

Canadian Nuclear
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne de
sûreté nucléaire

Public hearing

Audience publique

April 28th, 2021

Le 28 avril 2021

Public Hearing Room
14th floor
280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario

Salle des audiences publiques
14^e étage
280, rue Slater
Ottawa (Ontario)

via videoconference

par vidéoconférence

Commission Members present

Commissaires présents

Ms. Rumina Velshi
Dr. Timothy Berube
Dr. Stephen McKinnon

M^{me} Rumina Velshi
M. Timothy Berube
M. Stephen McKinnon

Secretary:

Secrétaire:

Mr. Marc Leblanc

M^e Marc Leblanc

Senior General Counsel:

Avocate-générale principale :

Ms. Lisa Thiele

M^e Lisa Thiele

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by videoconference / par vidéoconférence

--- Upon commencing on Thursday, April 28,
2021 at 10:30 a.m. / L'audience débute le
jeudi 28 avril 2021 à 10 h 30

Opening Remarks

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning and welcome to the public hearing of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on the application by the Cameco Corporation for the renewal of the uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation.

Mon nom est Rumina Velshi. Je suis la présidente de la Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire.

I would like to begin by recognizing that our participants today are located in many different parts of the country. I will pause for a few seconds in silence so that each one of us can acknowledge the Treaty and/or Traditional Territory for our respective locations. Please take this time to provide your gratitude and acknowledgment for the land. As well, I would like to acknowledge that the Cigar Lake Operation is located in the Traditional Territories of the Dene, Cree and Métis peoples.

Under my authority to do so as per section 22 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, I have

established a three-Member Panel of the Commission to conduct this licence renewal hearing. I will preside over the hearing and I have with me on the Panel Commission Members Dr. Stephen McKinnon and Dr. Timothy Berube, who are, like me, present remotely for this virtual hearing.

Ms. Lisa Thiele, Senior General Counsel to the Commission, and Mr. Marc Leblanc, Commission Secretary, are also joining us remotely.

I will now turn the floor to Mr. Leblanc for a few opening remarks.

Marc, over to you.

MR. LEBLANC: Thank you, Madame la Présidente.

Bonjour, Mesdames et Messieurs. Bienvenue à l'audience publique de la Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is about to start the public hearing on the application by Cameco Corporation for the renewal of the uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation.

During today's business we have simultaneous interpretation. Please keep the pace of your speech relatively slow so that the interpreters have a chance to keep up.

The transcripts will be available within

the next two weeks. To make the transcripts as meaningful as possible, we would ask everyone to identify themselves before speaking.

I would also like to note that this proceeding is being video webcast live and that the proceeding is also archived on our website for a three-month period after the closure of the hearing.

As a courtesy to others, please mute yourself if you are not presenting or answering a question.

As usual, the President will be coordinating the questions. To avoid having two people talking at the same time, she will monitor the Raise Hand function as part of the Zoom session. So if you do wish to provide an answer or add a comment, please use the Raise Hand function.

Madame la Présidente...?

CMD 21-H1.B

Adoption of Agenda

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

So with this information, I would now like to call for the adoption of the agenda by the Commission Members, as outlined in Commission Member Document 21-H1.B.

Do I have concurrence?

For the record, the agenda is adopted.
We will now proceed with the public hearing.

Marc, over to you for some additional introductory remarks.

MR. LEBLANC: Thank you.

The Notice of Public Hearing and Participant Funding on this matter was published on October 13, 2020.

The public was invited to participate in writing and by making oral presentations. March 22nd was the deadline set for filing by intervenors. The Commission received 31 requests for intervention.

April 14th was the deadline for filing of supplementary information. I note that supplementary submissions and presentations have been filed by CNSC staff, Cameco Corporation and several intervenors.

Participant funding was available to intervenors to prepare for and participate in this public hearing. Four groups are receiving funding and the funding decision is available on the CNSC website.

We will first hear the presentation this morning by Cameco and CNSC staff.

Two longer breaks have been scheduled today, taking into account the time difference for

participants joining us today. The presentations from intervenors will be after the first break, which will be lunch time for some and perhaps coffee break for others.

Seven intervenors are scheduled to present orally today. While the presentations are limited to 10 minutes, Commission Members will have the opportunity to ask questions after each presentation and there is no time limit for the question period.

The written submissions will be addressed either at the end of today's presentations or tomorrow.

I want to note that representatives from different provincial and federal government departments are joining us remotely to be available for questions later on today.

Ms. Velshi...?

THE PRESIDENT: I would like to start the hearing by calling on the presentation from Cameco Corporation, as outlined in CMDs 21-H2.1 and 21-H2.1A.

I will turn to Mr. Liam Mooney for this presentation.

Mr. Mooney, over to you.

CMD 21-H2.1/21-H2.1A

Oral presentation by Cameco Corporation

MR. MOONEY: Good morning, President Velshi and Members of the Commission Tribunal.

For the record, my name is Liam Mooney and I am Cameco's Vice President of Safety, Health, Environment, Quality, and Regulatory Relations. I am formally trained as a lawyer and started with Cameco's Legal Department 15 years ago. I have been in my current position since 2011.

I have a number of people joining me here today.

To begin with, Andy Thorne, who is Cameco's Vice President of Mining and Operational Excellence. Andy is a mechanical engineer and has been in his current role since 2014. Prior to joining Cameco's Mining Division, Andy served as Vice President of Cameco's Fuel Services Division in Ontario.

Also with us is Lloyd Rowson, who is the General Manager of the Cigar Lake Operation. Lloyd is a mining engineer by trade and came to Cameco from our partners at Orano. He has been involved with construction, commissioning and operational activities at Cigar Lake since 2012.

Kristin Cuddington is Cameco's Manager of Community and Indigenous Engagement. Cameco has broken new ground by signing collaboration agreements with our community partners and Kristin has a key role in the implementation of those agreements. She has been with Cameco for 12 years.

Trent Hamilton is the Manager of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality at Cigar Lake. Trent is a professional engineer with a strong background in radiation safety and mine rescue and has been with Cameco for 15 years.

And Kevin Nagy, who is the Director of Compliance and Licensing for Cameco's Saskatchewan operations. Kevin has an extensive background in environmental management and regulatory compliance and has been with Cameco since 2004.

Also joining us and available to respond to questions are subject matter experts from our corporate SHEQ Department, Mark Sherwood and Brady Balicki.

We are with you today in support of our request to renew the Cigar Lake licence for a period of 10 years. The requested 10-year licence will enable the operation to continue safe, clean and reliable uranium production from the Cigar Lake orebody.

As we all continue to navigate through the

challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to thank the CNSC staff and the intervenors for their efforts in preparing for and participating in this proceeding.

I would also note that the pictures you will see in this presentation represent the entirety of the current licence term. Consequently, some of the photos reflect the pre-pandemic work practices and state of the site.

Cameco is a qualified operator with over 30 years of uranium mining and milling experience in Northern Saskatchewan.

Our uranium is used around the world in the generation of safe, carbon-free and affordable baseload nuclear energy.

Continued production at the Cigar Lake Operation is key to Cameco's vision of energizing a clean-air world, while respecting the values that guide all our decisions and actions.

More specifically:

- The safety of people and protection of the environment are the foundations of our work. We are therefore committed to keeping our people safe and conducting our business with respect and care for both the local and global environment.

- We are committed to acting with

integrity in every area of our business, wherever we operate.

- Through leadership, collaboration and innovation, we pursue excellence in all that we do.

- And we value the contributions of every worker and work hard to demonstrate our respect for individual dignity, creativity and cultural diversity.

I will now pass the presentation to Andy, who will provide a brief overview of the Cigar Lake Operation and our accomplishments over the past licence term.

Andy...?

MR. THORNE: Thank you, Liam.

For the record, my name is Andy Thorne, Cameco's Vice President of Mining and Operational Excellence.

The Cigar Lake Operation is located approximately 660 kilometres north of Saskatoon within the eastern portion of Saskatchewan's Athabasca Basin.

Cameco is the operator of Cigar Lake on behalf of our joint venture partners: Orano, Idemitsu and TEPCO.

The closest communities are the Hatchet Lake Denesuline First Nation and the Northern Settlement of Wollaston Lake, which are located about 80 kilometres to

the east by air.

The Cigar Lake orebody is a high-grade deposit that currently averages 15 percent U308, which is over 100 times the world average.

To safely mine the ore, Cameco successfully implemented an innovative jet boring technique specifically designed for Cigar Lake.

The mined ore is hauled approximately 70 kilometres to the northeast over an all-weather road and is processed at Orano's McClean Lake mill.

Since commissioning in 2014, Cigar Lake has produced over 90 million pounds of U308 and at full production employs approximately 600 workers.

During what has been a busy and successful licence term, there have been many highlights to note.

Specifically, we have successfully completed commissioning of the underground mine and supporting surface infrastructure.

We achieved first ore production in March of 2014 and announced commercial production a year later in May of 2015.

In the following years we successfully ramped up our operations to meet our target production rate. As we did this, we regularly engaged with northern communities to keep them informed of our progress and

activities.

The strength of our programs and processes allowed us to achieve these milestones while continuing to ensure the safety of our workers and the public as well as the protection of the surrounding environment.

These programs and processes have matured over the current licence term and will form the basis for us to continue to safely produce as a qualified operator of the Cigar Lake Operation during the next term.

I will now ask Lloyd Rowson to discuss Cigar Lake's performance in greater detail.

MR. ROWSON: Thank you, Andy.

For the record, my name is Lloyd Rowson and I am the General Manager of the Cigar Lake Operation.

I have been part of the Cigar Lake team for the past eight and a half years and I am proud to lead a team that has had such great success in keeping people safe, maintaining radiation doses as low as reasonably achievable, or ALARA, and protecting the environment as we completed commissioning and successfully transitioned to commercial production.

Fundamental to our performance has been the strength of our management systems, the foundation of which is our Quality Management Program. This program guides all our safety and control areas and includes

overarching processes such as contractor management, design control, commissioning and facility change management.

Our management systems, including the supporting programs, procedures and work instructions, are mature and have been fully implemented utilizing the experience gained during the current licence term.

Internal audits as well as regulatory audits and inspections are conducted on a regular basis to evaluate the effectiveness of our management systems.

Cameco has a strong safety and reporting culture as well as an effective corrective action process. Workers report incidents and they are entered into our Cameco Incident Reporting System. We conduct investigations based on the significance of the incident and develop corrective actions.

Working safely is the responsibility of all individuals at Cigar Lake and is actively promoted by myself, our managers, supervisors and workers.

Maintaining a strong safety culture is achieved through continuous improvement and the consistent application of our mature Safety and Health Management Program.

Cigar Lake has well-established systems and processes to identify, analyze and control potential hazards in the workplace. Prior to initiating non-routine

tasks, a job hazard analysis is conducted. Site inspections are routinely conducted by supervisors, members of our Occupational Health Committees and safety department personnel.

Workers receive standardized safety training and safety meetings are regularly held to emphasize safe work practices and reinforce the use of proactive measures, including job-task observations and the 5-point safety card system.

As shown on the slide, we maintained strong safety performance during the licence term. Our Total Recordable Incident Rate decreased and has been maintained at low levels. This was accomplished during a period of significant activity and non-routine work, with a high number of contract workers onsite. These results in a challenging context speak to the strength of our contractor management program.

In addition, we are proud that Cameco has operated the Cigar Lake mine for over four years without incurring a lost-time injury. Our workers' efforts have been recognized with John T. Ryan regional safety awards for metal mines the last three years.

MR. CARISSE: I'm sorry, I don't know if Mr. Nagy has issues changing the slides. When you are finished with that slide, you can say, "Next slide, please"

and I will change it for him.

Thank you.

MR. ROWSON: Sure. We are ready for the next slide. Thank you.

The members of both our Surface Emergency Response and Underground Mine Rescue Teams have shown diligence and enthusiasm in their training to respond to potential emergencies.

Emergency response personnel maintain their skills through ongoing participation in tabletop exercises, drills or simulations, as well as regular participation in the Saskatchewan Mining Association Mine Rescue Competition.

During the pandemic, we have adapted our practices to ensure team members remain up to date in their training. This includes working with our provincial regulator to safely provide virtual or onsite examination of members for mine rescue certification.

Cigar Lake, along with other mining operations in Northern Saskatchewan, participates in a Mutual Assistance Agreement. This agreement is in place to allow an operation to quickly request support such as additional personnel or equipment in the event of an emergency.

Next slide, please.

In our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety of our workers, their families and their communities has been Cameco's top priority.

In that regard, production at Cigar Lake was initially suspended in March 2020, at the onset of the pandemic.

Cameco implemented and revised protocols across all our operations to limit the spread of COVID-19. This included passenger screenings prior to boarding flights, mandatory mask usage and physical distancing, as well as enhanced cleaning and sanitizing measures.

Our protocols enabled us to safely restart production at Cigar Lake in September. However, due to the increasing risks posed by the pandemic across Northern Saskatchewan and the resulting uncertainty regarding continuous access to qualified operational personnel, Cameco decided, once again, to temporarily suspend production in December 2020.

Since then, we have developed and implemented additional measures regarding increased distancing and the use of medical grade masks and the sanitizing of designated eating areas. We also have licensed onsite COVID-19 testing capability.

With these enhanced measures in place, Cameco recently announced the resumption of production at

Cigar Lake. Workers have returned to site and have worked diligently to safely transition the mine back to normal operations.

In support of the communities where we operate, Cameco set up a \$1 million dollar COVID relief fund to help Northern Saskatchewan communities and organizations in Saskatoon. Additionally, Cameco workers donated essential household supplies for care packages that were sent to 1,200 homes in the Athabasca Basin communities.

Cameco will continue to have regular dialogue with public health authorities and northern leaders and will closely monitor ongoing developments such as COVID-19 case counts and the progress of vaccination programs.

Consistent with the goal of keeping radiation doses ALARA, radiation protection is managed in accordance with our mature Radiation Protection Program and strong Radiation Code of Practice.

The Cigar Lake mine was designed with radiation protection in mind. Ground freezing limits the amount of radon-bearing groundwater entering the mine workings and our non-entry mining method separates workers from the high-grade ore being mined and processed underground.

In addition, radiation exposures are controlled through a combination of engineered controls such as shielding and ventilation and administrative controls such as worker training, zone control and the use of radiation work permits.

The effectiveness of these controls is routinely tracked and confirmed through comprehensive monitoring of both our workers and their work areas.

For example, the worker shown in this slide is wearing monitoring devices, including a personal alpha-dosimeter, and is adjusting a Prism, which provides a measurement of radon progeny in the workplace.

As shown in the graph on this slide, we maintained strong radiation protection performance throughout the licence term.

All measured annual average and maximum effective doses to workers were well below both the annual regulatory limit of 50 mSv per year for nuclear energy workers and Cameco's internal annual dose guideline of 20 mSv per year.

That we were able to achieve this level of performance while commissioning the mine and transitioning into full production speaks to the strength of our program, the effectiveness of our training and the professionalism of our radiation protection personnel at Cigar Lake.

We should be on slide 11 here. Okay.

As demonstrated by our strong performance, radiological hazards at Cigar Lake are well understood and controlled.

In addition, our non-conformance and corrective action process provides us with an effective framework for investigating incidents and to facilitate continual improvement of our processes.

During the current licence term we experienced three events that resulted in action level exceedances of our Radiation Code of Practice. These exceedances were identified through our Radiation Monitoring Program and were reported to CNSC staff. As per our corrective action process, each of these events were fully investigated, with corrective actions developed and implemented.

A noteworthy action following these events was a revision to our radiation protection procedures to ensure verification that long-lived radioactive dust-related hazards have been mitigated prior to commencing work.

Further, to promote continual improvement we actively engage with workers who receive the Top 25 measured doses each year. This includes completing a regular dose review with each worker and their supervisor

and conducting additional job task observations or monitoring, with the goal of achieving a dose reduction the following year.

Slide 12, please. Thank you. Okay.

Cigar Lake's environmental management system is certified to the ISO 14001 standard and ensures we meet our commitment to environmental protection and regulatory compliance.

It provides us with a systematic framework that we use to identify our environmental aspects, implement appropriate controls, and measure and continually improve our performance.

As part of our management system, Cigar Lake has a comprehensive environmental monitoring program that measures the quality of our treated water, the performance of our facilities and the condition of the surrounding environment. This work is completed predominantly by Cigar Lake employees who are also residents of Saskatchewan's North.

Our environmental performance has been strong throughout the current licence term.

All our treated water released from the facility was safe and well below regulatory limits and action levels.

Further, there were no discharges at Cigar

Lake that had the potential to cause adverse effects to the surrounding environment.

It's slide -- there you go, thank you -- slide 13 here.

In accordance with our management systems, we undertook measures during the licence term to monitor, evaluate and continually improve our performance with respect to total loadings of parameters in the treated water that is released to the receiving environment.

As Cigar Lake transitioned into mining operations, routine monitoring identified increasing levels of uranium, molybdenum, selenium and arsenic in our treated water. These increases had been anticipated as we commenced mining of high-grade ore and, despite levels remaining well below the applicable regulatory criteria, we undertook efforts to investigate and implement corrective actions to improve our performance.

Work focused on adjusting reagent usage as well as the pH profiles within our water handling and treatment circuits to reduce mobilization of these elements from the ore and to improve removal efficiencies during water treatment.

Modifications to water handling practices and infrastructure were also made to minimize the use of fresh water and significantly increase the use of recycled

water within the underground mining and ore processing circuits. This had the overall effect of reducing the volume of water from the underground operations that reported to the water treatment plant.

These optimization efforts stabilized the loadings from these parameters in the treated water and have maintained them at levels that have been shown through monitoring and modelling to be protective of the environment.

