



MITCHIKANIBIKOK INIK

Algonquins of Barriere Lake
Les Algonquins du Lac Barrière

Kitiganik • Rapid Lake - Lac Rapide, Qc J0W 2C0
Téléphone: (819) 435-2181 Fax: (819) 435-2181

April 1, 2022
Electronic Submission
By Email: interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca

Denis Samure
Commission Registrar
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

**RE: Algonquins of Barriere Lake Request for Adjournment of Part 2 of the NSDF
Public Hearing**

Dear Mr. Samure:

I write on behalf of the Mitchikanibikok Inik (also known as the Algonquins of Barriere Lake) regarding Part 2 of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) licensing hearings for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' (CNL) proposed Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) scheduled for May 31, 2022.

We the Mitchikanibikok Inik are extremely concerned about the proposed project's potential impacts to our lands, waterways, rights, and way of life. We do not consent to the project, which, if built, would violate both our sovereignty and our laws. Our community has deep-seated ecological and environmental knowledge, acquired through long and intimate association with the Kitchi-Sibi (Ottawa River) and surrounding sacred sites. Yet the proponent has gone ahead and completed its baseline studies in the absence of any Mitchikanibikok Inik input where subsequently the CNSC deemed the project environmental impact statement complete triggering the upcoming hearings.

Because of the extremely aggressive timelines pursued by the proponent and supported by the CNSC, Indigenous communities such as ours have been forced to negotiate hearing funding agreements in an informational vacuum. We are worried that we face a double bind: either sign an unfair funding agreement with the CNSC to participate in the hearing or be left behind entirely. This hardly accords with the aims of respect and reconciliation enshrined in the Ministers of Natural Resources Canada or Environment and Climate Change Canada's mandate letters.

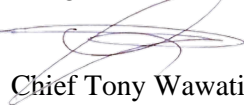
We stand with the Kebaowek First Nation, who requested on January 31, 2022 that the hearings be suspended, as there is no consultation framework in place between Kebaowek First Nation and the CNSC regarding this proposal. We also support the request for adjournment February 15, 2022 co-signed by Members of Parliament and 50 environmental and citizen groups, opposing and calling for suspension of the Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF) licensing hearings scheduled for February 22 and May 31, 2022.

We find that your response in not suspending the NSDF hearing was unresponsive to the serious and time-sensitive concerns raised in Chief Haymond's previous correspondence. We are disappointed that the Commission never sought the views and comments of other interveners involved in this hearing.

There is a highly engaged list of public interest interveners who should be informed of these suspension requests and be invited to respond. Moreover, it appears to us that your Agency's approach to fast-tracking the NSDF hearing without fully and meaningfully consulting affected Algonquin Anishinaabeg communities is unreasonable and falls considerably short of fulfilling the Crown's duty to meaningfully consult.

Given the above we ask yourself as Registrar to exercise your powers under the CNSC rules of Procedure, Rule 20 to consider this letter as a request for ruling on an adjournment of the public hearing by Mitchikanibikok Inik for a period of 12 months. This request is without prejudice to the other parties. If CNSC determines not to grant this request it would allow the NSDF hearing to continue without the Duty to Consult with Mitchikanibikok Inik Algonquins of Barriere Lake having been fulfilled. We ask that this letter and Request for an Adjournment be provided to all NSDF interveners.

Meegwetch,



Chief Tony Wawatie Mitchikanibikok Inik

C/c

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, P.C., M.P., Minister of Natural Resources Canada
jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P., Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Steven.Guilbeault@parl.gc.ca
Ms. Rumina Velshi, CNSC President cnsceopresident-pdpresident.ccsn@canada.ca
Ms. Candida Cianci, CNSC, candida.cianci@canada.ca
Mr. Adam Levine, CNSC, adam.levine@canada.ca
Ms. Diane Cameron, Director, Nuclear Energy Division, NRCAN, diane.cameron@canada.ca
Ms. Maude-Émilie Page, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, mpage@aecl.ca
Mr. Pat Quinn, Director Corporate Communications, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories
pat.quinn@cnl.ca
Chief Lance Haymond, Kebaowek First Nation, lhaymond@kebaowek.ca
Chief Adrienne Jérôme, Nation Anishnabe du Lac-Simon, adrienne.jerome@lacsimon.ca
Chief Monik Kistabish, Abitibiwinni First Nation, monik.kistabish@pikogan.com
Chief Régis Pénosway, Anicinape Community of Kitcisakik, regis.penosway@kitcisakik.ca
Chief Arden McBride, Timiskaming First Nation, chief@parolink.net
Chief Steve Mathias, Long Point First Nation, steevemathias@lpfn-aki.ca
Chief Tony Wawatie, Algonquins of Barriere Lake, wawatie.tony@gmail.com
Chief Lisa Robinson, Wolf Lake First Nation, lisarobinson@wolflakefirstnation.com
Chief Dylan Whiteduck, Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Dylan.whiteduck@kza.qc.ca
Chief Wendy Joeko, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan, chiefcouncil@pikwakanagan.ca
Chief June Black, Wahgoshig First Nation, wfnchief@wahgoshigfirstnation.com
Ms. Lynn Moreau, Iroquois Anishinabek Nuclear Alliance, lynn.moreau@anishinabek.ca
Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald, ORCRoseAnne@afn.ca
Quebec Regional Chief Ghislain Picard, gpicard@apnql.com
Norm Odjick, Director General, Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council
dg@aaante-ctnaa.ca
Ms. Kerrie Blaise, Canadian Environmental Law Association, Kerrie@cela.ca
Mr. Emerson Vandenberg, Policy Advisor, Office of the Minister of Natural Resources
emerson.vandenberg@canada.ca
Mr. Andrew Bisson, Office of the Minister of Natural Resources, andrew.bisson@canada.ca
Ms. Clare Cattrysse, Director, Policy Aboriginal and International Relations
clare.cattrysse@canada.ca
Mr. Jim Delaney, Director, Uranium and Radioactive Waste, jim.delaney@canada.ca
Joel Hardin, MPP Ottawa Centre, JHarden-QP@ndp.on.ca
Ottawa City Councillor Theresa Kavanagh, BayWard@ottawa.ca
Ottawa City Councillor Catherine McKenney, Catherine.Mckenney@ottawa.ca
Mayor of Montreal Mme Valerie Plante, mairesse@ville.montreal.qc