

## **Notice of Intent**

### **Decommissioning of the Gently-1 Waste Facility**

The Gently-1 Waste Facility (G1WF) is located in Bécancour, Québec, and is owned by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and operated by Canadian Nuclear Laboratories (CNL).

The G1WF consists of a permanently shut down, partially decommissioned prototype nuclear reactor and support structures. The Canadian Deuterium Uranium (CANDU) Reactor operated intermittently from 1972 to 1978 as a joint project between Hydro-Québec and AECL to advance reactor technologies.

A decommissioning program was initiated in 1984 to bring the facility to a safe shutdown state. Since then, the reactor has remained safely shut down, and the facility has been in a state of long-term storage with ongoing monitoring. Operations at the site are conducted under a licence issued to CNL by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The Gently-1 site is now partially decommissioned and is licensed as a waste facility.

CNL made an application to the CNSC to amend the existing licence, which would authorize CNL to proceed with the last phase of decommissioning activities at the G1WF. Proposed activities include the dismantling and decontamination of all remaining systems, structures, and components owned by AECL, as well as the management, packaging, and safe storage of resulting radioactive and non-radioactive waste, and the remediation of the lands to satisfy industrial reuse criteria.

The CNSC will conduct a hearing in July 2026, based on written submissions, to consider CNL's application. The proposed activities also require a federal lands assessment in accordance with the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). Both AECL, as the owner of the G1WF, and the CNSC, as the lifecycle regulator, are responsible for making an Environmental Effects Determination under section 82 of the IAA. That is, as a prerequisite to the licensing decision, two federal authorities must determine whether the proposed activities are likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects. AECL will make a section 82 determination separately and prior to the CNSC's determination. The CNSC's determination will be made by the CNSC's independent Commission following the July 2026 hearing, prior to the Commission making the licensing decision.

The proposed decommissioning activities will be carried out in accordance with CNL's policies and procedures, and all applicable licences, permits and laws.

CNL has significant experience in the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and is currently executing decommissioning activities at AECL's Whiteshell Laboratories, Douglas Point and Chalk River Laboratories sites. CNL will ensure all waste generated from proposed decommissioning activities will be managed in accordance with CNL's processes for waste characterization, identification and disposition in compliance with its Waste Management Program.