Our ecological risk assessment was updated in 2017 and amended in 2019, with the inclusion of updated monitoring data that demonstrated improved treated water quality following the implementation of our water management optimization efforts.

These risk assessments confirmed that Cigar Lake remains within the objective of its licensing basis and that human health and the environment would remain protected over the life of the operation.

Key to our success in commissioning the mine and safely transitioning into production was the implementation of our systematic approach to training. This provided the workforce with both the skills and knowledge required to perform their roles in a manner that is safe for themselves, their co-workers and the environment.

All necessary training requirements specific to high- and medium-risk positions and work associated with mine and process operations were identified. Training modules were developed and fully implemented. Existing and new workers continue to be regularly trained and are granted new qualifications as required.

Another focus was the development and implementation of standardized radiation protection and core safety training across all of Cameco's mining and milling operations. Delivery of courses such as basic and supervisor radiation safety as well as fall protection and confined space entry contributed to our strong performance in those areas over the course of the licence term and will continue to do so going forward.

More recently, we have prepared welcome back orientation packages and videos for workers returning to Cigar Lake following our production suspensions. Workers are informed of the COVID-19 exposure control measures that have been implemented in their absence and the actions they can take to help protect themselves and their co-workers.

Cameco has also put increased focus on providing mental health support to our employees. For example, we have implemented a mental health first aid

training course as part of our core curriculum. Awareness of mental health issues has become even more important as we begin to manage through the second year of the ongoing pandemic.

As Andy pointed out earlier, we achieved several milestones during the licence term at Cigar Lake. We successfully commissioned and transitioned into full production using the innovative jet boring system, or JBS, mining method, and we implemented a number of processes and design improvements to further reduce risk, optimize production, and improve our operational efficiencies. I will highlight a few of these accomplishments on the following slides.

You cannot talk about Cigar Lake without discussing the JBS. The JBS is a non-entry mining method which allows us to recover ore remotely. To mine the ore, a pilot hole is first drilled into the orebody. A high-pressure water jet is then used to mine out a cavity in the ore. The ore coming from the cavity is contained and pumped to the underground run of mine storage sumps. The ore is then sent to the underground processing circuit, where it is ground into a slurry and pumped to the slurry load-out building on surface. Once a mining cycle is complete, the cavity is backfilled with concrete.

The JBS was specifically developed for

Cigar Lake, and it is currently the only example of an industrial application of jet boring in the world.

Cameco requested a 10-year licence for Cigar Lake in 2013 but was granted an eight-year licence due to concerns raised about our ability to successfully implement the JBS. Through the significant efforts employed by our team, we were able to smoothly commission the JBS units, achieve commercial production performance criteria, and then safely ramp up to reach our production targets.

The successful commissioning and operation of the JBS speaks to the strength of our workers, their training, and the robust systems we have in place.

When operating, we are currently able to run three JBS systems at the cycle times necessary to achieve full production. Further, to ensure continued fitness for service, we developed and implemented comprehensive inspection and maintenance schedules specific to the JBS in addition to other equipment on site.

An important change made during the licence term was our strategy on how we freeze the ground prior to mining. Ground freezing is an important design control to reduce water inflow into the mine and allow for safe mining of the orebody.

The original strategy was to drill freeze

holes from dedicated underground tunnels; however, following remediation of the mine in 2010, Cameco implemented ground freezing from surface to advance the freezing of the orebody and facilitate mine construction.

Subsequently, the decision was made to continue with ground freezing from surface to expedite the process so it aligned with our mine development schedules and production targets.

As shown by the figure and photograph on the slide, holes are drilled from surface into and around the orebody. Freeze plants, located on surface, provide chilled brine that is circulated underground to freeze the ground. As the brine warms, it is returned to the surface freeze plants where it is cooled and returned to the loop.

The end result, which is frozen ground, remains the same, regardless of whether we freeze from underground or from surface, and both methods are within the objective of the licensing basis.

We have successfully implemented this change with over 1,000 freeze holes having been drilled from surface to date.

Next slide, please. There we go. This should be slide 18. Wonderful, thank you.

Another change to the mine design was the adoption of a different tunnel liner technology. We

initially used a system of rigid segmental concrete liners in the development of our mine production areas. However, ground control assessments identified ongoing deformation of these tunnel liners due to vertical loading from the underground freezing and the existing ground conditions at Cigar Lake. While this was not identified as an ongoing safety risk, it did create issues related to future ore production and associated maintenance costs.

This facilitated a change to a sequential excavation method known as the New Austrian Tunnelling Method, which uses sprayed concrete liners with specifically designed yielding elements. The primary benefit of this method is better control and management of deformation, resulting in longer tunnel life. This method is fully implemented as existing production tunnels have been retrofitted with the technology, and it is used in the development of all new tunnels at Cigar Lake.

Looking forward, we plan to optimize this process by introducing roadheader development at Cigar Lake. Roadheader development is becoming more widely used in the underground mining industry and is currently being successfully utilized at Cameco's McArthur River operation.

Our ability to successfully implement these changes demonstrates the strength of our people, our processes, and our commitment to continual improvement.

Opportunities were identified and the design and implementation of change was completed in accordance with our management systems and within the objective of the licensing basis.

Next slide, please.

Our mine water management system is critical to continued safe mining of the Cigar Lake orebody. With our current controls, such as ground freezing, the mine is relatively dry. As shown in the photographs on the side, a series of underground pumps provide the required capacity to dewater the mine in the event of a non-routine inflow. On surface, the contingency water treatment system enables retention and treatment of water prior to release to the environment through a dedicated contingency water pipeline.

Through continual improvement at Cigar Lake and lessons learned during production, the mine plan, including the mine water management strategy, is continually assessed and updated to ensure that risk is managed appropriately.

As shown by our successful performance in all safety and control areas and our ability to manage and implement change, Cigar Lake has the people, programs, and processes in place to continue safe, clean, and reliable production during the requested 10-year licence term.

We are well positioned to build on this success and we continue production in accordance with Cameco's values of safety and the environment and continuing to engage with northern communities in the vicinity of Cigar Lake.

The remaining mine life at Cigar Lake is a function of our mineral reserves and resources that are regularly disclosed in our financial statements. These are subject to change due to market conditions, and as Cameco continues to evaluate the ore body and make investments to optimize production levels and operational efficiencies.

I will now hand things over to Kristin Cuddington, who will discuss our ongoing commitment to northern engagement. Thank you.

MS CUDDINGTON: Thank you, Lloyd.

For the record, my name is Kristin Cuddington, and I am Cameco's manager of Community and Indigenous Engagement.

Engagement is at the heart of our northern strategy. Our diverse engagement activities are focused on the needs and interests of communities in Saskatchewan's Northern Administrative District or NAD. With an area roughly the size of Germany, the NAD makes up nearly half of the province, but has a population of less than 40,000 people of which 85 per cent are Indigenous.

Cameco is committed to keeping our target audiences in the Athabasca Basin communities informed in accordance with our approved public information program and public disclosure protocol. We do this formally through Cameco- and government-sponsored committees and meetings with local communities or their elected representatives.

Engagement between Cameco and the communities occurs primarily by maintaining two-way channels of communication to address questions and concerns in a timely manner. In that regard, Cameco has consulted with northern leaders and developed a set of principles to use when engaging northern communities. These include maintain open channels, make it simple, build capacity for understanding, hear the elders, include the youth, and speak and hear our language.

As you can see on the slide, the three elders in the photograph are wearing headsets during a community meeting where simultaneous translations were provided.

Cameco maintains satellite offices in the Athabasca Basin located in the Denesuline First Nations of Fond du Lac, Black Lake, and Hatchet Lake. The liaisons based in these offices work closely with local leadership and more broadly to communicate with community members.

Previous slide, please, slide 21.

In 2015, the Cameco North website was updated and includes Cree and Dene translations. Cameco strives to keep information up to date and included a page in 2020 dedicated to this licence renewal.

Since 1990, Cameco has commissioned province-wide public opinion surveys annually, so we can gain a better understanding of public perceptions and opinions related to uranium mining in northern Saskatchewan. The surveys measure trends in public support and continue to identify issues of interest. In 2019, survey results showed high levels of support for the continuation of uranium mining, with 83 per cent province wide supporting our industry. This high level of support is consistent with the long-term trend.

For over 30 years, Cameco has been working to develop long-term relationships with northern communities. We have collaboration agreements in place that formalize these relationships with the communities in the specific area which we operate. These agreements are based on the pillars of workforce development, business development, community investment, environmental stewardship, and community engagement.

These agreements allow us to collaboratively determine the focus areas based on a community's unique needs. Through them, we aim to optimize

benefits to the community, giving more certainty around investment and local business opportunities and the development of long-lasting relationships. We believe that Indigenous communities should benefit from resource development on or near their traditional lands.

Together, we have established a process for engagement under these agreements. Community members have been appointed by five First Nations, five municipalities, and one Métis local who are signatories to these agreements to represent their communities and steer engagement efforts with industry.

Community and Indigenous representatives meet throughout the year to discuss the operations and matters of importance to their respective communities. We discuss all aspects of our business on traditional territories, from exploration activities to decommissioning.

The Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement was signed in June of 2016. Starting in 2012, collaborations agreements have also been signed with those in proximity to our other operations, including the northern village of Pinehouse and the Kineepik Métis Local No. 9, English River First Nation, and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Also in 2014, we signed a participation agreement with Southend and Kinoosao First Nations.

We recognize our agreement communities, but the focus for the Cigar Lake operation is only outlined in the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration agreement; however, we continue to update interested communities as per our public information programs and as outlined in these agreements.

Next slide, thank you.

Our collaboration agreements include contractual commitments with respect to workforce development and training. To build and sustain our Indigenous workforce, we offer support and development opportunities to northern Saskatchewan employees. This is achieved through our talent acquisition and development practices and our collaboration agreements with northern communities. From scholarships and internships for northern students to apprenticeships and career planning for employees, Cameco's workforce development activities are positioning northerners to succeed.

Almost half of the workers at our mines and mills are residents of Saskatchewan's north. In 2020, these workers earned approximately \$44 million in wages. Despite recent staffing reductions across Cameco and in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to maintain our target northern employment levels.

Cameco has made a formal commitment to diversity and inclusion. We understand the value of a

diverse workforce and we embrace, encourage, and support workplace diversity and inclusion.

In addition, Cameco has made commitments to ensure women in leadership is at the forefront of our diversity agenda. We undertook specific initiatives to increase women in leadership and have one female executive officer and four female vice-presidents. Cameco currently has about 456 female employees, representing a quarter of our workforce.

In addition to employment opportunities, our Northern Strategy also emphasizes procuring goods and services for our operations from northern-owned businesses. Cameco's local procurement policy provides guidance and formalizes commitments for preferred northern suppliers to provide safe, high-quality, and cost-effective goods and services. Our partnerships with northern businesses are creating skilled workforces and sustainable businesses. Eighty-one per cent of all services procured by Cameco in 2020 were from northern businesses.

Since 2004, Cameco has procured almost \$4 billion of goods and services from northern businesses. Under the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement, Cameco and Orano have procured over \$350 million from Athabasca Basin communities, of which \$173 million is specific to Cigar Lake. These northern-based businesses maintain a large

workforce with workers originating from northern communities. These businesses also invest in Indigenous training and development.

Cameco looks local when hiring employees and procuring services for our operations and makes strategic community investments in areas where we work, live, and operate. We want to make a difference in those communities today and in the future.

One of the ways we do this is through our community investments programs. Priority is given to initiatives that focus on youth and are related to education, health, and recreation. Cameco's decision to focus on youth initiatives came at the request of elders and community leaders in northern Saskatchewan.

Since our first collaboration agreement was signed in 2012, Cameco has invested \$50 million in northern communities. Under these agreements, trusts have been established and funding decisions are made by the communities.

Pictured on the slide are some of the community-based initiatives that have been supported by the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement. Far left, a community garden in Fond du Lac, equipment for the local radio station in Hatchet Lake is in the middle, and you can see paddlers from Hatchet Lake participating in the Voyageurs

Rendezvous from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta, to The Pas, Manitoba, on the far right.

Additionally, Cameco and Orano established the Six Rivers Trust Fund with support from the north. This legacy fund is for northern Saskatchewan to be administered by the north, for the north. While we provide tangible benefits to current generations of community members through jobs, business, and community investment, Cameco wants to ensure that we provide a sustainable positive impact to future generations through strategic investments in local infrastructure, education, and other areas.

We actively encourage local communities to participate in ongoing community-based environmental monitoring activities and meet with local land and resource users and community members. In northern Saskatchewan, programs that support our environmental stewardship goals include the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program, which was developed to monitor the safety of traditionally harvested country foods. Community members are directly involved in sample collection and encouraged to submit samples of food or water for testing through the program. The funding for the testing comes from a series of stakeholders including the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, Cameco,

and Orano.

The Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program, formerly the Athabasca Working Group Program, focuses on country foods within individual communities on a rotating basis. The program relies on community residents to help confirm that country foods continue to be safe and the water safe to drink. Residents provide input to steer the direction of the program in their community.

Samples tested in both programs continue to show that country foods and water are safe to eat and drink and part of a healthy diet.

We are proud to be part of these programs and we were honoured that the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program, born out of the agreement with the Athabasca Basin communities, won the 2019 Mining Association of Canada's Towards Sustainable Mining Award for Community Engagement Excellence.

I will now turn the presentation back over to Liam for our final slides.

MR. MOONEY: Thank you, Kristin.

In conclusion, Cigar Lake continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to safety of people and the environment while building upon our track record of successfully mining this world-class deposit using the

innovative jet boring technique.

Our strong performance during the licence term shows the strength of our people, programs, and practices that we have in place. Our mature management systems guide all our safety and control areas and have proven effective in managing changes during the licence term.

During the completion of final commissioning and transition to commercial production, Cigar Lake demonstrated strong safety performance, a commitment to keep doses ALARA, and continual improvement in protecting the environment.

In short, Cameco is qualified to carry out the activities that the applied-for licence will authorize. Further, in carrying out those activities, Cameco has demonstrated that we will make adequate provision for the protection of the environment as well as the health and safety of persons. This strong record of achievement at Cigar Lake demonstrates that a 10-year licence renewal is appropriate.

This concludes our presentation, but we are available to answer any questions that the Commission may have. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for that very informative presentation.

I'd now like to move to the presentation from CNSC staff, as outlined in CMDs 21-H2 and 21-H2.A.

Ms. Murthy, the floor is yours.

CMD 21-H2/21-H2.A

Oral presentation by CNSC staff

MS. MURTHY: Thank you. Good morning, Madam President and Members of the Commission.

For the record, my name is Kavita Murthy, and I'm the director general of the Directorate of Nuclear Cycle and Facilities Regulation at the CNSC.

With me today are Mr. Peter Fundarek, director of the Uranium Mines and Mills Division, as well as Mr. William Stewart of the same division. We are also joined by other colleagues and subject matter experts familiar with this file who are also available to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

Our presentation today will discuss Cameco's application to renew the Cigar Lake operating licence requesting authorization for the continued operations for a period of 10 years to June 2031.

Our presentation, identified as CMD 21-H2A, provides a summary as well as highlights from CNSC Staff's written submissions, which are found in CMD 21-H2.

I will now turn over the presentation to Mr. Fundarek.

Over to you, Peter.

MR. FUNDAREK: Good morning, Madam President, Members of the Commission. My name is Peter Fundarek, and I am the Director of the Uranium Mines and Mills Division.

The presentation today will cover an overview of Cigar Lake Operation operated by Cameco. It will provide a review of CNSC Staff's assessment of the licence application, a summary of CNSC's regulatory oversight of the Cigar Lake Operation, an assessment conducted by CNSC Staff of Cameco's performance over the current licence period, as well as other matters of regulatory interest, and the proposed licence and draft Licence Conditions Handbook and then, following, Staff's conclusions and recommendations to the Commission on the licence renewal request by Cameco for the Cigar Lake Operation.

CNSC Staff identified an error on Figure 3.1 on page 30 of Staff's CMD.

The reported maximum individual effective dose for 2018 of 7.16 millisieverts should be 7.28 millisieverts. The value of 7.28 millisieverts has been correctly reported in both the 2018 and 2019 Regulatory

Oversight Reports for uranium mines and mills.

The difference of 0.12 millisievert does not change CNSC Staff's recommendation regarding the effectiveness of the Cigar Lake Radiation Protection Program.

The purpose of this public hearing is to review, discuss and provide information on Cameco's application to renew the Cigar Lake Operation's CNSC licence. Cameco is requesting that the Commission renew the Uranium Mine Operating Licence for the Cigar Lake Operation until June 30th, 2031.

CNSC Staff recommend the Commission take the following actions.

Renew the uranium mine licence to authorize Cameco to operate the Cigar Lake Operation until June 30th, 2031, that is, a period of 10 years, and authorize the delegation of authority as set out in this CMD.

I will now pass the presentation over to Mr. William Stewart, the current CNSC Project Officer for the Cigar Lake Operation, who will begin by providing an overview of the facility.

MR. STEWART: Good morning, Madam President and Members of the Commission. My name is William Stewart, and I am a Senior Project Officer in the

Uranium Mines and Mills Division.

The next few slides will provide an overview of the location and layout of the Cigar Lake Operation and discuss the activities carried out at this facility.

This slide shows an aerial overview of the Cigar Lake Operation. Key facilities at Cigar Lake are the underground mine accessed by vertical shafts. Visible support facilities are the freeze plants and associated freeze pads, ore processing and load out, water treatment, mine rock storage pads, temporary waste rock storage, warehouses, worker camp and the administrative building.

Ore produced from the mine is trucked in specialized containers about 70 kilometres to be processed at the JEB mill at Orano-operated McClean Lake Operation.

Cigar Lake Operation has been an active site for about four decades. The subsurface mineralization was discovered in 1981, and from 1987 to 1992, an underground test mine was constructed to assess mining methods and to further establish the characters of the ore body.

