



Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne
de sûreté nucléaire

Record of Proceedings, Including Reasons for Decision

In the Matter of

Applicant Cameco Corporation

Subject Application to Renew the Beaverlodge Project
Waste Facility Operating Licence for a Six-
Month Period

Hearing
Date September 25, 2012

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Cameco Corporation

Address/Location: 2121-11th Street West Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M 1J3

Purpose: Application to renew the Beaverlodge Project Waste Facility Operating Licence for a six-month period

Application received: July 17, 2012

Date of hearing: September 25, 2012

Location: Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) 280 Slater St., Ottawa, Ontario

Members present: M. Binder, Chair

Secretary: M. Leblanc

Recording Secretary: C. Heyendal / T. Johnston

Licence: Renewed

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Introduction

1. Cameco Corporation has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission¹ (CNSC) to renew the Beaverlodge Project (Beaverlodge) Waste Facility Operating Licence, WFOL-W5-2120.0/2012, for a period of six months. Beaverlodge is located in the northwest corner of Saskatchewan, in close proximity to Uranium City.
2. Beaverlodge is a decommissioned mine and mill site that was originally operated from 1952 to 1982 by Eldorado Nuclear Limited. By 1985, the site was completely decommissioned in accordance with regulatory approvals by both the provincial and federal regulators. Cameco is responsible for the on-going monitoring and maintenance activities on behalf of Canada Eldor Inc., a Crown corporation of the Government of Canada. In 2009, the Commission issued a three-year licence, expiring on November 30, 2012.
3. This short-term licence renewal would allow Cameco to finalize performance objectives based on the selected remedial options as indicated in the action plan that was presented to the Commission in 2009, and provide aboriginal and community consultation on them. This information would be part of the submission to the Commission for a longer term relicensing hearing.

Issue

4. In considering the application, the Commission was required to decide, pursuant to subsection 24(4) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*² (NSCA):
 - a) if Cameco is qualified to carry on the activity that the amended licences would authorize; and
 - b) if, in carrying on that activity, Cameco would make adequate provision for the protection of the environment, the health and safety of persons and the maintenance of national security and measures required to implement international obligations to which Canada has agreed.

Hearing

5. Pursuant to section 22 of the NSCA, the President of the Commission established a Panel of the Commission to review the application. The Commission, in making its decision, considered information presented for a hearing held on September 25, 2012 in Ottawa, Ontario. During the hearing, the Commission considered written submissions from CNSC staff (CMD 12-H121) and Cameco (CMD 12-H121.1).

¹ The *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission* is referred to as the “CNSC” when referring to the organization and its staff in general, and as the “Commission” when referring to the tribunal component.

² Statutes of Canada (S.C.) 1997, chapter (c.) 9.

Decision

6. Based on its consideration of the matter, as described in more detail in the following sections of this *Record of Proceedings*, the Commission concludes that Cameco has met the conditions of subsection 24(4) of the NSCA. Therefore,

the Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, renews the Waste Facility Operating Licence WFOL-W5-2120.0/2012, issued to Cameco Corporation for the Beaverlodge Project located in Northern Saskatchewan. The renewed licence, WFOL-W5.2120.0/2013, is valid until May 31, 2013.

7. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions as recommended by CNSC staff in CMD 12-H121.

Issues and Commission Findings

Qualifications and Protection Measures

8. CNSC staff recommended that the Commission renew the Waste Facility Operating Licence for a period of six months, starting on December 1, 2012 and expiring on May 31, 2013. CNSC staff noted that this licence renewal is being sought in order to allow additional time for Cameco to finalize performance objectives based on the selected remedial options and allow for aboriginal and community consultation on them. These activities were identified in the action plan, which was presented to the Commission in 2009, to occur after the November 30, 2012 licence expiry. CNSC staff considers that this short-term renewal will allow time for the completion of these activities for presentation at the proposed 2013 public hearing and provide a more comprehensive submission for consideration by the Commission. CNSC staff also noted that the proposed licence would have the same terms and conditions as the current licence.
9. CNSC staff noted that no additional changes to the licence are required as all site activities will remain within the scope of the current licence.
10. CNSC staff reported that Cameco's performance was rated as satisfactory for all relevant Safety and Control Areas (SCAs) during the 2011 Annual Update to the Commission. In addition, subsequent verification activities, including a three-day general site inspection from June 5-7, 2012 and numerous desktop reviews, conclude that the Beaverlodge Project continues to operate the facility at a "Satisfactory" level, in compliance with its licence, the NSCA and its associated Regulations. CNSC staff conclude that all SCAs continue to be rated as satisfactory.
11. CNSC staff noted that Cameco is in good standing with the CNSC's *Cost Recovery*

Fee Regulations 2003 with respect to the payment of fees for the Beaverlodge Project.

12. CNSC staff explained that Canada Eldor Inc. maintains a financial guarantee for all costs associated with the management of the Beaverlodge Project. The federal Department of Finance confirmed this via a letter to the CNSC. CNSC staff considers that the proposed financial guarantee is acceptable.

Application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

13. Before making a licensing decision, the Commission must be satisfied that all applicable requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*³ (CEAA 2012) have been fulfilled.
14. CNSC staff determined that the proposed renewal of the Beaverlodge Waste Facility Operating Licence is not classified as a “designated project” pursuant to the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* made under paragraph 84(a) of the CEAA 2012. Therefore, no federal EA is required.

Aboriginal Consultation

15. Cameco has been involved in continuous Aboriginal consultation for the Beaverlodge Project. As well, one of the primary reasons for the current request for a licence renewal was for Cameco to involve Aboriginal groups and stakeholders in the final selection of performance objectives before the proposed 2013 public hearing.
16. CNSC staff intends on sending letters regarding the six-month renewal period to Aboriginal groups and stakeholders to encourage their involvement in the final selection of Cameco’s performance objectives and in the Beaverlodge Project regulatory oversight.

Conclusion

17. The Commission has considered the information and submissions from Cameco and CNSC staff and is satisfied that the requested amendments are administrative in nature and will not adversely impact the health and safety of persons, the environment, or of the Beaverlodge Project facility operations. The Commission also acknowledges CNSC staff’s efforts regarding Aboriginal consultation.

³ S.C. 2012, c. 19, s.52

18. The Commission is also satisfied that all applicable requirements of the CEAA 2012 have been fulfilled.



Michael Binder
President,
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

SEP 25 2012

Date