



August 26, 2025

Mr. Brian Wilcox
General Manager – Whiteshell Laboratories Closure Project and Site Licence Holder
Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
Whiteshell Laboratories
1 Ara Mooradian Way
Pinawa, Manitoba R0E 1L0

Subject: Results of the Federal Provincial Indigenous Review Team technical review of the January 2025 draft environmental impact statement submission (EIS) for the proposed WR-1 In Situ Decommissioning Project

Dear Mr. Wilcox

On January 21, 2025, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL) submitted a revised draft environmental impact statement (EIS), responses to FPIRT information requests (IRs), as well as new and revised technical supporting documents for the proposed WR-1 In Situ Decommissioning Project [1]. On February 20, 2025, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff found the submission [2] to contain the required information to proceed with technical review of the draft EIS by the Federal Provincial Indigenous Review Team (FPIRT).

Outcome of the EIS technical review

After an extended review period, the FPIRT has completed the technical review of the submission and has found that the information provided does not fully address the regulatory requirements for the environmental assessment (EA). To date, the FPIRT technical review of CNL's responses to the 153 IRs from the review of draft EIS package in 2023 has resulted in 80 IRs accepted, 73 IRs not accepted with follow-up IRs and 8 new IRs for revised sections of the EIS.

A table with the status of the FPIRT's review of IRs is provided in Annex 1 [3], and a table with additional comments and advice for CNL is provided in Annex 2 [4].

Expectations and next steps

On August 29, 2025 or shortly thereafter, CNSC staff will post the results the FPIRT review of IRs and comments to proponent tables on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry for the proposed [WR-1 In Situ Decommissioning Project \(Reference number: 80124\)](#).

CNSC staff expect CNL to submit complete responses to all outstanding IRs and to re-submit a revised EIS package. CNSC staff also request that CNL provide a document revision history with the revised EIS and concordance table, for reviewers to locate the changes that have been made to revised documents. It is expected that CNL clearly indicate how the revised EIS incorporated changes as a result of responses to the IRs. CNSC staff and members of the FPIRT are available and willing to meet with CNL to discuss the path forward and to clarify expectations for the outstanding IRs.

CNSC staff expect CNL to continue engagement activities with Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the regulatory review process, to ensure Indigenous concerns about the proposed WR-1 In Situ Decommissioning Project are considered when revising the draft EIS and supporting documents.

Revisions to Evergreen Documents

CNSC staff are also formally requesting that CNL provide an updated Commitments Report as well as an updated Indigenous Engagement Report, with current information up to three months prior to the submission date as part of the revised EIS documentation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Environmental Review Officer for the WR-1 *In Situ* Decommissioning Project, Aimee Rupert, directly by phone at 613-316-2087 or by email at aimee.rupert@cnsccsn.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Doug Wylie
Acting Director, Environmental Review Division
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

C.c.:

CNSC: N. Greencorn, A. Rupert, A. Stewart, B. Nguyen, S. Boser, J. McKeown, A. Levine

CNL: M. Blair, S. Brewer, A. Caron, G. Dolinar, S. Fraught, C. Gallagher, J. Miller, J. Preston, K. Schruder, G. Snell, M. Steedman, R. Swartz, A. Tisler, K. Whitham

References:

- [1] Letter, B. Wilcox (CNL) to N. Kwamena (CNSC), *Submission of Revised Environmental Impact Statement for the In Situ Decommissioning of WR-1 at the Whiteshell Laboratories Site*, January 21, 2025 (e-Doc 7451219)
- [2] Letter, N. Kwamena (CNSC) to B. Wilcox (CNL), *Outcome of CNSC Staff's Completeness Check of Revised Environmental Impact Statement and Dispositions to Federal, Provincial, and*

Indigenous Comments for the WR-1 In Situ Decommissioning Project, February 20, 2025 (e-Doc 7466952)

- [3] Annex 1: Table of Information Requests for the WR-1 Environmental Impact Statement (e-Doc 7553476)
- [4] Annex 2: Table of Comments to CNL for the WR-1 Environmental Impact Statement, (e-Doc 7561489)