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## **Oral Presentation**

**Written submission from the Kineepik Métis Local, with support of the Northern Village of Pinehouse**

## **Exposé oral**

**Mémoire du Kineepik Métis Local, avec l'appui du Northern Village of Pinehouse**

**Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic, and Decommissioned Sites in Canada: 2020**

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**Rapport de surveillance réglementaire des mines et usines de concentration d'uranium et des sites historiques et déclassés au Canada : 2020**

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Commission Meeting

Réunion de la Commission

December 15, 2021

Le 15 décembre 2021



## Kineepik Metis Local

November 10, 2021

Mike Natomagan  
Kineepik Métis Local Inc.  
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Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission  
280 Slater St. Ottawa ON  
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Re: Intervention letter on Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic and Decommissioned Sites in Canada: 2020

Senior Tribunal Officer:

The Northern Village of Pinehouse is located within the mapped traditional territory of Indigenous people of Kineepik Metis Local. We have used these lands surrounding Missinippi (Churchill River) watershed for gathering food, shelter and material supplies for generations. We the community of Pinehouse Lake, are transforming the community into a thriving, self-sustaining Indigenous community. Being the nearest community south of the Uranium mining operation we have worked with the uranium mining industry for many years, formalizing our partnership with Cameco and Orano in 2012 with a Collaboration Agreement<sup>1</sup> (CA).

This Agreement enables our community to determine where we provide services and historically has included programs for Recovery Lake. Recovery Lake camp host seasonal treatment services for our community members that are still struggling with colonization and the trauma from past treatment of Indigenous people. Another program we are very proud of through this agreement is the Annual Elder's Gathering, where we celebrate with our neighbouring communities, our Indigenous Identity with a weeklong celebration of our Woodland Cree culture and language. Other initiatives include student scholarships, recreation, and housing.

We are especially proud of our growing capacity to increase our workforce in many areas including professional, skill and trade and academic research. With this partnership and this research, we can gather and build a vision for our future. To strategize what is important for continuing the growth we have experienced. It should be noted this partnership allows our community to grow organically which provides time to absorb and understand the changes we are going through. The importance of this cannot be understated so we do not cause harm to the community and the expectations that come with that growth.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parties to the Pinehouse Collaboration Agreement are Cameco Corporation, Orano Canada Inc., the Northern Village of Pinehouse and Kineepik Métis Local Inc.

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## Kineepik Metis Local

The CA also provides an important forum, the Joint Implementation Engagement Subcommittee (JIES), developed in collaboration with Cameco and Orano shares information on matters related to the environment, the operations, proposed authorizations, and to address issues raised by the communities. The JIES ensures that adequate operational and regulatory updates are reaching the community and ensuring community members are adequately informed and that community members' concerns are heard during engagement opportunities with the companies. The JIES members are the primary link between Cameco, Orano, the Northern Village of Pinehouse and the Kineepik Métis Local for the sharing of information and these local representatives act as the first point of contact for community engagement matters.

It is important to note that Pinehouse has intentionally positioned JIES committee with our Duty to Consult and Accommodate (DTC) program. This process maintains a strong connection with our traditional land users and can question all activity that occur on our lands. The JIES works to ensure information is shared regarding areas of interest that have specifically been identified by community members. As the local experts, the community JIES/DTC representatives play an important role for the community by providing advice, based on interest and need, regarding community engagement strategies for planned and future site-based projects.

As a community leader, I have witnessed the impacts of industry for Pinehouse. The ability to communicate directly with the proponents and to host discussions on those impacts are extremely important to our Indigenous community. The evolution of our relationship is built upon the Collaboration agreement which provides certainty to community members and protects us legally. Cameco longstanding engagement program with Pinehouse residents have evolved into a strong partnership, where we are able to communicate fully informed on industry activity.

Over the years, the community has been generally supportive of both Cameco and Orano's operations and have received timely information. We feel Cameco has successfully managed its operations into a state of safe and stable care and maintenance and are satisfied with the CNSC staff's summary on operational performance.

I am pleased to provide you with this letter for the 2020 Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines, Mills, Historic and Decommissioned Sites in Canada (ROR) on behalf of the Kineepik Métis Local, with support of the Northern Village of Pinehouse.

Sincerely,

Mike Natomagan, Kineepik Métis Local President and Mayor Northern Village of Pinehouse

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