



**Written submission from
Nathan Benkhe**

**Mémoire de
Nathan Benkhe**

In the Matter of the

À l'égard des

Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL)

Laboratoires Nucléaires Canadiens (LNC)

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

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

**Commission Public Hearing
Part 2**

**Audience publique de la Commission
Partie 2**

May and June 2022

Mai et juin 2022

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To whom it may concern,

It is very important to me not just as an employee at Canadian Nuclear Labs working in Waste Management to voice my support for the Near Surface Disposal Facility. I'm an environmental steward. My first calling in life was to find a way to make a positive impact on the environment. There aren't many other things on this precious planet of ours than protecting our natural environment. Safety and Security is also close to my heart as a Safety Specialist, and registered CRSP who has taken an oath to uphold safety and protect our environment. I was born and raised in the Ottawa Valley and first and foremost, before protecting this job I feel so lucky to have is to do what is best for the Ottawa Valley, for Canada and the rest of the world. I think nuclear will play an important role in minimizing our impact on the environment in the future. Nuclear comes with a natural fear. History has taught us that when mis-managed the liability to the health of the public and our environment can be catastrophic but CNL is addressing this very issue by managing this liability in the most responsible way possible. Rather than allowing our existing nuclear legacy to sit where it is where its safety cannot be ensured beyond the short term, CNL is seeking to store and monitor our legacy waste in a responsible manner that has been engineered to see it stored responsibly where our environment is protected, where it can be monitored, and where any issues, if they were to arise could be dealt with safely without impact to health and safety. This is an important part of nuclear.

There is waste generated that has to be handled appropriately. The public also has to realize that nuclear is very much a part of modern society and we would not have access to a vast array of technologies. Nuclear is used to ensure we have the ability to feed this world's huge population by protecting crops, improving the shelf life of food so food can be transported and stored long enough to get to our tables, for medical to diagnose and treat various diseases, used to sterilize equipment to carry out many types of surgeries, used to help ensure enough safe drinking water, allows for the reliable inspections of all manner of technologies from gas lines to aircraft and vehicles to inspect critical equipment that, if it were to fail or to have manufacturing defects would result in serious threat to health and safety of the environment and the public. Simply put, we could not imagine the world and the massive gaps we'd see if we were to eliminate nuclear. Nuclear brings with it a huge benefit to mankind but we MUST face the fact we have to properly manage our nuclear waste. I beg the public to support NSDF to make an important step in doing just this and to make an example of how nuclear waste can be safely dealt with so future projects like this will be more likely to happen across the globe. We've learned from our previous mistakes with nuclear. Now is the time to embrace nuclear not abandon it. We should all be proud of what Canadian Nuclear Labs has done to manage our waste and is proposing for the future. I couldn't be more proud and ask for the public's support. Everyone should take some time to learn about the good things Canadian Nuclear Labs does because it's something for all Canadians to be proud of.

I would be happy to have this personal message shared or to speak in person to share this message at the hearing process.

Regards,

Nathan Benkhe, CRSP®

OSH Specialist | Environmental Remediation Management
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories