



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 Amend the Blind River Fuel
Facility Operating Licence

Hearing
Date June 9, 2011

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Applicant: Cameco Corporation

Address/Location: 205 Peter Street, Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3V6

Purpose: Application to amend the Blind River Facility Operating Licence

Application received: August 18, 2011

Date of hearing: June 9, 2011

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

Members present: M. Binder, Chair

Secretary: M. Leblanc

Recording Secretary: S. Gingras

Licence: Amended

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Decision	1
Issues and Commission Findings	2
<i>Qualifications and Protection Measures</i>	2
Application of the <i>Canadian Environmental Assessment Act</i>	2
Conclusion	3

Introduction

1. Cameco Corporation (Cameco) has applied to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission¹ (CNSC) for an amendment to the operating licence for its Blind River Facility located in Blind River, Ontario. The current licence, FFOL-3632.1/2012, expires on February 29, 2012.
2. Cameco requested to amend the licence to remove an ambiguous statement in Appendices C and F and clarify that the incinerator may be operated 24 hours per day.
3. The Blind River incinerator has been operating since the facility was licensed to operate in 1984. In February 2007, Cameco requested a licence amendment to permit the installation of new emission control equipment to meet the Ontario Ministry of the Environment's (MOE) emission guidelines.

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 June 9, 2011 in Ottawa, Ontario. During the hearing, the Commission considered written submissions from CNSC staff (CMD 11-H108) and Cameco (CMD 11-H108.1).

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,

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.

the Commission, pursuant to section 24 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, amends the Nuclear Fuel Facility Operating Licence FFOL-3632.1/2012 issued to Cameco Corporation for its Blind River Facility located in Blind River, Ontario. The amended licence, FFOL-3632.2/2012, is valid until February 29, 2012.

7. The Commission includes in the licence the conditions as recommended by CNSC staff in CMD 11-H108.

Issues and Commission Findings

Qualifications and Protection Measures

8. Cameco has applied for an amendment to a note under Table 2 of Appendix C and F of its operating licence to remove the reference to the operation of the incinerator for up to 12 hours per day. Cameco has requested to increase the operation of the incinerator to allow flexibility in operations without exceeding the maximum weekly feed rate of 18 540 kg/week.
9. CNSC staff is of the opinion that the note referred to in Table 2 was only meant to calculate the daily emission rate based on 12 instead of 24 hours averaging time. CNSC staff added that accepting the requested change will clarify the note and will not change the emissions to the environment, the daily uranium emissions being well below the action level and the maximum amount of waste to be incinerated per week remaining the same. The action levels and the emission limits will also remain the same.
10. CNSC staff has determined that the licence amendment requested is minor in nature and that the requested changes will have no adverse impacts on the Aboriginal rights or Treaty rights of Aboriginal groups. Therefore, the Duty to consult did not arise in relation to the proposed licence amendment.

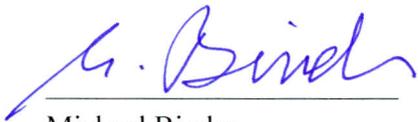
Application of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*

11. Before making a licensing decision, the Commission must be satisfied that all applicable requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*³ (CEAA) have been fulfilled.
12. CNSC staff reported that it had completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) determination. CNSC staff stated that there was no requirement for an EA pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the CEAA as the bounding factors of the previous EA conducted for this project in 2006 are still valid.

³ S.C. 1992, c. 37.

Conclusion

13. The Commission has considered the information and submissions of CNSC staff and Cameco and is satisfied that the requested amendments are administrative in nature and will not adversely impact the safety of the Blind River facility operations. The Commission is also satisfied that aboriginal consultation is not necessary in relation to the proposed amendments.
14. The Commission is also satisfied that all applicable requirements of the CEAA have been fulfilled.



Michael Binder
President,
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

JUN 09 2011

Date