d' Action Déchets Nucléaires

À l'égard des

Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)

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**

30 mai au 3 juin 2022

Community Awareness & Acceptance of Near Surface Disposal Facility

Nuclear Waste Watch

Presented by John Jackson, June 3, 2022

Reference # 22-H7.103

Our Work

- Christine Peringer, expert on group facilitation and mediation
 - a 9-question multiple choice survey conducted in October and November 2017;
 - two community round tables (one in Pembroke and one in Deep River) held on November 9, 2017; and
 - telephone informant interviews.

Level of Community Awareness

- “The level of public awareness of the NSDF appears to be low or moderate.”
 - The reasons given by those she had contacted for the lack of awareness included:
 - “There is not much public discussion.
 - The topic is complex and people are busy.
 - There is not a lot of information available.
 - The role of the public is unclear.”

Community Acceptance

- “There appears to be a significant difference of opinion within the community as to support for the proposal.”
 - “The source of waste matters to people.
 - No relationship appears to exist between opposition to nuclear power and opposition to this proposal.
 - Current nuclear industry employees generally support the proposal and see movement on this as essential for their industry.
 - Past nuclear employees may support or oppose the proposal.”

Sharp Difference in Trust

- Those in support had trust in the consultation, approval and oversight process.
- Three prime concerns of those opposed to the project were:
 - Concern about a “proponent that is a multinational consortium of commercial interests,”
 - “Distrust in CNSC as the regulator,” and
 - Concern about “capacity of government oversight now and in the future.”
- Were not given funding by CNSC to update work

Conclusions & Recommendations

- Community awareness and acceptance are core principles in a modern environmental assessment process and in modern decision-making.
 - Essential in order to develop a project that best suits the needs of the proponent, the community, and the environment.
- Community awareness and acceptance not adequate as of 2017
- Community awareness and acceptance are developed by involving the public in a collaborative process in the early stages. This did not happen.

Conclusions & Recommendations (cont.)

- CNL's EIS section on "public and stakeholder engagement:"
 - Does not explore community awareness or acceptance
 - The amount of mail drops, meetings, website visits, social media impressions, etc., that have occurred does not necessarily mean that public awareness and acceptance is at a satisfactory level.