On July 8th, 2004, the Commission issued a CNSC licence to Cameco to allow construction of uranium mining and support facilities at Cigar Lake.

The current CNSC licence was issued in

2013. First ore production and fully operational production started at Cigar Lake during the current licence term, and it's expected to continue for the licence term.

Decommissioning activities are expected to take 14 years after mining activities end.

The current licence authorizes Cameco to prepare, construct, operate, modify and decommission a nuclear facility, mine a nuclear substance -- uranium ore -- import, possess, use, store, transfer and dispose of nuclear substances and radiation devices, and use prescribed equipment as identified.

The proposed licence term of 10 years is consistent with CNSC licences granted to Key Lake, Rabbit Lake and McArthur River in 2013, and the 2017 licence issued to Orano.

No changes are requested to the authorized activities in the proposed licence.

I will now discuss CNSC's review of Cameco's licence renewal application.

Cameco submitted its licence renewal application November 18th, 2019 requesting a 10-year licence term. There are no new licensed activities proposed in this application.

Staff assess the application against regulatory requirements, including the *Nuclear Safety and*

Control Act, NSCA, associated regulations, guides and standards for all 14 safety and control areas, SCAs.

CNSC Staff also assessed Cameco's past performance, including records of compliance activities and environmental and radiation monitoring and Cameco's compliance with public information program documents and observed community outreach and consultation activities over the licence term.

CNSC Staff conclude that Cameco met CNSC licensing requirements.

The CNSC conducts environmental protection reviews for all licence applications with potential environmental interactions in accordance with its mandate under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* to ensure the protection of the environment and the health of persons.

For Cameco's Cigar Lake licence renewal application, CNSC staff conducted an Environmental Protection Review, or EPR, under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*.

The EPR assessed the environmental and health effects of the Cigar Lake Operation. The assessment was primarily based on information submitted by Cameco through the licensing process, including information on environmental protection measures.

The assessment was also based on

compliance and technical assessment activities completed by CNSC Staff such as the review of annual compliance reports and environmental risk assessments. This was supported by independent verification activities, including the CNSC's independent environmental monitoring program, or IEMP.

CNSC Staff's assessment, conclusions and recommendations for the EPR are summarized in the EPR Report for the Cigar Lake Operation, which is found in Addendum E to CNSC Staff's CMD for this hearing.

CNSC Staff concluded that Cameco has and will continue to make adequate provision for the protection of the environment and the health of persons.

The next few slides discuss CNSC's regulatory oversight of Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation.

Regulatory oversight is provided by CNSC staff to ensure licensees operate in a safe manner and in compliance with the requirements of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and associated regulations.

Licensing requirements are comprised of licence conditions, CNSC regulatory documents and CSA Group standards. CNSC's approach to compliance includes promotion, verification activities to assess compliance, graduated enforcement actions in cases of non-compliance, and reporting of safety significant

events to the Commission through event initial reports, or EIRs. Compliance verification criteria are included in the *Licence Conditions Handbook*.

Over the current licence period of eight years, CNSC Staff undertook 44 inspections from July 1st, 2013 to December 30th, 2020. The number of inspections has been updated on this chart to include the inspections conducted after June 30th, 2020.

From 2013 to 2020, CNSC compliance efforts spanned Cameco's rehabilitation of the Cigar Lake mine, preparation for commercial mining and, finally, ramp-up and achieving of full production.

In addition to inspections, CNSC Staff performs compliance verification activities such as desktop reviews of monthly, quarterly and annual reports and licensee applications, event notifications, and event follow-up reports with corrective actions identified.

During the COVID pandemic, Cameco suspended operations at the Cigar Lake site to protect northern communities. On April 9th, Cameco issued a press release stating that Cigar Lake Operation would resume production in April. CNSC Staff confirmed that Cameco continues to utilize COVID control protocols during this resumption of operations.

CNSC Staff continue to use remote inspections, as these have been found to be very effective. Further information on Staff's compliance and verification activities during the COVID pandemic will be provided in the 2020 Regulatory Oversight Report for uranium mines and mills to be presented to the Commission in December of this year. Three of the five inspections conducted in 2020 at Cigar Lake were conducted remotely.

CNSC compliance inspections covered all 14 Safety and Control Areas, SCAs. Inspections conducted by CNSC Staff did not identify safety-significant non-compliances.

Examples of minor non-compliances included documentation updates, radiation protection training recertifications and the use of self assessments.

Cameco has taken timely actions to correct and close all identified non-compliances. Non-compliances and the resultant corrective actions implementation are tracked by CNSC Staff through to completion using the CNSC Regulatory Information Bank tool.

CNSC Staff verify completion of corrective actions as part of ongoing regulatory oversight.

The picture on the right shows CNSC Staff checking conditions of berms and ditches at a waste rock

pile.

Cameco is required to report unplanned events to the CNSC as required by the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, associated Regulations and licence conditions.

During the review period, Cameco provided notifications of 51 reportable events which were of low or medium safety significance. Of the 51 events reported, one met the criteria for an Event Initial Report and was reported to the Commission as such.

Event reports that are significant in nature or may be of significant public interest are presented to the Commission by CNSC Staff during public meetings.

A wolf attack at the Cigar Lake camp triggered an event initial report which was presented to the Commission in CMD 16-M58.

Lost Time Injuries and Action Level events were recorded as medium significance events. There were no environmental releases categorized above low significance.

CNSC Staff reviewed Cameco's event notifications and follow-up reports with corrective actions and found these acceptable. Cameco's website includes all reported events since June of 2018.

In addition, CNSC Staff report annually to the Commission on Cameco's compliance performance in the

form of the Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines and Mills in Canada.

CNSC Staff conclude Cameco met regulatory event reporting requirements during the licence period.

I will now summarize CNSC's assessment of the regulatory performance of Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation as it relates to our framework of 14 Safety and Control Areas.

CNSC Staff use a rating system to describe licensee compliance.

Regulatory oversight is performed in accordance with a standard set of Safety and Control Areas, or SCAs. SCAs are technical topics used across all CNSC regulated facilities and activities to assess, evaluate, review, verify and report on licensee regulatory requirements and performance.

The table on this slide provides the overall rating for each Safety and Control Area at Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation.

As detailed in CNSC Staff's written submission, CMD 21-H2, Cameco has maintained a satisfactory rating across all SCAs during the current licence period.

While the assessment of all 14 SCAs are covered in detail in CNSC Staff's written CMD, four SCAs

are further highlighted in this presentation.

The four SCAs are: Management System; Radiation Protection; Conventional Health and Safety, and Environmental Protection.

Other matters of regulatory interest will also be discussed in this presentation.

The picture in this slide shows an environmental technician taking air samples at the Cigar Lake Operation.

Management System covers the framework that establishes the processes and programs required to ensure an organization achieves its safety objectives, continuously monitors its performance against these objectives. Cameco is required to implement and maintain a management system in compliance with CSA standard N286-12, Management System Requirements for Nuclear Facilities.

In 2019, CNSC Staff performed a detailed desktop review of Cameco's Cigar Lake Quality Management Program to determine the readiness for a transition to CSA N286-12.

CNSC Staff's current desktop review assessment is that Cameco's Cigar Lake Quality Management Program meets the requirements of CSA N286-12. Inspections throughout the proposed licence term are required to

confirm the implementation of the CSA N286-12 requirements.

CNSC Staff conclude Cameco's management system meets regulatory requirements.

The Radiation Protection SCA covers the implementation of the radiation protection program in accordance with the Radiation Protection Regulations. The program must ensure that contamination levels and radiation doses received by individuals are monitored, controlled and maintained As Low As Reasonably Achievable, or ALARA.

Cameco's radiation protection program meets regulatory requirements through effective implementation of an RP program, ascertaining and recording doses to workers, and ensuring no exceedances of prescribed dose limits.

CNSC conclude that Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation radiation protection program is mature and effective in protecting workers.

Radiation doses are monitored, controlled and maintained by Cameco to ensure compliance with the CNSC's regulatory dose limits and with keeping doses As Low As Reasonably Achievable.

The measured radiation doses were within expected values for Cigar Lake Operation. The maximum

effective dose received by a nuclear energy worker in the current licence period was 7.28 millisieverts, which is 15 percent of the regulatory dose limit of 50 millisieverts.

7.28 millisieverts is highlighted in red on this slide to reflect the correction as identified in Slide 3.

The 7.28 millisievert maximum dose is associated with a 2018 reported Action Level due to an unplanned exposure event that resulted in an additional dose of about four millisievert for the impacted worker.

CNSC Staff confirm that worker exposures continue to be below regulatory limits.

Action levels are developed by the licensees and reviewed and accepted by CNSC Staff. An action level, if reached, may indicate a potential loss of control to the licensee's radiation protection program and triggers specific actions to be taken. Licensees are responsible for identifying the parameters of their program that represent timely indicators of potential losses of their control of their program. For this reason, action levels are licensee-specific and may change over time based on operational or radiological conditions.

Action levels for the Cigar Lake Operation are the same at other uranium mines at one millisievert per week and five millisieverts per quarter of a year.

In 2018, two events resulted in five exceedances of Cameco's weekly action level and two of the quarterly action level.

The maximum dose, as previously stated, was 7.28 millisieverts in 2018, 15 percent of the regulatory limit.

CNSC Staff reviewed the initial event notifications and follow-up reports with corrective actions. CNSC Staff also conducted follow-up inspections and are satisfied with the corrective actions taken by Cameco to prevent similar future occurrences.

On September 16th, 2020, Cameco reported that an underground welder had exceeded the weekly action level of 1.0 millisievert while conducting welding activities on a process storage tank. This event was outside the assessment period of January 13th to June 30th, 2020 and not included in Staff's CMD, but is shown on the table here. This event does not change Staff's assessment of the radiation protection program. CNSC Staff continue to review and monitor Cameco's corrective actions related to this event.

CNSC Staff conclude that Cameco has implemented an effective As Low As Reasonably Achievable -- ALARA -- radiation protection program.

The Conventional Health and Safety SCA

covers the implementation of a program to manage workplace safety hazards and to protect personnel and equipment.

CNSC Staff and the Saskatchewan Labour Relations and Workplace Safety inspectors conduct regular inspections at the Cigar Lake site regarding conventional health and safety and share their inspection reports.

CNSC Staff verified through compliance activities that Cameco has been proactive in identifying and managing risks to minimize the incidence of occupational injuries and illnesses.

Cameco's health and safety program continues to improve and remains effective.

This picture shows a Cameco employee testing an emergency shower.

Lost time injuries and the total recordable incident frequency are key performance measures for the conventional health and safety SCA.

A lost time injury is an injury that takes place at work and results in the worker being unable to return to work for a period of time. The TRIF is a calculation for all injuries, including medical aids, per 200,000 hours per worker worked.

Cameco is required to report all LTIs and

provide an investigation report which includes cause and corrective actions. CNSC Staff review Cameco's investigation reports, corrective actions and implementation of the corrective actions during compliance inspections.

CNSC Staff conclude Cameco's conventional health and safety program meets regulatory requirements.

The Environmental Protection SCA covers programs that identify, control and monitor all releases of radioactive and hazardous substances and effects on the environment from facilities or as a result of licensed activities.

Licensees are required to review and update their environmental risk assessments at least every five years or when there is a major change to the operation. CNSC Staff reviewed Cameco's updated risk assessment in 2017 and confirmed the predicted impacts for the Cigar Lake Operation are consistent with those predicted in previously approved environmental assessments.

On an ongoing basis, CNSC Staff review the environmental monitoring program results and confirm that the environment and human health in the vicinity of the Cigar Lake Operation remains protected.

Cameco has implemented and maintained its

environmental protection program that protects the environment and the public in accordance with regulatory requirements.

CNSC Staff conclude Cameco's environmental protection program continues to be effective in protecting the environment and minimizing adverse impacts to human health.

During the licence period, monthly mean concentrations of treated effluent released to the environment were monitored. Treated effluent released met effluent discharge limits stipulated by the CNSC and the Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations. Concentrations of contaminants in the effluent remained low and below effluent discharge limits.

Included on this slide is a picture of the pipe leading to the discharge location in Seru Bay.

An action level is the concentration of a specific parameter that, if reached, may indicate a loss of control of part of the licensee's environmental protection program and trigger a requirement for specific action to be taken.

Cigar Lake has updated their environmental action levels following the methodology in CSA N288.8-17, establishing and implementing action levels for releases to the environment from nuclear facilities.

In September 2020, CNSC staff reviewed and accepted the environmental action levels as proposed by Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation.

There were no action level exceedances related to environmental monitoring reported by Cameco during the licence term.

CNSC staff will continue to monitor and assess environmental results through desktop reviews of performance reports and inspections.

CNSC staff conclude that Cameco has implemented an effective environmental protection program.

In 2015, the Cigar Lake Operation started to mine high-grade ore. As a result, concentrations of many parameters in effluent increased but remained orders of magnitude below licence limits and within predictions made in the ERA. In response, the Cigar Lake Operation conducted investigations and implemented process optimization techniques. This resulted in concentrations decreasing since 2015 and have since stabilized. There are no concerns at these concentrations.

CNSC staff conclude that Cigar Lake Operation is taking effective measures to control and to reduce arsenic, molybdenum, uranium and selenium in effluent.

I will now discuss other matters of

regulatory interest.

Other matters of regulatory interest include CNSC's Independent Environmental Monitoring Program, the Eastern Athabasca regional monitoring program, decommissioning, financial guarantees, Indigenous engagement, public outreach, CNSC Participant Funding Program and interventions.

The objective of the IEMP is to:

- verify that public health and the environment are not adversely affected by releases to the environment around facilities regulated by the CNSC;

- confirm that the licensee's environmental protection program adequately protects the public and the environment; and

- complement the CNSC's environmental protection compliance program activities.

CNSC staff reached out to local Indigenous communities during the initial planning of CNSC's IEMP at Cigar Lake. The Indigenous groups suggested some potential sampling locations and environmental media to sample. CNSC staff incorporated their suggestions in the final sampling plan.

CNSC contracted CanNorth, a Saskatchewan Indigenous-owned company, to carry out the sampling for the IEMP around the Cigar Lake Operation. Sampling was

conducted in late August and early September 2020. Samples were analyzed for radionuclides and metals. These results are posted on the CNSC's IEMP website.

This slide presents a map illustrating the IEMP sample locations and the types of samples that were taken around the Cigar Lake Operation, which is indicated by the star on the map.

Zone 1 shows the location of sampling stations that are close to the Cigar Lake Operation, or near-field exposure stations.

Zone 2 shows the location of sampling stations that are farther from the Operation, or far-field exposure stations.

Zone 3 shows the location of sampling stations that are not expected to be impacted by the Operation, or reference stations.

The IEMP results are consistent with Cameco's results.

Given the very conservative nature of the CNSC screening levels, the consumption of surface water and traditional foods such as fish, Labrador tea and blueberries will not result in any adverse health effects.

The exceedances occurred in samples collected at both the reference and exposure stations and therefore were not attributable to the Cigar Lake

Operation.

All of the IEMP results are within the natural background levels for Northern Saskatchewan.

IEMP results indicate that the public and the environment around the Cigar Lake Operation are not impacted and the fish, vegetation and water are safe for human consumption.

The Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program was initially established by the Province of Saskatchewan in 2011, building on the previous Cumulative Effects Monitoring Program.

In partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan, industry and Saskatchewan communities, the program monitors the safety of traditionally harvested country foods from representative communities located in Northern Saskatchewan. The intent of the program is to evaluate the quality of country foods, to assess any potential impacts resulting from industrial activities and to provide confidence to community members that traditional country foods remain safe to eat today and for future generations.

CNSC staff continue to support the EARMP. The Program provides assurance that traditional country foods are safe to eat, the water is safe to drink and the environment is protected.

Turning to decommissioning and financial guarantees, Cameco continues to maintain a Preliminary Decommissioning Plan throughout the facility lifecycle. The PDP is required by the Regulations, licence, LCH, regulatory document and applicable standards.

Cameco is expected to provide an updated PDP in 2022. Operations are expected to continue beyond the current proposed licence period.

Under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, Cameco is required to provide a financial guarantee in a form that is acceptable to the Commission. Cameco maintains a consolidated financial guarantee for its Cigar Lake Operation.

In November 2020 the Commission accepted Cameco's revised financial guarantee, including the preliminary decommissioning cost, from \$49.2M to \$61.8M. Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment is the beneficiary of the financial guarantee.

CNSC staff concluded Cameco's proposed financial guarantee is sufficient to complete future decommissioning activities.

This slide lists other regulatory matters for discussion.

CNSC staff confirm:

- that Cameco continues to comply with the

Cost Recovery Fees Regulations;

- that the *Nuclear Liability and Compensation Act, NLCA*, does not apply to facilities such as uranium mines; and

- that Cameco's Public Information and Disclosure Program meets the requirements of CNSC regulatory documents.

Public Outreach.

CNSC staff informed the public about the licence renewal through the CNSC's website, email subscription lists, social media channels, and radio and print advertisements in the communities in Northern Saskatchewan.

CNSC held a CNSC 101 information session to over 100 participants in the Wollaston Post/Hatchet Lake First Nation community on October 11, 2016. These participants included representatives from other Northern Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis communities and organizations.

The CNSC also hosted a CNSC 101 session for leadership and staff of the Prince Albert Grand Council and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations in Saskatoon on October 12, 2016.

These sessions provided an introduction to the CNSC and the work it does to ensure that nuclear

facilities are safe and how the public can participate in the licensing process.

This picture shows CNSC staff presenting information at the Hatchet Lake First Nation community.

CNSC staff participated in another outreach session in the Wollaston Post/Hatchet Lake, Black Lake and Fond du Lac First Nation communities in January 2017 as well as meetings in Prince Albert in 2019 and a videoconference in the fall of 2020.

