



**Sent by Email**

November 9, 2020

e-Docs 6417992 (Word)

e-Docs 6418741 (PDF)

Ms. Kerrie Blaise  
Counsel  
Canadian Environmental Law Association  
55 University Avenue, Suite 1500  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5J 2H7

Dear Ms. Blaise,

I refer to your letter of October 29, 2020 seeking clarification from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) in respect of the deliverable schedule for activities related to the environmental assessment (EA) for the Near Surface Disposal Facility Project at Chalk River Laboratories.

CNSC staff's technical review of the NSDF EIS and licensing documents is nearing the final stages. CNSC staff will be increasing public engagement and providing more regular updates to the public on the status of the project and next steps through different engagement tools including webinars (early December, invite to follow), project bulletins, virtual open houses, as well as regular webpage updates.

CNSC staff are currently planning and working towards a potential Fall 2021 Part 1 hearing date. It should be noted that the timelines discussed below are still tentative and dependent on the quality and completeness of the information that remains to be submitted by CNL. A proposed date for the hearing will be set by the Commission Secretariat once staff have deemed that the application from CNL has met the regulatory requirements for both EA and licensing. CNSC staff will provide updates as the dates are confirmed.

CNL is planning on submitting a final EIS package (including comment tables), to the CNSC in late November 2020, at which time CNSC staff will have 35 days to confirm that all information requests/comments on the draft EIS have been addressed. Once CNSC has accepted a final EIS, the final EIS and comment tables will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry, as well as on the CNSC website. Based on the current timelines, it is anticipated that the final EIS package will be posted in early 2021. These current timelines will provide the public and Indigenous groups with more than 90 days to review the final EIS package prior to a Part 1 hearing.

In addition, CNSC staff has confirmed that the preparation of the EA Report will occur at a minimum of 90 days from the posting of the final EIS package.

Regarding your request that the EA Report be posted for review for at least 90 days, it is the Commission's plan to ensure that the EA Report and licensing CMD are posted at least 75 days prior to the deadline for interventions. The documents would be posted at least 30 days prior to Part 1 of the hearing, and the intervention deadline would be at least 45 days after Part 1 of the hearing. This means that civil society organizations, the public and Indigenous groups would have a minimum of 75 days to review and comment on the EA Report and the licensing CMD prior to a Part 2 hearing date. The Commission Secretariat will, when more information is available, determine whether to extend this minimum 75-day period.

Please communicate with me if you require additional information.

Sincerely,



Marc Leblanc  
Commission Secretary  
613-858-8058