



Oral presentation

Written submission from David V. Thompson

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 and June 2022

Exposé oral

Mémoire de David V. Thompson

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

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

Date: April 8, 2022

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

Dear Secretariat:

I am a long term resident of North Renfrew and have served my community as a Municipal Councillor, County Reeve, Public School Board Trustee and Mayor of the Town of Deep River. I also served as the Chair of the Community Liaison Group (CLG) tasked with locating a host municipality for the low level radioactive waste located in the Town of Port Hope.

The NSDF proposal deals with the realities of the day. This is not a judgement on the pros or cons of nuclear energy, nor is it a discussion about whether nuclear waste should or should not be on the Chalk River site. The question before the CNSC is what now?

I am not a scientist, geologist or an expert on radiation contamination. What I do know is the waste exists and the status quo of "do nothing" is not a viable option.

The risks associated with digging up and transporting the waste to another off site location far exceeds any potential benefits. This was clearly demonstrated during the Port Hope project.

My concerns about contaminant migration into the Ottawa River are valid. No reasonable person would willingly contaminate a waterway that provides potable water to millions of people.

I have read the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the NSDF project. It addresses my concerns around earthquakes, flooding, risk to employees and long term maintenance and monitoring.

The only outstanding question is whether the proposed methodology will create a safer environment than either the status quo or another potential technology.

Over 2,800 CNL employees make their home in Renfrew County...the vast majority of which live and raise their families on or near the Ottawa River. What parent would willingly and knowingly put their own family at risk?

I have a high degree of confidence in the scientists, geologists, hydrologists and radiation protection employees at CNL. If they can look me in the eye and tell me this is the best available technology to deal with legacy wastes; I have no reason not to believe them.

I would be pleased to make an oral presentation in front of the CNSC Board should the Secretariat so desire.

Respectfully,

David V Thompson