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Update from CNSC Staff

Mise à jour du personnel de la CCSN

Follow up from 2018 Public Hearing on Licence Renewal for OPG Pickering Nuclear Generating Station

Suivi à la suite de l'audience publique tenue en 2018 pour le renouvellement du permis d'OPG pour la centrale nucléaire de Pickering

Update from CNSC staff on the assessment of the relevance of the inclusion of radionuclides as a chemical of mutual concern under Annex 3 of the Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (Action item #19575)

Mise à jour du personnel de la CCSN au sujet l'évaluation de la pertinence d'ajouter les radionucléides comme produits chimiques sources de préoccupations mutuelles à l'annexe 3 de l'Accord Canada – États-Unis relatif à la qualité de l'eau dans les Grands Lacs (Suivi # 19575)

Commission Meeting


Réunion de la Commission

January 25, 2023

Le 25 janvier 2023



To / À Denis Saumure
 Commission Registry
 c.c.: P. Elder, R. Richardson, M. McKee, M. Fabian
 Mendoza, Megan McMillan.

From / De 
 Haidy Tadros
 Director General
 Directorate of Environmental and Radiation Protection
 and Assessment

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Subject / Objet RIB Action #19575 – Update on Decision on Radionuclides as Chemicals of Mutual Concern

ISSUE

During the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station relicensing hearing in 2018, the Commission requested comments from CNSC staff and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) on the nomination of radionuclides as chemicals of mutual concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. These discussions were summarized in Paragraph 414 of the Pickering Licence Renewal [Record of Decision](#) with a request that the Commission be updated on the decision made by ECCC on the nomination.

To date, three updates have been provided to the Secretariat, 2019 (e-Doc: 6067323), 2020 (e-Doc: 6443947), and 2021 ([CMD 22-M8](#)) all indicating that no decision had been made by ECCC on the nomination.

This memo is to provide a fourth update for RIB Action #19575.

BACKGROUND

The [Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement](#) (GLWQA) is an agreement between Canada and the United States, first signed in 1972. It was amended in 2012 and includes Annex 3: Chemicals of Mutual Concern. A key objective of this annex is to identify Chemicals of Mutual Concern (CMCs) from anthropogenic sources, and that are agreed to by both countries as being potentially harmful to human health or the environment. One way that chemicals can be considered as a CMC is through being nominated by external stakeholders. This is the process that a group of 110 non-governmental organizations (the nominators) followed in filing with the Great Lakes Executive Committee co-chairs a proposal to nominate radionuclides as a CMC on March 2, 2016.

The CNSC undertook an assessment of the nomination at the request of ECCC and published its [findings](#) on the CNSC website in April 2018. Similarly, the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US NRC) undertook its own assessment at the request of the United States Environmental Protection Agency

(US EPA). Both assessments are posted on [Binational.net](https://binational.net), which is a shared website for joint work undertaken by the Governments of Canada and the United States regarding the GLWQA. Both regulatory bodies concluded that radionuclides are not recommended as a candidate CMC for further evaluation under Annex 3 of the GLWQA.

An evaluation of the nomination was put on hold while Canada (ECCC) and the U.S. (EPA) worked together to develop a set of binational screening criteria to provide a consistent framework for reviewing nominated CMCs. These criteria were finalized and published in the spring of 2021. This was accompanied by a “[Guidance Document for Annex 3 Nominations](#)” and an “[Example CMC Nomination](#)”.

At the December 2021 biannual meetings of the Great Lakes Executive Committee, the Annex 3 co-leads confirmed that the original nominators for radionuclides were preparing a revised package. At that time it was indicated that a revised nomination proposal was expected to be resubmitted in early 2022.

UPDATE

ECCC informed the CNSC in May 2022 of their receipt of the renomination package and has again requested CNSC’s review of the nomination. The CNSC indicated that they would provide their technical review of the submission in early 2023 to assist with ECCC plans for a decision currently proposed for 2024.

A further update will be provided to the Commission via memo at the end of 2023.