In February 2021, an information leaflet was sent to 23 northern communities, targeting 4,642 individual addresses.

CNSC staff regularly engage with Indigenous groups in a number of ways, including community meetings, workshops, facility tours and northern community science fairs.

CNSC staff identified five Indigenous groups who previously expressed interest in the proposed licence renewal. Letters of notification were sent to the identified groups in October 2020, followed by phone calls in November. Indigenous and Métis groups have been awarded funding through the Participant Funding Program, which is discussed in greater detail later in this presentation.

In February 2021, identified groups were provided a copy of CMD 21-H2 and invited to a virtual

meeting with CNSC staff to discuss concerns.

In March of 2021, CNSC staff participated in two virtual meetings with Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office representatives, including Indigenous leadership, to discuss staff's CMD and concerns raised by the Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office membership and provided a written response to concerns raised at those meetings.

The Participant Funding Program.

Based on the recommendations from the Funding Review Committee, independent from CNSC staff, the CNSC approved and awarded funding in the amount of \$109,000 to the groups listed on the right side of this slide.

Funding was provided to assist members of the public and Indigenous groups in providing valuable information directly to the Commission.

There were 31 interventions received on Cameco's licence renewal application. The main themes of these interventions included:

- support from local business and Indigenous persons and groups;
- Indigenous engagement;
- length of licence period; and
- downstream water quality impacts.

I will now pass the presentation back to Mr. Fundarek.

MR. FUNDAREK: Thank you.

Peter Fundarek, for the record.

I will now present information on CNSC staff's proposed licence and *Licence Conditions Handbook*, as well as overall conclusions and recommendations.

Cameco is requesting a 10-year licence term. The proposed licence included standard licence conditions and a draft *Licence Conditions Handbook*.

The draft *Licence Conditions Handbook* uses the CNSC standard template which includes a preamble, compliance verification criteria which include CNSC regulatory documents and CSA Group Standards, and guidance is also provided where applicable, enhancing the effectiveness of the safety and control measures for each SCA.

The Cigar Lake Operation is a mature facility with established programs, an effective management system and a history of regulatory compliance.

The requested 10-year term is consistent with CNSC licences issued to other uranium mines and mills and nuclear facilities across Canada.

CNSC staff report annually to the Commission and the public through the Regulatory Oversight Report. The Regulatory Oversight Report for Uranium Mines and Mills summarizes the CNSC staff

assessment of the safety performance of the operating mine and mill facilities.

CNSC staff will continue to provide regulatory oversight through documentation reviews, event reports and compliance verification activities.

For the proposed licence term, CNSC staff will continue to provide regulatory oversight through:

- conducting inspections, assessing compliance and event reports, licensee programs and facility changes;
- verify licensee's implementation of CNSC regulatory requirements; and
- report annually to the Commission in the form of a Regulatory Oversight Report on Cameco's compliance performance.

I will now outline CNSC staff's conclusions and recommendations for Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation.

CNSC staff have concluded the following with respect to paragraphs 24(4) (a) and (b) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, in that Cameco:

- is qualified to carry on the activities authorized by the licence; and
- will, in carrying out these activities, 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.

CNSC staff recommend that the Commission renew the Uranium Mine Operating Licence to authorize Cameco to operate the Cigar Lake Operation valid until June 30, 2031, pursuant to subsection 24(2) of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*; and also that the Commission is recommended to delegate authority as set out in CMD 21-H2.

This concludes the CNSC staff presentation with respect to the renewal of the Cameco licence for the Cigar Lake Operation.

Thank you for your attention and we are available to answer any questions that you may have.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, CNSC staff for that very comprehensive presentation.

We will now take a break before the presentations by intervenors and we will reconvene at 1:15 Eastern Daylight Savings time.

So we shall see you in an hour and I guess 13 minutes.

Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 12:02 p.m. /

Suspension à 12 h 02

--- Upon resuming at 1:15 p.m. /

Reprise à 13 h 15

THE PRESIDENT: Welcome back everyone.

Before we get to the interventions, Marc, I understand that you have some remarks, so over to you, please.

MR. LEBLANC: Thank you very much. That's right.

We will now move to the interventions. Before we start, I would like to remind intervenors appearing before the Commission today that we have allocated 10 minutes for each oral presentation and it would be appreciated if you could help us to maintain that schedule.

Your more detailed written submission has already been read by the Members and will be duly considered. There will be time for questions from the Commission after each presentation and there is no time limit ascribed for the question period.

I will ask that once your presentation is over and the associated question period, that you leave the Zoom session. You will be able to continue following the

hearing via the live webcast on the CNSC website.

Madame la Présidente...?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

The first submission is from the Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office, as outlined in CMDs 21-H2.32A and 21-H2.32B.

I understand that Elder St. Pierre will offer a prayer before the presentation.

Elder St. Pierre, the floor is yours.

--- Indigenous prayer / Prière autochtone

ELDER ST. PIERRE: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

We will now move to the presentation from the Ya'thi Néné.

CMD 21-H2.32A/21-H2.32B

Oral presentation by

Ya'thi Néné Land and Resource Office

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources.

Good morning, President Velshi, and Commission Members.

Again, my name is Garrett Schmidt and I am the Executive Director for Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources.

With me on the call today are two other Board of Directors, including Chairperson Mary Denechezhe from Hatchet Lake, Denesuline First Nation; Director and Band Councillor Raymond MacDonald from Black Lake Denesuline First Nation; and Al Sayn, Secretary and also Director from Stony Rapids on behalf of the Permanent Resident Organization. He might be joining the call as well.

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So Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources is a federally incorporated non-profit corporation, 100 percent owned by the seven Athabasca Basin communities, including Fond-du-Lac, Black Lake, Hatchet Lake, Uranium City, Camsell Portage, Wollaston Post and Stony Rapids.

We work to protect the lands and the waters of the Athabasca Basin for the long-term benefits of its members. We participate as either a member or observer on several committees established through the collaboration agreement with Cameco and Orano. The Collaboration Agreement is currently undergoing a five-year review process.

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The Collaboration Agreement has brought some certainty in defined benefits to the Athabasca Basin communities, which they appreciate. However, it is

important to acknowledge and for the Commission to understand that impacts have occurred and continue to occur and that there are still concerns among community members and leaders.

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So with support from one of our partners we developed a short video on some of the concerns from Elders on our Athabasca Land Protection Committee regarding the impacts from the mining industry in the traditional territory of the Athabasca Denesų́liné.

You can go to the next slide, please, and it should play the video.

--- Video presentation / Présentation vidéo:

"The land means our livelihood, and it means our traditional way of life. The land means love. The Dene, we're part of -- Dene, the Earth. That's what it means."

*(Indigenous language spoken /
Langue autochtone parlée)*

"Everything in this world that we live in has a positive and negative side. The mine provides a good life for our young people. Personally, I raised my kids with the mines. I had

a good life. I travelled the world with the mines. So yes, it has good sides and bad sides."

*(Indigenous language spoken /
Langue autochtone parlée)*

"Unfortunately, with the mines and everything, I know for a fact that it is going to pollute the water. The quality of water won't be there forever."

*(Indigenous language spoken /
Langue autochtone parlée)*

MS. DENECHZHE: Good afternoon. My name is Mary Denechezhe. I am the Chairperson for Ya'thi Néné. I am a Member of the Hatchet Lake. I'm just going to do...

There is significant land use from my members around Cigar Lake. Based on a desktop analysis of the 60-kilometre radius around Cigar Lake, we documented 143 community members, 6,395 traditional knowledge, land use and occupancy futures: barren-ground caribou, black bear, woodland caribou, moose, duck, geese, wild chicken, fishing, muskrat, trapping of the rabbit and beaver, collecting eggs, wild berry, clay, soil, rock, food plants, special plants and special wood.

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In some of the meetings we held with our leadership and members some concerns expressed by the members included:

- water quality and the downstream impacts from multiple mine operations, including Cigar Lake mine operations -- these concerns are so great for some community members that they have to switch to store-bought water;

- health impacts on the residents from the mine in the region associated with cancer rate;

- offsite related impacts that are connected to Cigar Lake, including but not limited to impacts from the road and exploration activity on the wildlife such as barren-ground caribou, increased land disturbance and the risk to the water quality.

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Quotes from some of the land users around Cigar lake include:

"The land will be demolished and not the same ever again. They will not replace what is broken. They will have destroyed the landscape and they cannot get that back."

"Even if we voice our concern they don't listen."

"There is a lot of exploration that is affecting my trapline now, where we go there is a lot of exploration going different places, North, East, West, and our trapline is all around Cigar lake ... my traplines are affected by cutlines."

Next slide, please.

In CNSC CMD document CNSC staff noted:

"licence renewal for the CLO will not cause any adverse impacts to any potential or established Indigenous and/or treaty rights."

Ya'thi Néné Lands and

Resources is concerned that CNSC is ignoring the evidence and assuming any issues have been resolved.

Next slide, please.

Ya'thi Néné and the community are concerned that CNSC is ignoring the evidence and assuming any issues have been resolved. For the CNSC to uphold the Honour of the Crown to ensure the duty to consult has been met, the CNSC must ensure meaningful and accessible information; formal participation in decision-making; funding to enable the participation of Indigenous communities; written reasons to show how Aboriginal

concerns were considered and how the concerns impacted the decision.

Thank you. I am going to hand it over back to Garrett.

MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you, Mary.

Garrett Schmidt, Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources.

So based on our efforts to date, Ya'thi Néné and the communities identified the following three recommendations to the Commission.

Number one. The CNSC to ensure Ya'thi Néné leadership and community member participation in studies, monitoring and inspection initiatives that incorporate community standards and values, with sufficient funding to ensure capacity. This could include joint environmental monitoring and inspections, joint studies to assess cumulative impacts from site and regional development.

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Recommendation number two. The CNSC to establish robust processes for both itself and the licence holders for effective engagement with Ya'thi Néné communities on reporting and monitoring. The intent is to ensure all parties are working with an accountability framework that requires consideration of adverse impacts on

the land and treaty rights.

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Second recommendation continued.

This would include requirements to increase communication and reporting to community members and leadership through in-community meetings and other methods; incorporate traditional knowledge and land use into all phases of assessing impacts; and provide sufficient funding to develop and maintain community capacity for effective engagement.

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Lastly, our third recommendation to the CNSC was to issue a 10-year licence to Cameco's Cigar Lake Operation, provided the necessary measures are made to address the concerns noted in this intervention.

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And in closing, Ya'thi Néné looks forward to further collaboration with the CNSC to assist with the implementation of these recommendations to enhance communication and participation with Athabasca Basin communities.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your intervention.

I will open the floor for questions and we

will start with Dr. Berube, please.

MEMBER BERUBE: Yes, thank you for that presentation. I particularly enjoyed the video. There's some pretty nice fish there where you are going up a lake, so I was very impressed with that.

I want to share something personal before we start and that is I come from a family of hunters and trappers, so I fully appreciate how much this means to you and your people, having lived off the land myself at one point when I was younger. So your concerns are well heard and I think we need to explore that a bit.

With regard to trapping, this is a big deal for your communities, I understand this, and you are saying that animal populations seem to be receding around the site or in the area in general, I'm not sure which one that is. Could you elaborate, please?

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources.

So we don't have immediate evidence to suggest that there is a decrease of animal populations based on any of the monitoring information that we have been receiving, but one thing for sure that has been noted is the decline in barren-ground caribou -- and traditionally barren-ground caribou did migrate into large parts of Northern Saskatchewan -- that it has significantly

diminished over a number of years and there is certainly speculation around what are the causes for that. So barren-ground caribou is a cultural keystone species for Athabasca Denesųliné and they definitely recognize the decline in that species in particular.

MEMBER BERUBE: And just more on that line of questioning, are you seeing calf pelt yields reduced in terms of trapping volumes or what is bringing about this concern with the actual animal population itself?

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resources.

We actually have no information that supports that, it is just more comments that we have received from some of the land users in the area.

MEMBER BERUBE: Thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon...?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes. Thank you for the presentation and the very informative written intervention.

I would like to continue with some questions about the traplines. The first questions I have are to the Ya'thi Néné.

I'm just wondering, how close are the traplines to the mining operation and do they vary each year in location or are they moved around? Are they known

in advance?

MS. DENECHZHE: Mary Denechezhe.

They do have a cabin around the Cigar Lake area and closer to the mine site they do have a cabin where they go every year to trap. So they don't relocate. They stay in the same place where they build a cabin and they feel comfortable. So that's where they have been going for years. They are actually not relocating.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay. Okay, interesting. Thank you.

So I would like to ask a question to Cameco. What is the dialogue with the community members in advance of making the exploration cutlines? Because it was mentioned that some of the cutlines do interfere with the traplines. And is there a dialogue about that?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

And I'd like to ask Kristin Cuddington to talk about the engagement related to Cameco's exploration activities.

Important to emphasize that that's regulated provincially and that there's of course more than just Cameco in the exploration activities.

But I would say in that regard that it is an area where there has been dialogue and one where our

focus would start with the individual that traps closest to Cigar Lake, given the proximity to the operation. And she has filed an intervention in these proceedings that is supportive of the licensing and indicates that, you know, in relation to the Cigar Lake operation, at least, she's able to continue her traditional activities and she's confident about the water quality in the areas where she practises those activities.

But perhaps Kristin can talk about the engagement efforts that relate to the provincially regulated exploration activities.

MR. LEBLANC: Ms Cuddington? Yes?

MR. MOONEY: We have some audio issues on our end. We're just coming back to you here. Sorry.

MS CUDDINGTON: Can you hear me now?

MR. MOONEY: No.

MS CUDDINGTON: One more check: Can you hear me now?

MR. MOONEY: You're in now.

MR. LEBLANC: Yes.

MS CUDDINGTON: Wonderful.

Kristin Cuddington, for the record.

So Cameco maintains an open line of communication with the Crown on our exploration activities. So in addition to the consultation packages sent out by the

Province to community leadership, Cameco sends an engagement letter with project plans to stakeholders in addition to cabin owners and meets with land and resource users. So those on the stakeholder list have expressed interest and are in proximity to our exploration activities.

Our community relation liaisons, as set out in our collaboration agreements located in the First Nations communities, reach out directly to land and resource users in the area to discuss our upcoming programs. And so the community liaisons are well positioned to have these discussions as they are members of the community and are traditional land and resource users themselves.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay. Thank you.

And one related question which came up in the presentation, there is -- and this is in connection with the database of traditional land use, which I found was a very, very interesting and useful concept. Has that, can that be used to track any changes in wildlife patterns over time? Or does it contain that kind of information at all?

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

It's not designed to track long-term

monitoring results. It's basically a snapshot in time from land users who've been interviewed. And so the Basin communities have quite an extensive database that dates back over decades of information collected. And so a lot of those people have actually passed on. But there's also new land users who haven't been interviewed, and their information is not in the database. So it is quite an extensive file that we maintain and we use to support any of our consultation or engagement efforts throughout Nuhenéné, the traditional territory of the communities.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe I'll start with a question for Ya'thi Néné and then follow up with staff.

In your submission, you've mentioned that CNSC is ignoring evidence. Can you be a bit more specific on exactly what evidence is being ignored, and then maybe I can ask CNSC staff to comment on that, please.

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

So it's fairly obvious to Ya'thi Néné and to the communities that both the mining industry as a whole and also in the CNSC's CMD document you're very quick to acknowledge that there are no impacts to Treaty rights.

And we're basically saying that that is not correct. There are active land users that are

impacted. And it's not necessarily just the trappers that have those direct compensation packages negotiated between them and the proponents, but there's many, many other types of land use that exist from collecting berries to fishing to, you know, even impacts related to barren-ground caribou migration and so on. So there are certainly impacts that are much broader in perspective and defined from what is currently understood both by industry and the CNSC.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. And maybe the one specific one I can ask you to comment on, which is what you've heard from the members of the community is about the quality of water and concerns with that, where there is statements that some people have started drinking bottled water as a result of that.

Is that because of measured values or is that because people believe that the water quality may have just deteriorated because of the mining operations? Is there any tangible evidence? Help me with that, please.

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

From our understanding, there is no tangible evidence. We have certainly reviewed some of the information provided by the various monitoring programs and whatnot. And you know, I know Cameco and Orano and various organizations are quick to identify that there are -- you

know, it's all within the thresholds if not significantly below.

But the major issue here is the understanding from community members and their perception with how things operate. And those concerns are very real. And there are community members who are concerned about that.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Maybe I can ask CNSC staff first and then Cameco to comment on do you hear those concerns in your engagement with the community and how do you address them if and when you do. So maybe we'll start with CNSC first, please.

MS. MURTHY: Thank you. Kavita Murthy, for the record.

I would like to ask Mr. Adam Levine to provide some information on the conversations that have happened between CNSC staff and members of the Ya'thi Néné groups.

Adam, please, go ahead.

MR. LEVINE: Thank you. Adam Levine, team lead, Indigenous Relations and Participant Funding for the CNSC.

So these are concerns we certainly heard over the years engaging with the Athabasca Dene First Nation communities. We've done extensive engagement and

outreach with these communities, including in collaboration with the Ya'thi Néné Lands and Resource Office, to help inform the communities about our regulatory oversight role, the information and data that we've been reviewing and gathering that helps inform our recommendations around why CNSC staff, we feel these operations have been safe and will continue to be safe and protect the environment.

And obviously, we've heard a lot of the concerns still exist out there in many parts of the communities. And that remains a major challenge for us and others. And over the last number of years we have been looking for guidance from Ya'thi Néné and their leadership of how to better communicate this information and build trust with the communities so they would feel confident and see the same things that we're seeing from their point of view.

So we've done a lot in terms of doing regular workshops and outreach sessions to answering every question that comes in from the Ya'thi Néné leadership regarding our work and regulating the uranium mining industry in their territories.

