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Dear Nicole,

Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN) are proud to provide this support letter as part of the formal federal draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) public review for the Rook I Project. Informed through long-standing engagement processes with the CRDN, the EIS that was submitted by NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen) to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) was confirmed by the CNSC on July 12, 2022, to contain the required information to proceed with the federal technical review of the EIS and was subsequently released for a 90-day public review period.

### **Engagement History**

NexGen began exploration in our traditional territory in 2013. Prior to the first drill hole ever being drilled at the Rook I site, NexGen engaged with our leadership and community. As NexGen continued to advance exploration programs from year to year, they continued to engage early and often for each subsequent program being conducted. The engagement NexGen conducted was to ensure that CRDN understood the scope of the programs and NexGen's continued prioritization of health, safety, and environmental aspects of all activities. Through this engagement, CRDN were made aware of applicable permitting processes, informed of regulatory applications, able to meaningfully participate in the assessment of the program applications, and subsequently benefitted through associated employment and contracting opportunities. Further to engagement on exploration activities, NexGen has worked closely with CRDN leadership to bring positive community

initiatives that enhance education, economic development, and cultural and traditional practices for all CRDN peoples and the community as a whole. Some of the initiatives implemented and that continue to date are, the breakfast program at our local school, and the scholarship and summer student mentorship programs which provide our youth with opportunities and guidance for the future jobs that will be right in our backyard at Rook I.

This positive and early engagement set the foundation for continued engagement with NexGen through the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Rook I Project, which was formalized through the signing of the Study Agreement between NexGen and CRDN on October 16, 2019. The Study Agreement provided a collaborative platform for CRDN and NexGen to identify potential impacts to Aboriginal and treaty rights and socio-economic interests, and to identify potential avoidance and accommodation measures in relation to the Rook I Project. This successful platform was conducted through a Joint Working Group (JWG) to support the inclusion of CRDN's traditional knowledge throughout the EA process and by incorporating the Indigenous Rights and Knowledge Survey (IRKS) and Dietary study that CRDN internally designed, scoped, and undertook. Throughout the entire process, NexGen provided the capacity funding for all aspects of the Study Agreement including the development and negotiations of an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA).

On April 22, 2022, NexGen and CRDN signed an industry-leading IBA. This IBA encompasses the most important principles to CRDN and its people in environmental protection and assurance and support for culture and traditional values. In addition to these important principles, this IBA also provides the CRDN membership with jobs, contracts, and sustainable financial assurance for generations to come. This IBA formalizes the respectful and meaningful relationship that CRDN and NexGen have developed over the past 10 years. Through this open, transparent, and respectful manner that NexGen engaged with our community, we have developed a strong relationship and solid partnership to collaboratively develop the Rook I Project in a responsible manner.

### **Environmental Assessment**

The comprehensive and transparent engagement approach through the EA process was conducted jointly in a respectful manner between CRDN and NexGen. Through this process, the CRDN leadership, membership, and technical consultants were introduced to the EA process at an early stage. This approach provided CRDN the opportunity to review and provide input to assist in drafting of the EIS through avenues such as JWG meetings, leadership meetings, community information sessions, and our self-directed IRKS study.

The positive impact of this process has been validated by CRDN in reviewing the Rook I Project EIS that was released by the CNSC for public review on July 13, 2022. The EIS is consistent with what has been engaged on with CRDN by NexGen, reflects CRDN's input through engagement conducted to date, and demonstrates NexGen's accountability for environmental performance and safety at the highest levels.

### **Full Support for the Rook I EIS**

The relationship built to date between CRDN and NexGen has been founded on trust, respect, and accountability. It is with this genuine relationship, and NexGen's approach to best in class practices and to continually addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #92, that we can say with confidence that CRDN fully supports the Rook I Project EIS. As a partner with NexGen, CRDN looks forward to progressing the Rook I Project in a responsible and sustainable manner with the objective to create as much positivity with all our Nation's members for generations to come.

Should you require further information on this item and file, please contact our engagement Lead Camm Willier at 403-505-6319

Marci cho,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teddy Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Chief Teddy Clark

cc. Council Elect  
Engagement Team  
CRDN Community Forum  
Leigh Curyer - NXE