But we're always willing to do more. And we really unfortunately can't be in the communities right now, and that's one of the greatest ways of building those relationships and trust is that one-on-one dialogue. But

we're definitely looking at really enhancing areas around collaboration on monitoring.

And we did a great job last year, I believe, of collaborating with Garrett and his team on the Cigar Lake monitoring campaign as part of our IEMP where we actually helped fund them to talk to their elders and land users about what samples would be meaningful for them with regards to Cigar Lake, and actually adjusted our sampling campaign regarding the feedback they got and try to bring meaningful results to their community members. So we want to build off that and do more.

But certainly these are issues and concerns around perceptions that have been longstanding in the communities. We want to do everything we can to address those.

MS. MURTHY: Thank you, Adam. I would like to pass this over to Kiza Sauvé, the director of Health Sciences and Environmental Compliance Division to speak a little bit, give us a little bit more detail about the IEMP and how the water sampling has worked. Thank you.

MS. SAUVÉ: Thanks, Kavita.

Kiza Sauvé, for the record. So I'm the director for Health Science and Environmental Compliance Division.

As Adam Levine mentioned, we worked with

the Ya'thi Néné through the participant funding program to see what would -- where the water samples would make more sense for the Ya'thi Néné.

Other discussions that we've had -- and as Adam mentioned, due to the pandemic, we've not been able to do this so far -- but we've talked about other ideas and how we can get more into the community. And one of the examples that -- the brainstorming session we had with Garrett and his team was could our sampling team go into one of their communities and do, you know, a small sampling campaign directly in the community, so their members could see what does it actually mean when you take a water sample. How do we actually do the sampling campaign?

Because we have found in other communities that having Indigenous members come with us to see the actual sampling happen, it's really powerful. So that's something that we're looking to do because we know -- and as Garrett mentioned -- we know that the water samples are coming out within drinking water quality right in the lakes. So it is really that perception and how do we work with those community members. Even if it's working with a few environmental monitors so that they can get the message out more into the communities.

So now that we have our IEMP results for Cigar Lake, now we need to continue working with how do we

get those results back to community members and how do we keep the conversation going. So we're -- we want to keep working with the Ya'thi Néné. That's a really important topic for us.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Well, Mr. Schmidt, maybe I'll turn to you, because there seems to be very strong agreement with what you're suggesting. There needs to be greater involvement. The CNSC says that's really what's needed for the community members to get more confidence in the results in the impact of the mines. So does that give you comfort that -- you know, you're on a journey. It's not going to happen overnight. But you're working towards the same objective here.

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

I think it's a good start. And really what it comes down to, our intervention, it comes down to better communication and better participation.

And yes, the work that we did with the IEMP, I think that was a great start. But it's kind of a sliver in terms of what that program could be to really have the communities participating more regularly and, you know, not through either the proponent or necessarily through the CNSC directly either, but really to have that

within the communities itself and to develop their capacity so they can understand what is, you know, fully going on.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

I'll ask Cameco to also comment on your community engagement and concerns particularly about quality of water and how do you address those concerns or dispel the concerns.

MR. MOONEY: Thanks. It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

I'm going to ask Kevin Nagy to talk about the two other regional programs that were mentioned in our presentation, one being the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program and the other being the Community-Based Environmental Management Program. Those are regional monitoring programs that do involve community participation. And they were designed to help with that understanding in relation to our operations, and as well also provide a venue for the discussion around community impacts because they are regional in scope.

We do have monitoring that is specific in the regulatory framework for the water that is produced by Cigar Lake that's treated. And it must meet that release criteria before it's released. So I would say the development of both the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program and Eastern Athabasca Regional

Monitoring Program were to provide that increased visibility on regional but also involve the communities in that regard.

MR. NAGY: Thanks, Liam.

For the record, my name is Kevin Nagy.

The Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program as well as the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program both collect samples of country foods and water in the vicinity of the seven Athabasca Basin communities. Country foods would include berries, fish, and whatever wild game that is being hunted back here by community residents. That can range from herons to grouse and all the way up to -- can even see caribou.

The Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program occurs annually in each -- in all seven communities, while the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program focuses more on one or two communities each year, completing detailed interviews with community members on where and what they hunt and gather, and then developing a program based on that.

In both cases, community residents are directly involved, like in the sample collection. So we're talking specifically to water. There'll be community members, sometimes youth and elders as well, going out into the boat with the independent subject matter expert

contractor that collects those samples, whereas samples of wild game and berries can also be submitted individually by community members to be analyzed.

Throughout the history of these programs, the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program has been in place since 2011, the Community-Based Monitoring Program has been in place since 2016 and it was preceded by the Athabasca Working Group Program before that in this community's history.

But these programs continually show that both the water and the country foods in the communities are safe to eat, safe to drink, are part of a healthy diet. And you know, if -- I've said this a few times in answering different questions in these proceedings -- but much better nutritional value than anything I would buy in the supermarket in Saskatoon.

Specifically to water, those samples are analyzed and compared to both environmental quality guidelines for surface water as well as drinking water quality guidelines. And those samples continually come back well within or below the guidelines for either of those aspects.

THE PRESIDENT: Right. Thank you, Mr. Nagy.

My question was more on with the

engagement of the community, has their confidence -- whether it's in country foods, whether it's in water -- increased in the safety of them?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

Maybe I'll ask Kristin Cuddington to provide a bit more detail there.

But I wouldn't want to speak for them about something on confidence-wise, but I think that there has been a real emphasis on communication. And the Eastern Athabasca and the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program has really been -- you talked about in one of your questions, President Velshi, about "on a journey." And that's definitely the journey has been really focused on both participation and communication. And I think that's, you know, the trend in that regard may be something that we can comment on.

But again, I think Kristin would have more insight, given her direct -- more direct dealings with the communities.

MS. CUDDINGTON: Kristin Cuddington, for the record.

So as Liam noted, I don't want to speak on behalf of the communities, but I can speak a bit about our engagement.

So for Cameco, engagement isn't a one-stop shop. We continue to provide opportunities to hear from the community members and respond accordingly, make information available, solicit feedback, and respond meaningfully. Technical experts and engagement activities based on the nature of questions raised, so safety of the land and the water, we include senior staff from the operations to respond.

We also use a variety of tools to reach interested community members. So tools include, as Adam Levine noted earlier, preference is face-to-face engagement, meetings, events in communities or our operations, community liaison staff located in satellite offices within some of the northern communities, mine tours, technical workshops, and conventional media.

Actually, the Ya'thi Néné office established a new newsletter, which we provided content to, and this media source has a distribution area focused in the Athabasca Basin communities.

We've updated our impact management agreement, and we established an engagement process. So under our collaboration agreement we involved representation from all the Athabasca Basin communities to direct our engagement activities. So liaison reps are local experts. They provide advice on community

engagement, strategies based on community interest. They also raise questions or concerns to be addressed. The reps include or have included site employees, an elder, a youth, leadership, in addition to community liaisons meet regularly with leadership and community members, elders, youth, land and resource users to help us focus our activities, provide information to community members.

We have heard concerns over our long history and we've continued to respond. So as more people access information and participate in engagements, we will work with them and provide meaningful response. So we will continue to work within the collaboration, within the subcommittee created process. We work towards leadership, liaisons, all in an effort for continual improvement and to address concerns that are being raised.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Back to Dr. Berube, please -- or sorry, Mr. Schmidt, you had something to add.

MS DENECHZHE: For the record, it's Mary Denechezhe.

I just want to speak a little bit about the country food though. I know there's a study been going on, monitoring has been going on. But the problem here is that when we receive the report in our community, it's a high-tech report. So who's going to read it if we don't

have a technical person on site?

It's very -- in listening to, you know, Liam and Kevin, and they're saying, Well, we provide this and this and that. Yes. There is a document. But how can -- the community doesn't have the background or the professional expertise to read that document. So that's another issue there.

I know we are engaging in a lot of ways, we are accessing a lot of data has been improved, but it doesn't really matter, no matter what we do. Every time when we have a consultation with the community members, they have an issue about water. About water -- everybody talks about water. As a Dene person, I can speak to water is our lifeline. So we're not going to stop talking about it.

And the other thing that I want to speak to, we do have the resource in the Ya'thi Néné that if we've been given an opportunity to manage our own study as well too. You know? There are some local people that hire left and right from the third party consultant, that they've have been utilizing.

But the report, I do have an issue on that, how it's been presented to our community member. It's easy to say there's a consultation. But what kind of consultation are you talking about? You all know that our

language, we have a language barrier because the English is not our first language. (Indigenous language spoken / Langue autochtone parlée)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for that.

Dr. Berube?

MEMBER BERUBE: So I just wanted to touch on this comment here on Indigenous knowledge and the actual successful transfer and probably the communication of it and how that actually works. And I think this is an excellent opportunity to address this.

I'm going to ask the intervenor first, you know, how would you propose to transfer Indigenous knowledge? Maybe the best way to ask is how do you teach this to your children? And then we'll talk to CNSC and see what they perceive to be a valid transfer of information and how that exchange happens because a lot of what we're hearing is communication issue and trust issue and, really, it stems about basic knowledge and how that's moving back and forth.

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

So just to clarify, you want to know how to transfer some of the insight about traditional knowledge to the CNSC or in --

MEMBER BERUBE: Absolutely.

MR. SCHMIDT: Yeah. I mean, I think we have to sit down and kind of explore what that -- what that could look like.

Traditional knowledge is -- it's very confidential, so we hold that on behalf of the communities based on that relationship and ownership structure that we have.

In terms of how that's communicated more broadly to the CNSC, you know, I think we'd have to sit down and examine that a little bit further. But by all means, I think there would be some ways of further enhancing some of that knowledge and understanding within the CNSC Staff, and I think a lot of it really starts with, you know, relationships and communication and that kind of thing.

So it would take time. It would take some resource. You know, it would take a bit of a plan to really figure out what's going to be most effective. But I think there are a number of things that we could further explore.

MEMBER BERUBE: And CNSC, what's your understanding of indigenous knowledge right now? How do you about actually collecting this, documenting it? I'm trying to get some sense of it because, I mean, basically

it's two different worlds we're talking about in terms of -- in terms of peoples and it's very difficult to actually translate from one to another, so I just want your views on what you perceive to be indigenous knowledge, how you collect that, how you analyze that and how does that actually lead to better decisions in terms of dealing with communities.

MS. MURTHY: Thank you.

Kavita Murthy, for the record.

So I do want to acknowledge the comment that was made earlier about communications and using plain language and communicating effectively. Even the findings that we have, sort of that -- to that one, I want to just reiterate the fact that we are exploring better ways of making our message clear and we'll work with the community to do that.

On the subject of indigenous knowledge and traditional knowledge, I note that our environmental protection reports and EA reports have a system for incorporating it. However, I would like to ask Adam Levine to explain what the process is and how that is taking place right now and then what we're looking at in the future on that subject.

MR. LEVINE: Thank you.

Adam Levine, for the record.

So the CNSC takes working with indigenous knowledge very seriously and we work with indigenous communities and knowledge holders throughout the life cycle of the facilities we regulate. And knowledge comes from each community. It's unique to each community. And so we need to take it on a case-by-case basis of how that community wants to work with us and share their knowledge with us.

So it's definitely something we're very interested in doing with Ya'thi Néné and their communities.

We've been working with them, for example, as we said, on the IEMP and the sampling campaign last year for Cigar Lake. We reached out to them directly to see how they wanted to share their indigenous knowledge and land use information with us to help improve the sampling campaign, which we did.

So that is a good starting point, but as Garrett and his team presented today, they have a large database of traditional knowledge and land use information that's been gathered over multiple years, and should the Ya'thi Néné and those communities want to share that information with us, we're more than happy to sit down with them to talk about what that looks like and where this information can help improve our understanding, first of all, of how those communities view their territory, view

themselves within it, what types of value components are important to them, and then how we can work that into the work that we're doing doing monitoring and oversight of the facilities in their territory.

And to bring this all together, we've developed an indigenous knowledge policy framework that's based off of the federal framework for working with indigenous knowledge, and we're going to be posting that very soon, the final version of it, after a number of years of working on it. And we have an internal indigenous knowledge working group working with all of our different subject matter experts to help them better understand what is indigenous knowledge, how to work with it, protect it, respect it and work and collaborate with those knowledge holders and communities.

And we've been doing many trainings and presentations around working with indigenous knowledge throughout the CNSC, so we're at the beginning of that journey, but it is something really important for us and we know it brings a lot of value to our work and oversight role.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon.

MEMBER MCKINNON: No, my questions have been answered. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Thank you very much.

Thank you to Ya'thi Néné for your very helpful intervention. Any final closing remarks before we move to the next intervention?

Mr. Schmidt or Ms Denechezhe?

MR. SCHMIDT: Garrett Schmidt, for the record.

Yeah, we just want to express our thanks to the Commission for the opportunity to present, and we very much look forward to further working with the CNSC and Adam and all the stuff on really enhancing that communication and participation. And yeah, thank you once again.

I'll let Mary also provide a further comment.

MS DENECHZHE: I just want to say thank you to everybody. (Indigenous language spoken / Langue autochtone parlée) Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

The next presentation is from the Saskatchewan Mining Association as outlined in CMDs 21-H2.6 and 21-H2.6A.

I understand that Mr. Brad Sigurdson will

present this submission.

Mr. Sigurdson, over to you, please.

CMD 21-H2.6/21-H2.6A

**Oral presentation from the
Saskatchewan Mining Association**

MR. SIGURDSON: Good afternoon, Madam President and Members of the Commission. Before I begin, I would just like to acknowledge that I'm speaking to you from Treaty 6 territory and homeland of Métis.

My name is Brad Sigurdson, and I'm the Vice-President of Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs for the Saskatchewan Mining Association. Also available this afternoon is the SMA President, Ms Pam Schwann.

By way of introduction, the SMA is the voice of the mining industry in Saskatchewan and our mission is to advance a safe, sustainable and globally competitive exploration and mining industry in Saskatchewan that benefits all residents of the province, Canada and the world.

Can you advance the slide, please? Our membership includes both the exploration and production companies, and our members operate across Saskatchewan as

well as internationally. Among the SMA members is Cameco Corporation, who operate world class uranium mining and milling operations in northern Saskatchewan.

Next slide, please.

Uranium continues to be an important commodity for Saskatchewan, as Saskatchewan mines are the second leading uranium producer in the world.

As you know, climate change continues to be a challenge around the world and the International Energy Agency has identified nuclear as a key technology to help decarbonize world economies. In 2019, uranium production from Saskatchewan mines and mills generated approximately 306 billion kilowatt hours of clean electricity. This is equivalent to powering 28 million homes for an entire year.

As noted in a recent report, Saskatchewan's uranium mines and mills are among the lowest GHG emitting facilities.

One of Cameco's uranium operations is the Cigar Lake operation, which is the second largest high-grade uranium mine in the world. This uranium mine continues to provide the world with a source of clean and reliable energy.

Next slide, please.

So Cameco is a responsible and competent

operator with over 30 years of uranium mining and milling experience in northern Saskatchewan.

During the current licence term, Cameco successfully completed commissioning of the world class mine at Cigar Lake and then safely ramped up their operations to target production levels using the innovative Jet Boring Mining System designed specifically for mining of the Cigar Lake orebody.

Effective implementation of their mature management programs and practices allowed Cigar Lake to maintain strong performance in all safety and control areas, including worker safety, radiation protection and environmental protection over the course of the licence term.

Next slide, please.

Cameco has continued to make sound science-based decisions with respect to the temporary suspension of production at their Cigar Lake operation in March 2020 due to the realities of the Coronavirus pandemic, and as they safely resumed production in September 2020. However, due to increased risks and uncertainty around the rising rates of northern Saskatchewan Coronavirus infections in the fall of 2020, they once again made the responsible decision to temporarily cease

production in December 2020.

With the recent development and implementation of enhanced protocols, Cameco is again in a position to safely resume production at Cigar Lake and we are pleased that Cigar Lake has recently resumed normal operation.

These decisions were made in consultation with the local health authority, as well as with community leaders. During this trying time, Cameco has shown both compassion and understanding for their workers and the communities in which they live.

Cameco has continued over the past year to take proactive precautionary measures during the COVID19 pandemic to ensure the safety of its workers, their families, and communities. They have also been an active member of the SMA's Industrial Hygiene Focus Group and have participated in the development of SMA COVID-19 "Precautionary Measures" best practice documents as well as during weekly and bi-weekly meetings where this group discusses emerging COVID-19 issues, best practices, screening and testing technologies, et cetera.

Next slide, please.

Cameco is a leader with respect to safety, which is shown in their commitment to include safety among their core values. This commitment and the implementation

of their mature programs and processes has allowed Cameco to maintain strong performance in the areas of workplace safety and radiation protection throughout the licence term.

Cigar Lake maintains well-trained emergency response and mine rescue teams and, during the current pandemic, has effectively adapted their practices to ensure team members maintain their training and certifications, while respecting the need for measures such as physical distancing.

Cameco continues to receive recognition for their safety achievements both at the provincial and regional levels by being recognized by the SMA for their safety records in 2017 to 2020 and regionally by the CIM's John T. Ryan Safety Committee for their safety record in 2018 to 2020. I would also note that Cameco has helped lead the safety efforts of the SMA by chairing a number of our committees, including our Safety Committee, our Industrial Hygiene Focus Group, our Contractor Safety Training Committee as well as our Mine Safety Summit Steering Committee, which recently held a virtual Safety Summit for over 400 SMA members and government regulators. This included the CNSC.

The focus of this annual summit is on the prevention of serious injuries and fatalities.

Next slide, please.

Cameco also has a long history of effectively engaging with communities in northern Saskatchewan, which includes indigenous communities. They have continued to foster strong relationships in northern Saskatchewan, which is reflected in their collaboration agreements that focus on workforce development, community investment and building business capacity. In addition, Cameco continues to support community-based environmental monitoring activities, which consistently demonstrate that country foods and water in northern Saskatchewan are safe to eat and drink.

The SMA routinely carries out public perception surveys to help us gauge the level of support for mining in Saskatchewan and I am pleased to report that our most recent survey indicated that 85 percent of the public surveyed support or strongly support the Saskatchewan uranium sector.

Next slide, please.

Their Collaboration Agreement speaks to mutually beneficial partnerships and formalizes commitments under four pillars, those being workforce development, business development, community investment, and community engagement and environmental stewardship.

These agreements help to foster

understanding between industry, businesses in our supply chain as well as local communities.

Next slide, please.

With respect to economic benefits, our uranium companies, including Cameco, have continued to be strong supporters of northern residents, businesses and communities. In 2019, the uranium industry employed over 1,800 people with more than 1,200 being residents of Saskatchewan's north. The payroll for these employees totaled more than \$241 million, and our members also value our northern supply chain companies and the majority of the \$328 million procurement spend in 2019 went to indigenous-owned businesses.

Our members also provided meaningful community investment and scholarships totally over five million.

Since 1991, uranium mining operations have paid in excess of \$7 Billion to northern employees and northern suppliers of goods and services. This clearly demonstrates the ongoing and long-term commitment of our uranium companies to work with northern residents and businesses related to employment and business opportunities.

Next slide, please.

The Cigar Lake operation continues to

demonstrate leadership with respect to their commitment to environmental protection. They consistently meet all regulatory compliance requirements. They have a cadre of dedicated environmental professions both at site and in their corporate office to support responsible science-based results.

I should point out that the current Chair of both our SMA Environment Committee and the Biodiversity Working Group is a Cameco employee, as is the person who has been the SMA's representative on the provincial Saskatchewan Environmental Code Advisory Committee as well as we have an individual from Cameco that's the Chair of our Carbon Policy Working Group.

As noted previously, Cameco continues to support community-based environmental monitoring, which continues to demonstrate that the country foods and water in northern Saskatchewan are safe to eat and drink.

Next slide, please.

Cameco's Cigar Lake operation continues to demonstrate strong management and have met performance expectations regarding the health and safety of persons and protection of the environment. We believe that Cameco, and specifically Cigar Lake, has the programs, processes and people in place to ensure continued safe production throughout the next

licence term. It is for the reasons noted above that the SMA supports Cameco's application for renewal of the Cigar Lake operation licence for a period of 10 years.

Thank you, and I'm happy to take questions.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Sigurdson.

So let's open the floor for questions, and start with Dr. McKinnon, please.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes, thank you for the presentation. It's very clear that the SMA is a really great source of collective Saskatchewan mining industry knowledge.

So I'm wondering, what is the interaction between SMA and CNSC with regard to taking advantage of that information for the CNSC?

So my question would be directed at SMA, so Mr. Sigurdson.

MR. SIGURDSON: Great. Thank you for the question.

So really, the SMA doesn't have a lot of direct involvement with the CNSC, although we're always available to participate in anything the CNSC is interested in.

We have had, you know, communication back

and forth from time to time on various topics. Always happen to answer questions from staff, and related to mining in general or specific projects if we have the knowledge of those specific projects. But the SMA is more an association that represents our members and is an advocate for them, both with government and with the public.

THE PRESIDENT: Why don't we ask CNSC to comment and then Cameco, please?

Ms Murthy?

MS MURTHY: Thank you. I would like to ask Peter Fundarek if he can speak to the participation of the CNSC in the SMA safety forum.

MR. FUNDAREK: Thank you.

Peter Fundarek, for the record.

For the past number of years, CNSC Staff have participated in an annual forum that is hosted by the Saskatchewan Mining Association. And this is a safety forum where they discuss incidents and near-misses at their facilities, and it's -- we find it very instructive because it's a very good overview of what happened and how it happened. And they have a very frank discussion on lessons learned, and it's -- was once related to me that it's the industry when it's not at its best.

And so this is a very frank and a very

open discussion and, as a regulator, we appreciate the opportunity to sit in and listen to the lessons learned from all of these incidents because it helps us to understand the things that are going on in the mining industry that we can then look -- be on the lookout for within our segment in the uranium mines and mills and hopefully try and avoid the same types of situations there.

But there is also strong participation from both Cameco and Orano at this safety forum, and as I said, we find it a very instructive, a very, very useful forum for discussing these types of issues.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Mr. Mooney, did you have anything you wanted to add?

MR. MOONEY: I was going to mention the SMA Safety Summit. Maybe I could pump my own tire that I've chaired that the last number of years, but we're always really happy to have the CNSC there. It's a use of experience piece that I think would be considered leading practices in the mining industry in Canada and internationally as well.

So it has something that our CEO, Tim Gitzel, drove to a number of years ago, that, you know, we need to have this open forum, and having the CNSC participate and listen to not just the uranium mining, but

potash and base metals and their experiences on the safety front and the learnings that we take away from an organization on that front is really valuable.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes, I was wondering also, it was mentioned that the -- there are some best practice documents produced on, for example, COVID-19 and industrial hygiene. Community relations is obviously a very important issue that is coming up in this particular hearing.

Are there any sort of compiled collective wisdom on engagement activities that are produced by the organization and shared amongst the members?

And I would like to also know if CNSC would be aware of those discussions because they also sound like they would be very, very useful source of information to tap into.

MR. SIGURDSON: Brad Sigurdson, for the record.

Yeah, that's a great question. Yes, the SMA work with our members, including Cameco and Orano, on these best practices documents and, really, one of the things that we were trying to focus on was there's a lot of great work that the companies have done on their pandemic

plans and things like that. They're very technical in nature and there's a lot of procedures and protocols that are underneath that.

What we wanted to do and what we heard from our members and from -- and from regulators as well is that some of the community members, you know, the families of workers and stuff, we're really not sure exactly what was -- what was being done at the sites and how it was being done, so these documents were really created as a high-level look at what the current practices are that the mining companies are doing and even provided or made little -- they're called infographics to make it very visually apparent what -- you know, what we were really trying to focus on as well as we did on one children and, you know, focused for children around washing hands and things like that.

So it's really interesting.

These are available for anybody to take a look at. They're not -- you know, they're not -- they're not secret documents or anything. So we encouraged our companies to freely share them with their families and things.

Maybe I just want to go back to the question regarding CNSC involvement with the SMA.

One of the things that I forgot to mention

was that the CNSC has also been very helpful when we do our minerals and products events, and a lot of those we take around the province, including to the north. And the CNSC has always been great about helping us set up booths and talk about radiation protection and safety at our mine sites. So very helpful.

They also provide input into our indigenous lesson plans and things like that, so again, very helpful. We appreciate the support.

THE PRESIDENT: Maybe I'll take this opportunity, Mr. Sigurdson, to ask, were the other mines also shut down in Saskatchewan during the pandemic or was it just the uranium mines?

MR. SIGURDSON: No, we actually had -- one of our gold operations had made the decision as well to shut down as well just because, you know, they're all concerned about community spread and what that would do.

So you know, in consultation with community members, local health authorities, the decision was made to curtail productions at a number of our sites, including gold and uranium.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. Berube...?

MEMBER BERUBE: Yes. This question is for Mr. Sigurdson. Thank you, sir, for your presentation, it

is well received.

I note that your title is Vice President, Environment, Safety and Regulatory Affairs, and you have obviously a lot of experience dealing with all the miners in Saskatchewan. So my question to you, sir, is, given your broad scope of responsibility and experience in this area, where would you rank the Cigar Lake facility in terms of safety and environmental protection against its peers within the province?

MR. SIGURDSON: I would rank it among the highest in the province. I mean the results that you have seen on the safety side, clearly, you know, when the SMA is recognizing them for their safety achievements a number of years in a row, regionally they have been rewarded a number of years in a row, you know, this speaks volumes to the level of competency of the operator, their commitment to safety, environmental protection. The fact that they meet all the regulatory limits within their operations on an ongoing basis is just, you know, fantastic. Great commitment to both safety and environmental protection.

MEMBER BERUBE: Are there any particular strengths specifically that you think are worth mentioning, you know, specific like to this operation?

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, I think their personnel. I mean it always comes down to the people,

their level of commitment and just, you know, they're caring. The way that they approach their jobs, they look at things from a continual improvement perspective, they don't shy away from hard subjects. You know, whenever we are talking about things at our committee meetings, Cameco employees, you know, are always very, very, very willing to step up and play leadership roles within our various committees and help us tackle the hard problems, including things like when we went through a recent mines reg review, they provided subject matter experts from sites and corporate offices to help us work out the technical details of the provincial mines regs review, so very helpful.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mr. Sigurdson, for your intervention. Any final comments from you before we move on?

MR. SIGURDSON: No. I would just thank you for your time and attention and appreciate the efforts of the Commission.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

Our next presentation is from Mr. Rick Robillard, as outlined in CMDs 21-H2.2 and H2.2A.

Mr. Robillard, the floor is yours.

--- Pause

THE PRESIDENT: Is Mr. Robillard here?

MR. MOONEY: He is showing. I think maybe we have some microphone issues. I think Victor and Darlene are with -- oh, I see Victor's microphone just came off.

Victor, can you hear us?

MR. FERN: Yes, I can.

I think Richard might be having some issues with his microphone.

Can you hear me?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we can.

MR. FERN: I would just like to start until Ricky can join in.

MR. ROBILLARD: Hello?

MR. FERN: Right. Yes, Ricky is here. Right, thanks.

MR. ROBILLARD: I'm sorry, I was on mute there. My apologies.

THE PRESIDENT: Over to you.

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay. I will need to take over the presentation here.

MR. MOONEY: Rick, it's Liam. We have had quite a bit of difficulty moving the slides forward using our own, so maybe the better approach is to give the control to CNSC staff and just ask them to advance the slide.

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay.

MR. MOONEY: Okay? Can we get that,
Mario?

MR. ROBILLARD: Can you please forward the
slide?

Okay. I don't see my presentation, the
wording for my presentation.

THE PRESIDENT: We are on slide 2 of your
presentation.

MR. ROBILLARD: Can you please put on the
slide? Okay, one second.

My apologies, I am not getting the wording
of my presentation.

MR. MOONEY: So Rick, the --

MR. ROBILLARD: I know it's up.

MR. MOONEY: Yes. So, Rick, you will have
to open those independently of this and then just follow
the slide show. Maybe we can help you by giving the slide
number. So if you open the slide show independently, that
way you can -- so if we go back to slide 1.

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay.

MR. MOONEY: And if you can open through
PowerPoint your presentation. There we go. Oh, we can go
to the next slide and it is slide 2, Rick. If you can open
your PowerPoint on your desktop, you can run with it then.

MR. ROBILLARD: I am not able to see my

notes.

MR. MOONEY: Yes. So they don't show. The CNSC will just show their presentation, the presentation that was submitted. So if you open in PowerPoint separately your presentation, you can see the notes then. Does that work for you?

--- Off microphone / Discussion officieuse

MR. CARISSE: I will stop the "Share", maybe it will help you.

MR. MOONEY: All right. So we can see you, Rick.

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay. Can you see me?

MR. MOONEY: We can see you, yes.

MR. ROBILLARD: All right. Okay, I will start with the first slide.

MR. MOONEY: Okay.

MR. ROBILLARD: Slide number two.

MR. MOONEY: Okay. So, Mario, can we put that slide back up?

MR. CARISSE: Sure.

MR. MOONEY: We will do it remotely.

There we go.

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay.

MR. MOONEY: Okay. So slide 2.

CMD 21-H2.2/21-H2.2A

Oral presentation by Rick Robillard

MR. ROBILLARD: Okay. My apologies.

Edlanet'e. Hello. Thank you for this opportunity to present in support of Cameco's renewal application for the Cigar Lake Operation uranium mine licence.

I am here today with my colleagues Darlene Gazandlare and Victor Fern who will be helping me with the oral intervention.

We are from the Athabasca Basin First Nations and are employed as Community Relations Liaisons for Cameco and Orano under the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement.

Next slide, please.

As a proud Dene person from Black Lake First Nation, I have spent most of my life in the community where I continue to practise a traditional lifestyle. My culture is part of who I am and connects me to the land and to my community. My family continues to thrive on hunting and fishing. We utilize the land and the water almost every day.

Next slide, please. I believe you are one slide up. Slide 3, please.

As a previous Chief of Black Lake and currently the Black Lake First Nation and northern hamlet of Stony Rapids Cameco and Orano Community Relations Liaison, I have had different opportunities to serve my community. When I was Chief, it was a pivotal time for my community. I took on a leadership role when the Athabasca Basin was in the middle of talks with industry on updating our Impact Management Agreement and the benefits for all community members. I was the Black Lake First Nation Chief that signed the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement in 2016, which builds on the IMA signed in 1999. In my Dene language, Ya'thi Néné means Land of the North.

Next slide, please.

The CA confirms the partnership between the communities in development of the uranium resources in the basin. My father had been Chief and I continued that legacy of working to better my community.

These are some of the initiatives we undertook as a community with support of the CA.

Next slide, please.

Cameco has over a 30-year history in the region with its uranium mining and milling operations. During this time, Black Lake First Nation and Cameco have a long history of working together. The negotiations and processes under the CA have brought Athabasca Basin

leadership closer together, created a way we can work alongside our industry partners. The seven Athabasca Basin communities, the rights-bearing First Nation and Métis communities signed the Ya'thi Néné CA.

Next slide, please.

I have seen the Athabasca Basin communities making the most of the benefits, previously as Chief and currently as the Community Relations Liaison. The relationship is not always easy, but the intention of the CA is to provide stability and predictability around four pillars which are important to the communities. As Community Liaison, my position stems from the Agreement and I support the Agreement implementation.

The Agreement pillars are: workforce development; business development; community investment; community engagement and environmental stewardship combined into one pillar.

Some of the benefits I have seen:

Workforce development:

- hiring preference for residents of the Athabasca communities and employment targets;
- providing career awareness programs and scholarship funding for residents.

Business development:

- preference for community-owned

businesses.

Community engagement and environmental stewardship:

- established a process together to engage and inform members;

- enhanced the community-based environmental monitoring program, CBEMP as we call it, formally the Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program.

Community investment for initiatives that:

- promote the health and well-being of members;

- address housing needs;

- preserve language, culture and traditional opportunities for residents.

Since the CA was signed, \$598 million has been provided to the Basin communities under the four pillars.

Next slide, please.

--- Pause

MR. ROBILLARD: I believe we are going to slide 6 -- I'm sorry, slide 7. My apologies.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the world. In the North we faced many challenges. I was happy to be able to assist with the support Cameco

provided through the \$1 million COVID-19 Relief Fund and helped deliver the 1,200 care packages directly to community members' homes. These care packages included essential supplies that residents of our remote communities were having difficulty obtaining.

Next slide, please.

I have been fortunate to see the industry from a number of perspectives. I have had the opportunity to experience mine life as a process operator working at the McClean Lake Operation. I have worked for my community as a leader and now in support of our relationship with industry as a Community Relations Liaison. In my current role, I work closely with community leadership in the Basin and liaise with industry. I also enjoy working with all members of the community, Elders, land and resource users and the youth. I want to encourage the young generation to pursue careers in the industry because this provides an opportunity for long-term employment in the region and possibilities for advancement.

I would like to pass this presentation to my colleague Victor Fern, Community Relations Liaison for Fond du Lac, Uranium City and Camsell Portage, who can provide some perspective as he was until recently a Cigar Lake employee as well.

Next slide, please.

So I will hand this over to Victor.

MR. FERN: I am, for the record, Victor Fern. I am a Member of Fond du Lac First Nation.

I have worked in the industry for most of my life. I recently left my position at the Cigar Lake Operation to work as a Community Relations Liaison in my home community of Fond du Lac. I also support the communities of Uranium City and Camsell Portage. Both my sons work for the industry as well, follow in my footsteps. They are both supervisors at two different mines. I was working at Rabbit Lake and also at Cigar Lake as well.

I worked for the mines and in return we are able to live in our communities and continue to practise our traditional way of lifestyle. (Indigenous language spoken / Langue autochtone parlée)

MR. FERN: I will pass it back on to my colleague, Rick.

Thank you.

MR. ROBILLARD: Thank you, Victor.

Next slide, please.

--- Pause

MR. ROBILLARD: Thanks, Victor.

Living a traditional way of life is important to me. I am teaching my children how to live off the land. I am teaching my children our culture and our

language. I have learned a lot from my involvement in the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program, previously the Athabasca Working Group Environmental Monitoring Program. I mentioned previously that has been conducting monitoring in the region since the year of 2000.

I worked with the traditional land and resource users, I received training. I conducted interviews and mapped out the areas. I assisted with sample collection. I have talked a lot with the land and resource users as a community member, Chief and employee. I have listened to their concerns. I have presented to leadership and the community that the country foods remain safe, the water remain safe. I feel comfortable with the knowledge that we can continue our traditional way of life and share that information with community members.

Next slide, please.

I would like to pass it on to Darlene Gazandlare, Community Relations Liaison for Hatchet Lake and Wollaston Lake on her experience with the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program.

MS. GAZANDLARE: For the record, Darlene Gazandlare.

Hi, my name is Darlene Gazandlare and, as Rick said, I work as the Cameco and Orano Community Relations Liaison out of my community of Hatchet Lake First

Nation.

I wanted to show these pictures of my family because I led the CBEMP for Hatchet Lake and Wollaston Lake in 2020. The program is important to me because my family and I still practise our traditional ways and teach our children to live off the land and water. We eat the fish that we catch and also harvest the berries in the fall time.

I would like to hand it back to Rick to finish it off.

MR. ROBILLARD: Thanks, Darlene.

So I speak on behalf of my colleagues and our collective experience when I say that I support the renewal application for Cameco's uranium mine licence for the Cigar Lake Operation. We have been well informed about the operation. Cigar Lake successfully transitioned through commissioning to full production during the current licence term.

Thank you and (Indigenous language spoken / Langue autochtone parlée)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your submissions.

Dr. Berube...?

MEMBER BERUBE: Thank you for your presentation.

One of the comments that I wanted to ask you about here in your written submission is specifically you talk about the CBEMP. Can you discuss your experience with that or even the CNSC's program, which is the IEMP, and what are your views on how effective are these programs? Do your people actually use them as a way of informing themselves? I mean what you do with them? Do you believe that they are of value?

MR. ROBILLARD: For the record, this is Rick Robillard.

We have been doing the CBEMP program, it started back in year 2019. We started with Black Lake First Nations. We surveyed 120 community members aged from 18 right to -- we surveyed the Elders. And also, that was combined with Stony Rapids as well. And then Fond du Lac First Nations we conducted a similar project. And personally, I have noticed a lot of the Elders and the land users came to the surveys and they shared a lot of their information, a wealth of information of where the hunting sites are and the fishing areas, as well as a lot of sampling from caribou to mammals, fish, berries, birds, medicinal plants that were sent south for sampling, you know, and then they brought that back for results and it was reported back to leadership and the community members.

In general, the leadership and the

community members were very satisfied with the information and like Mary Denechezhe had mentioned, I think that we could improve on the translation of the technical terms of the findings. Perhaps there can be a better way to translate this information back to the community members, I agree.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Dr. McKinnon...?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes. Thank you for your presentation. I always enjoy the very personal perspectives. It adds a lot of value to the proceedings.

For Mr. Robillard, I was also very pleased about your positive experience working in the industry and especially the point that you made in your written intervention that you would encourage the young generation to pursue careers in the mining industry.

My question to you is, given that you have had experience in both the mining industry and as a leader in the community, and that is a theme that we have been discussing in the proceedings today, is really this continuing concern of community members over the impact of mining the environment despite the environmental data which would show that there really isn't any major -- any effect. What would you recommend could be improved by Cameco and CNSC from your perspective?

MR. ROBILLARD: For the record, Rick Robillard.

From my perspective, you know, there is -- Cameco and Orano respectively have done a significant amount of communication and engagement with community members, with Elders, with the schools up in the northern communities and also with the general public and meeting with leadership and engaging in these topics of environment and mining. From my perspective, I think that the more meetings that we can hold -- you know, due to COVID right now we have -- I don't think there have been any community meetings at all for the last year and a half, but with engagements like that with community members meeting with leadership, the more we meet, the more knowledge that we share with the community members and that is more productive and very positive feedback for the community to work together.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. Thank you. Thank you very, very much for your intervention. Hearing from the three of you gives us a very helpful perspective on the different roles that each one of you play.

Any final words before we take a break? Mr. Robillard or Ms. Gazandlare or Mr. Fern?

MR. FERN: For the record, Victor Fern.

We would like to thank the CNSC for inviting us to give the perspective from our backyard, to tell the world what we support, and again I would just like to say thank you.

--- Aboriginal language spoken /

Langue autochtone parlée

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Again, thank you very much for your intervention.

We will now take a break before resuming with other presentations by intervenors. And recognizing this is lunch hour for our colleagues in Saskatchewan, we will reconvene at 3:05 -- no, make it 3:10 -- okay, 3:20 p.m. EDT. 3:20 p.m. EDT. Thank you.

--- Upon recessing at 2:50 p.m. /

Suspension à 14 h 50

--- Upon resuming at 3:20 p.m. /

Reprise à 15 h 20

THE PRESIDENT: Elder Campbell?

--- Indigenous prayer / Prière autochtone

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

I understand that Chief Jerry Bernard will provide us with greetings before we begin with the presentation.

So Chief Bernard?

CMD 21-H2.29A

**Oral presentation from the
English River First Nation**

CHIEF BERNARD: For the record, my name is Chief Jerry Bernard. I am the chief of English River.

I would first like to acknowledge the elders who are present in the room with me as well as those that are on virtually.

Secondly, I would like to also acknowledge that we are gathered today on Treaty Six territory, the traditional territory of the Cree, Dene, Dakota, Lakota, Nakota, and Saulteaux people and the homeland of the Métis.

I would like to thank President Velshi and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission for allowing us to speak on behalf of the English River First Nation regarding the licence and renewal of the Cigar Lake operation.

The English River First Nation is a strong Cree and Dene community. We are guardians of our ancestral territories. We are stewards of the land. Our people have lived off the land for generations. This land sustains us and we will continue to protect these lands for as long as we are here.

With that, I would like to pass the microphone to Cheyenna Campbell, Lands and Resource Management for English River First Nation. Thank you. (Indigenous language spoken / Langue autochtone parlée)

MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Chief Bernard.

For the record, my name is Cheyenna Campbell. I am a proud member of the English River First Nation. I am a lawyer and I am the Lands and Resources manager for English River itself.

Before I begin, I would also like to acknowledge the elders that are gathered here today in the room with us, as well as those that are here virtually.

I'm here today at the English River First Nation in Grasswood with Elder Norman Wolverine; Elder Isidore Campbell; my chief, Jerry Bernard; my councillor, Irene Apesis; and our science consultant, Robin Kusch, who we -- I think you can just see the -- there she is, Robin -- and myself, Cheyenna Campbell.

So welcome and thank you members of our community for being here to support us and to help get our information across to the Commission.

I'd like to go through a bit of a history quickly through for English River First Nation and just let the Commission Members know that ERFN is actually made up of 19 different reserves. Our main settlements are at

Patuanak and La Plonge, but these are, however, not our ancestral settlements.

Patuanak was settled by the Northwest/Hudson Bay Company along with the Catholic Church. A residential school was established at the La Plonge Reserve by the federal government and the Catholic Church. These settlements became the reserves and the people of English River were directed to live there. We were not even allowed to leave this reserve for many years without permission from the Indian agent and Indian Affairs.

Now, long before colonization, the people of English River were nomadic. We moved. We moved from one settlement to another following the seasons, the migration of the animals we hunted, the fishing sites, the seasonal berry and medicine harvesting areas. And the heart of this migration, our ancestral territory, is Cree Lake. Now Cree Lake is approximately a hundred kilometres away from Cameco's Cigar Lake operation.

Now, Treaty 10, which is part of our Treaty, was signed by our chief at the time, William Apeis, on August 28th of 1906. And as per the Treaty, the Canadian government allocated lands to the ERFN people. This land was at Patuanak and La Plonge. These were our reserves. However, ERFN was shorted the amount of land

that we were entitled to under the *Indian Act*, and in 1992, ERFN through the Treaty Land Entitlement process, began to purchase lands along our traditional migration routes and settlements.

My point in providing you with history now is that ERFN lands today and our reserve lands specifically are more reflective of our historical and as well as our modern traditional usage. And that's why Cigar Lake is important to us.

Now, part of being stewards of the land, as my chief referred to us as, is understanding the changes to the land. This can be difficult at times, especially in the nuclear industry. The nature of the industry is such that one must understand highly technical sciences in order to understand what occurs at each mine and, correspondingly, what happens to those lands.

Now, this is the gap that English River wishes to fill. And we're working towards this, towards closing this gap with positive communications with Cameco through our engagement processes as well as engagement with the CNSC directly.

Now, English River recognizes that the environmental assessment approval and subsequent operational licences for Cigar Lake convey that as a whole it has been concluded that economic and resource extraction

benefits from the mine outweigh the predicted environmental impacts. And we're supportive of this. Cameco and their partners have ensured that development through IBA processes that First Nation people whose land will be impacted by their operations will directly benefit from these activities. And English River is determined to provide oversight with a long-term view. We are dedicated to stewardship of the land for future generations, and we don't take this responsibility lightly.

And we also recognize that climates and environments around the world, not just in our home, in our backyard, they're changing. And there's no way to know in the future whether traditional resources for our future generations, our children and grandchildren, will be located in northern Saskatchewan or in Canada.

And we understand that the CNSC and other regulatory agencies will hold the Cigar Lake operation to environmental guidelines. We understand that's your goal and that's your role.

However, because of our history between our community and the government and government agencies, there's a lack of trust for the government and industry. You're painted with the same brush. And therefore, there is a distrust in that the Commission will provide protection for our First Nation and for our resources.

There's just an inherent distrust there.

Our First Nation has concerns, and I'm hearing from the other Nations and their interventions that they have concerns as well. And many of them are labelled as perceived risks, for lack of a better term. I note that in a few of the previous interventions, people were saying that they see that there was changes in the water and changes in the animal migration, and those are perceived risks.

So they do, however, have a huge impact on how the lands are being used. If people perceive that there is contamination, whether or not it's actual contamination, people are going to start changing the way they use the land. They're no longer going to fish in that area. They're no longer going to collect medicines and berries in that area. They're no longer going to hunt the animals that drink from that water that could potentially be or be viewed as being contaminated.

Specifically in this intervention here, English River has had the opportunity, thankfully, through the PFP program, to retain a scientist who has reviewed this information and sat down with us and explained what this giant book means to us in a practical manner. And we thank her very much, and we've worked with her since 2018 doing our interventions. And it really means a lot to our

community.

Now, when we're reviewing this, we heard from her that Cigar Lake, on one hand, in the licence renewal, looking at the information, we're told that all the waters that left the site has met regulatory guidelines. However, on the other hand, it's conveyed in the licence information that a negative effect could have occurred if operations continued as-is for an additional nine years without modification. Now, they were talking about arsenic at the time.

Now, if government guidelines are infallible, then how can both be true? With modifications to water management, it's now anticipated that there would no longer be a significant effect to the invertebrates in Seru Bay specifically, but now there could be negative effects to muskrats in terms of molybdenum and selenium.

Now, to me, being a lay person, this information is overwhelming. And to people in our community, this information is overwhelming. What we hear is there is contamination. However, it's those levels of contamination that is a concern for the community.

Now, the effects by Western standards are considered to be acceptable, but that gives us little comfort, especially considering no monitoring data, from what we understand, was provided to illustrate how

successful the modifications to water management have been. And we anticipate that the operations will continue for longer than nine years. So is the arsenic problem fixed? Or was it just delayed? We would really like to understand this in a way that we can give the information back to our community members.

So the CNSC has said that they often hear that, you know, that 10 years is long term from community members. And in this case, where operational changes have just been made to avoid significant adverse effects, you can see why waiting another 10 years to weigh-in on performance commitments would seem unreasonable to anyone that envisions at some point in the future their kids and grandkids and great-grandkids will be relying on this land long after the mine is gone.

So in conclusion, English River has benefitted from the mine. We have gained a lot of positive aspects and we have been communicating with Cameco on many different levels.

We're supportive of the ongoing operation of the Cigar Lake mine and we recognize the efforts of Cameco to provide ERFN with information, and we look forward to a continued positive relationship with Cameco. We support -- like again, I can't say it enough -- we support the renewal of the operating licence for Cigar

Lake. But we, however, wish to recommend a shorter term.

The licensing hearings are an important opportunity for us to be heard in front of the regulator on ongoing uranium sector activity on our lands. And we realize that we have an opportunity in the ROR, but that's just a small snippet that we get to speak on, not any long-term effects that might show up in a licence renewal.

Our voice is loudest and has the most impact at a licensing hearing. And we'd like to recommend a term of five possibly seven years for the relicensing term. And we're happy to accept whatever the Commission recommends at the end of the day. But our recommendation is to support the Cigar Lake mine, however, with that limited term.

Thank you, President Velshi.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you very much for your intervention. Thank you for the prayers, for the greeting, and again for a very thoughtful submission.

Let's start with Dr. McKinnon, please.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes, thank you for your presentation. And your discussion of the confusion with communication really resonated with me, so I'm going to change my questions a little bit on the basis of that, but try and weave it back into the original questions I had about arsenic.

So my questions will be directed at CNSC staff. And I want to -- if staff could really address this issue about the levels of contamination in arsenic and also address selenium that was raised in the presentation that they're okay now but could lead to future contamination.

And my original question, which I would also like you to address, in the documentation in the written intervention, there was some discussion of differences in predicted effluent levels of arsenic in the 2011 EA compared to the 2017 ERA. And I understand that one is a pre-production and the other one is after some experience, so there will be some differences. But I think this has added to the confusion.

So what are the sort of error bars in making these estimates? Could you put some perspective on these, all of these different sources of numbers, because I think that's really adding a lot to the confusion. And could you try and explain that in fairly simple terms for everybody? Thank you.

MS MURTHY: Thank you for that question, and we will try our best today. And if we don't provide all the information you need, we will do so later on.

But to start this off, so we will look to you, Dr. McKinnon, to tell us and -- perhaps tell us if we have satisfied the intent behind the question.

I would like to ask Dr. Elias Dagher from the Environmental Risk Assessment Division to start with the response, and then pass it on to colleagues who I think are standing by to provide additional clarifications.

Over to you, Elias.

DR. DAGHER: Thank you very much, Ms Murthy.

Dr. Elias Dagher, for the record. I am currently the acting director of the Environmental Risk Assessment Division.

Before I pass on the question to CNSC's environmental risk assessment specialist, Dr. Barbara Dowsley, to provide additional information as related to the concentrations of arsenic in the receiving environment, there may be some confusion in the comparisons that are being made in the question from the intervenor, so I'd like to clarify those first.

The *Metal and Diamond Mining Effluent Regulations* provide limits for concentrations of contaminants in the effluent or out of pipe, not in the receiving environment. So the concentration of arsenic in Cigar Lake effluent has never been above those limits, those authorized limits for a monthly mean concentration or any of the limits that are within that Regulation. And arsenic is not predicted to exceed those effluent or those

release limits any time in the future.

The intervenor may have confused effluent releases, so those release limits, with surface water and sediment quality guidelines and objectives for the protection of aquatic life. Now, these are environmental quality guidelines which apply to concentrations in the receiving environment. They are conservative in nature and indicate a level which is safe.

I will now pass the question to Dr. Barbara Dowsley, who can provide additional information on arsenic concentrations in the receiving environment in Seru Bay. Additionally, we could also provide information on selenium in the receiving environment as well.

DR. DOWSLEY: Thank you, Dr. Dagher.

Dr. Barbara Dowsley, for the record, environmental risk assessment specialist.

I agree both with English River, its intervention, and also with Dr. McKinnon. It's a complicated story to tell. There may be some need for Cameco to fill in the gaps in my answer, because the work is really theirs. We review the work, but they provide the environmental risk assessment and we review and accept the conclusions.

So I'll just say that there was -- the last environmental assessment that was done was in 2011,

and at that time there was an environmental risk assessment done that predicted concentrations of various contaminants in the receiving environment.

As Cameco started operating, they updated their risk assessment as they gained more information, as they got more experience with discharging the effluent into the environment and measuring contaminants. And in their 2017 risk assessment, they predicted future concentrations of arsenic specifically in sediments within Seru Bay, that those could have change to what are called benthic invertebrate communities, which are animals that live in sediments, that there could be community shifts due to exposure to selenium -- or sorry, arsenic in sediments. This was different than what they had predicted in 2011.

And so they then went back and did an addendum to their ERA in 2019 after making some process changes to limit the amount of -- or to lessen the amount of arsenic that was being released in their effluent. And I believe -- and Cameco can confirm this -- that as a result of those process changes and lowering arsenic, it resulted in some increased concentrations of selenium and molybdenum.

The environmental risk assessment conclusions do talk about the potential for very low probability effects to -- not at a population level, we'd

probably not see these, but there's a very low probability that there could be impacts to birds and muskrats from selenium and molybdenum.

In selenium, we're not talking about dead birds; we're talking about the possibility that the reproductive rate of a bird could be lessened strictly in Seru Bay, and the possibility that muskrat could have those -- if they don't have enough -- it's very common -- enough copper in their diet, that they could show some signs of what's called molybdenosis, which is, you know, the fur might change.

These are very low probability. Cameco uses very conservative numbers and assumptions in their risk assessment. And we're comfortable that the probability would be very low, and that if any effects did occur, they would occur sort of during operation and then as soon as operation stopped, they would decline over time.

But I think I would like to ask Cameco to supplement that answer, just so that I'm sure that I've gotten their modelling assumptions correct.

MR. MOONEY: Too many mute buttons.

Thank you, Barb, for that.

And in that regard, I think Dr. McKinnon had talked about a little bit of confusion in some terminology. And in 2011, there was an environmental

assessment completed. That was the fourth environmental assessment for Cigar Lake. There was the Panel proceedings, and then a number of environmental assessments before we started constructing. And then after that, we had another one for Seru Bay and changing our discharge point.

But the one -- it's unfortunate, because the updated ERA is actually one of the leading practices that Cameco does follow in that we have a CSA standard that requires us to update our risk assessment to every five years for the facility. And that's a good thing, because you benefit from the operational data and understanding the performance of the facility.

So that piece, that update to the ERA drove some further action. And I think that's where I'll ask Kevin Nagy to give a bit of the technical back-and-forth in relation to the improvements that were made and what we're seeing in the environment now, both in relation to arsenic but as well as selenium and molybdenum.

MR. NAGY: Thank you, Liam.

For the record, my name is Kevin Nagy.

When Ms Dowsley did describe the process we followed with respect to the environmental risk assessments, she did ask Cameco to confirm with respect to the difference between the 2017 and the 2019 environmental

risk assessment with respect to selenium and molybdenum.

And actually, the concentrates of those parameters remain constant, our predictions with respect to our performance for those. What did change was we did conservatively predict a slight increase in the volume of water that we would be generating that would require treatment and then discharge. So while the concentrations are expected to remain consistent, we did conservatively assume the increase in volume which would then slightly increase the loadings. So that was responsible for the difference you see between the 2017 and the 2019 ERAs.

I think it's also important, though, when you discuss the 2011 environmental assessment and how the subsequent ERAs feed into that. So the 2011 ERA predicted that the site would be protective of human health and the environment and that it was allowable to proceed based on that, and that established a licensing basis for the facility.

The work we did with respect to the 2017 and then the 2019 environmental risk assessments confirmed that the operation remains within the objective of its licensing basis. So predicted impacts in receiving environments are negligible, are within range that was previously assessed. And then when you also factor in the environmental monitoring that's occurred downstream with

the comprehensive environmental monitoring programs in 2016 and again in 2019 and what those measured, the results show that water concentration and sediment concentrations of aquatic biota in the receiving environment downstream of Cigar Lake, all those samples came back below the applicable environmental quality guidelines for benchmarks that were established in the literature.

MEMBER BERUBE: Can I just break in here for a moment, please? We've lost the President, and we'll have to take a momentary suspension until she can return simply because this is a hearing format. We need to have all Members present.

So I suggest a break until, I would say at this point, 4:00 p.m., and we'll recommence.

Thank you very much.

MR. MOONEY: It looks like she's back.

MEMBER BERUBE: Oh, she's back now?
Okay. Well, then, we don't have to do that.

THE PRESIDENT: And I got cut off when Mr. Nagy was answering the question, please.

MR. MOONEY: Okay. Well, I was saying something very profound, so where did I leave off?

Well, maybe I'll just land the plane, then, and say that the environmental monitoring that we

have done, so actual results when we see the environmental risk assessments that we've done, including the measured results that predict the performance for the rest of the life of the mine, show that we are within the objective of the licensing basis for the operation and that human health and the environment will continue to be protected.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Back to Dr. McKinnon.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes. Thank you very much for that explanation. That clarifies.

But I would also like to ask -- go back to Ms Campbell and to ask if that explanation helped somewhat on the -- on the issue of arsenic.

MS CAMPBELL: For the record, this is Cheyenna Campbell speaking.

I feel like it was just a re-utterance of the exact same thing that came through on the actual documentation itself. I don't feel like it was clarified for us.

If I was to just sit down and speak to my Elders here, I think that what they're going to come back with is, how is this affecting us on a daily basis. That's the -- that's the question that's coming in.

We eat muskrats. We're not talking -- there was no confusion about the pipe contamination. What

we're talking about is that there's concentrations in the water and in the sediment that are having an effect on the environment and you're telling us that there's the potential for it to affect the muskrats that we eat.

That's what they're worried about.

Telling us that there's -- it's -- "Oh, there's contamination, but it's acceptable" is not something we don't hear at the end of the day and people in the community are not going to hear at the end of the day "but it's acceptable" because, to us, there's always that -- as I said in my presentation at the beginning, there's a distrust of agency, of government agency and regulation, so people are not going to want to get those muskrats.

So is that enough of an impact to make some -- we need more change. We need some more reassurance.

Just for you to tell us, "It's okay.

There's enough information there that shows that it's no longer an issue" is not a clean enough answer for us to not be affected by it and not have our way of life affected by it.

So I feel like for the nation and for my Elders sitting here and for my leadership, I don't think that that has clarified or changed anything from our perspective.

THE PRESIDENT: And thank you. And I appreciate that.

Ms Murthy, I'll turn it over to you, and I think we need a bit more discussion on next steps as well around this, then.

MS MURTHY: Thank you, Ms Velshi.

So I hear the comments and I understand the challenge of communicating this information, and so as well CNSC has recently started an advisory group on perceived risk. And as we have heard this message repeatedly come to us in various forums, we are looking on better communication on these matters.

If you would like to hear a little bit about that working group or that advisory group, we can do that, but I'm not sure that this is needed at this time.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I agree. I don't think that's what's needed. What's needed now is some reassurance around what's the risk in terms that are understandable, particularly around muskrat.

When you've done the country food studies or the IEMP, do you look at muskrats at all?

And Mr. Mooney.

MR. MOONEY: Thanks for that.

I did want to just add that we were talking about modelling and risk modelling in that regard,

but we do have the real-world data that shows that muskrat is safe to eat if English River First Nation practising traditional -- practising their traditional lifestyle do take and eat muskrat.

The actual real-world data that we've collected shows that muskrat is safe. What Dr. Dowsley and Kevin Nagy were talking about was the risk modelling work that had been done in that regard.

So I just wanted to provide that, you know, the -- yes, the risk modelling is complex and it's sometimes hard to understand.

I'm not a scientist so, you know, I have to read it several times myself sometimes, but I would say that the reason we do the community-based monitoring that we do, the -- the effort there is directed at providing the sense from folks who submit berries or submit the food that they catch, we're not seeing the effects, so that has been the Eastern Athabasca modelling and that community-based environmental management program.

We have seen sampling from real world take according to traditional lifestyle and the modelling provides this -- you know, some indications, but the real-world data is conclusively that muskrat in that area in the specific instance we're talking about is safe to eat.

THE PRESIDENT: And perhaps what's maybe helpful, and maybe we can get Ms Campbell to comment on this, is if CNSC experts, folks from Cameco were to meet with, you know, the scientist, the consultant that English River First Nation has, with Ms Campbell and others to help answer the questions in ways that people can understand.

I mean, I got lost along the way in this as well, particularly if -- if the emissions meet requirements and yet, in the reception, it can cause some issues and it goes, well, how good are the limits in the first place if it can still have an impact down the road.

And I can see, you know, there'd be a lot of questions. It would help if there was a dialogue that can answer those questions.

Ms Campbell, any comments from you on that?

MS CAMPBELL: Thank you, Madam President. Cheyenna Campbell, for the record.

Just I feel like that would be wonderful if we had the ability to engage in dialogue with our consultant because she is the vessel that filters information for us, so for us to be able to sit down and sit with her and the people that are able to address it from the CNSC's perspective would be helpful for us because, I mean, at this point, in my mind, what I'm

hearing is that Mr. Mooney and other -- is pointing out that today that muskrat is not affected, but what I'm reading and from what I understand, there's potential or was potential for nine years from now it could be affected.

So this is for my generations going down, right. It's not today. I'm not concerned about -- actually, I shouldn't say that.

I am concerned about what the real world today effects are, but I'm also talking long term, so if you're to grant the 10-year licence, we're not going to be able to sit down and make this conversation today before that potential nine-year effect happens.

So to have the opportunity to sit down with everybody, I think, would be very beneficial for the Nation.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Let's move to Dr. Berube, then.

MEMBER BERUBE: Thank you for your presentation, and I have to credit you on your submissions because they're thorough and we really appreciate that.

The issue with arsenic is certainly confusing to everybody, especially when you get into predictive models, to try and figure out what it's going to look like in the future versus what we are seeing are two different things altogether. One is guessing and the other

one is actual hard data, so that's really what this comes down to, at the end right now.

I want to share with you and reiterate that historical experience and belief systems are powerful, and you're absolutely right. We have to deal with that level, which means that we have to develop some form of trust between your community and the operator, more trust, and obviously CNSC at this point.

And I think you've already indicated very clearly to us that you trust your own consultant, and I think that's probably a good place to start that conversation, as Chairperson Velshi has indicated.

What I want to ask is, at this point, of Orano -- I'm sorry, I mean Cameco -- sorry about that -- is that you've mentioned in your submission that you are looking at expanding operations at the facility over the period of the licensing period here. Could you tell me what impacts you think are going to -- it's going to have upon your emission status based on that? Do you have any idea what that might be at this point?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

Our application is to continue mining the Cigar Lake ore body. There are no plans as part of this licence application to expand the activities or to

otherwise change the nature of our plans in that regard.

MEMBER BERUBE: So is your tonnage looking about the same every year? It depends what's going on with COVID and stuff like this.

Do you anticipate ramping tonnage or staying constant? Where do you see that looking right now?

MR. MOONEY: It's -- sorry. Liam Mooney, for the record again.

And I will ask Lloyd Rowson to give you a bit more of a sense on that.

When the assessments -- the environmental assessments were conducted, they were for the mining of the Cigar Lake ore body, and I think that, overall, the tonnage may roughly stay the same over the licence period, but that's also one of the inputs into our modelling, the throughput that we -- that we have and the water treatment capacity in that regard.

But perhaps I'll ask our general manager to give you a bit better sense of that.

MR. ROWSON: Thank you, Liam. Lloyd Rowson, for the record.

Liam articulated it well. When measuring our throughput or activity on our -- on our final saleable product, it's pounds of uranium. We don't anticipate any change.

It is true the ore body, being a natural occurrence, does vary in its grade, the quantity of uranium per tonne of ore, and the tonnage does increase and decrease throughout the mine. And I can confirm that it's not a change, though. We do anticipate that, and that has been contemplated in the ecological risk assessments that we've processed.

THE PRESIDENT: I'd like to take on another concern that the intervention has raised, and that's around the term of the licence. And as the intervenor made it very clear, it's not as if they're not supportive of the continued operations but that a 10-year licence (stream lost / diffusion perdue) opportunities to the intervenors to be heard in front of the Commission and that the annual RORs are not an adequate substitute.

So maybe I'll start with Staff first on -- so it's got nothing to do with all the reasons why Staff is recommending a 10-year licence, you know, whether it's the management system, whether it's the performance, the maturity of the programs, et cetera. It has to do around the ability to appear in front of the Commission to raise any concerns.

One of the comments made was that, "Well, these operational commitments may not be made for nine years if there isn't an opportunity to come in front of the

Commission earlier".

Can you comment around the term, around engagement opportunities and how these concerns can be addressed?

Ms Murthy.

MS MURTHY: Kavita Murthy, for the record.

I will start by saying that with respect to the Regulatory Oversight Reports, there is definitely the current practice of having interventions heard orally when they come from indigenous groups, provides an opportunity for interventions to be heard orally by the Commission and any issues that need to be addressed should get raised there and would be addressed apart from the concerns that could be raised as a part of just any information request or in response to any event that happens at the site.

Beyond that, yesterday the Commission heard about the production of periodic reports, the environmental review reports that the CNSC is also going to be undertaking, understanding that that also is a report that will provide an opportunity for us to highlight the work that is being done at the licensing site and to demonstrate how they're in compliance and raise any issues.

Once again, that's -- that is another avenue.

I would like to pass this on to Peter Fundarek to comment on the specific recommendation related to the 10-year licence for the Cigar Lake. Over to Peter.

MR. FUNDAREK: Thank you. Peter Fundarek, for the record.

With respect to the opportunities for engagement -- hi, Cheyenna -- we have long-standing opportunities for engagement on a regular -- sorry, a regular process of engagement either through the Northern Saskatchewan Environmental Quality Committee or through other mechanisms such as direct interaction. And I'll ask Mr. Adam Levine to speak to that in a moment.

Every year at the Regulatory Oversight Report presentation on uranium mines and mills, we do provide participant funding for groups to participate and to express their views in front of the Commission, and I know that English River has participated in the past and, in fact, they were one of the drivers of one of the major changes to our report where we provide the plain language summary now.

And those have been so successful for the Regulatory Oversight Reports that we're now going to start adopting them for all of our CMDs for uranium mines and mills.

The information is made available in a

more easy-to-understand language that hopefully can be readily translated and communicated to communities and groups like that.

So it's part of our commitment for listening to communities to hear what they want, to provide the information in a way that they can use it and continue the dialogue that is going to help us gain understanding between our groups and a sense of trust to build between our groups.

And I'll pass it over to Mr. Adam Levine now to talk about ongoing engagement.

THE PRESIDENT: It's not that I don't want to listen to Mr. Levine because I always enjoy listening to him. It's just that it's engagement with the Commission and not with Staff that I was really getting at, and which is what the intervenor implied.

But maybe, Mr. Fundarek, you can answer the question, which was that commitments from the licensees are more likely to be made if there is a licence hearing coming up as opposed to, if it's a long-term licence period, one may have to wait for the next renewal.

And can you comment on why that perception would exist and how could that get dispelled if it's not true?

MR. FUNDAREK: Peter Fundarek, for the

record.

That's a very interesting perception, as you state.

Based on my experience as Director of Uranium Mines and Mills, we don't see that as Staff members, as CNSC Staff members. We regulate the uranium industry and we have comprehensive regulatory oversight.

Where changes need to be made, as you've heard from Dr. Dowsley regarding the arsenic issue and we've seen demonstrated in the past through improvements to the molybdenum and the selenium issue, those kinds of things are addressed and dealt with. And there's ongoing compliance oversight to ensure that we do see the improvements being made.

During our inspections and other methods of compliance verification, we do identify things that need to be -- where attention needs to be paid by the licensee on small matters, and they treat those as seriously as if we had identified a major component.

So there is substantial ongoing efforts between the CNSC and the licensees to ensure that all the regulatory commitments, all the regulatory requirements are met and satisfied, and this ongoing dialogue continues on a regular basis.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very

much for that.

Mr. Mooney, did you want to add anything around the term of the licence?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

There's no question that a 10-year licence provides an extended period of regulatory certainty for Cameco and our joint venture partners in the Cigar Lake Operation. It does align with a longer budgeting cycle and helps us to develop long-term plans.

We also have a collaboration agreement with English River and, in that, there's a fairly detailed consultation -- sorry, engagement framework that we work with English River to understand their concerns and take steps in that regard.

So between the Regulatory Oversight Report and the engagement framework, there's -- there is opportunity for issues to come forward and for steps to be taken.

As Mr. Fundarek pointed out, we have made changes numerous times when we, through our own continual improvement process, identify that we need to make a change, and that's not driven purely out of regulatory demands or concerns. Many times it's a function of those discussions with communities and concerns that are raised

and some changes that can be made in that regard.

So that would summarize Cameco's view on why a 10-year licence is most appropriate and desirable from our perspective.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon or Dr. Berube, any additional questions?

MEMBER BERUBE: Yeah, I just wanted to clarify something that Cameco said about not having plans to add any additional infrastructure.

I'm just looking at your written submission in your page 7 underneath your business plan, Section 2.1, and basically here it clearly says that you're looking at expanding your capital expenditure to Cigar Lake to support additional surface plants and pads, additional underground freeze, infrastructure, ventilation systems, slime ponds, rock waste stockpile and near surface release.

Could you please elaborate on this in terms of, you know, what that really means in terms of is there any potential for that kind of expansion to affect your discharges?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

Those activities are to support ongoing operation of the Cigar Lake. They are not going to affect

performance on the surface footprint or otherwise disturb footprint. It's about two square kilometres, and the work will largely be on the disturbed footprint to support ongoing operations.

So sorry if I mis-spoke earlier about -- I was more thinking that, you know, expansion in the way Mr. Rowson put it about expanding production or that sort of thing. So yes, those are all necessary steps.

And when I talk about the 10-year licence, those are the capital decisions that we have to make and having that regulatory certainty helps us make those decisions.

THE PRESIDENT: Dr. McKinnon?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes, thank you. I'd like to add another question in connection with arsenic and effluent while we've been discussing this topic.

The real root source of that is the ore body, so I would like to ask Cameco how is arsenic distributed throughout the ore body and, you know, is it uniform or variable and how does that affect the management -- the surface management to treat it and maintain the concentrations below any allowable emission levels?

MR. MOONEY: Thank you, Dr. McKinnon.

I'll ask a mining engineer go respond to

that, but I would say that understanding -- so Lloyd Rowson will provide some more detail in that regard. But understanding the ore body more was part of the work that informed the optimization efforts that we undertook subsequent to the risk assessment.

MR. ROWSON: Thank you, Liam. Lloyd Rowson, for the record.

The arsenic is distributed in -- throughout the ore body in a variable sense. We have -- we have a unique geology at Cigar Lake, and all of the elements, including uranium, can exist naturally in concentrations throughout the ore body that have quite large variability.

We've employed what we believe to be best practices on modelling, so we do develop a 3D model of -- using block modelling techniques and geostatistics of all of contaminants of potential concern and we processed that in a way that's consistent and make sure that we understand what the worst potential cases are and that our treatment systems are robust enough to ensure they remain protective of the environment under all potential ore characteristics that we may come across while recovering the extent of the ore body.

MR. MOONEY: One further point on that would be that the way the water treatment plant is set up

at Cigar Lake, it is a batch treatment so that allows us to make sure that we can test the water that is collected on the surface before it's released so -- to make sure that it meets all of the regulatory requirements before it is released.

So that is another means of addressing that variability within the ore body that Mr. Rowson described.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Thank you very much. I was wondering if there was any storage on surface to regulate that process. That's very helpful.

And if I may ask one more question in connection with the 10-year licensing period, and it really is in connection with the projected life of the mine based on what you understand now of the remaining ore reserves. And you know, it's very common, as you are doing now, you are doing expiration to see, you know, what else is there that might be economically viable and to convert your estimates into reserves.

So given that effort, what -- is there a reasonable probability that the actual mining life could extend beyond the 10-year period?

MR. MOONEY: It's Liam Mooney, for the record.

We are a publicly-traded company, so I do

have to walk a fairly fine line in that regard. Our hope is that we can continue to mine the Cigar Lake ore body beyond the current licence period as we continue to look at opportunities in the -- in that area, but I would say that, you know, that mining of the entire ore body was part of the assessment and the licensing of the facility goes beyond just -- the variety of activities go beyond just mining, so the operation, reclamation and those sorts of things, so there is that.

Of course, the mining, as you know, Dr. McKinnon, turns to some degree also on price so, you know, the efforts to turn reserves into resources, it hinges a great deal on price. And as you are likely aware, we have had a significant -- we've been weathering significant downturn in the uranium spot price for more than decade, and so in that regard I think we're looking for opportunities. And I'd like to say that we would like to be back in front of you to be securing another 10-year licence in 10 years' time for continued mining of the Cigar Lake ore body, but I can't, on the record, provide any assurances in that regard.

MEMBER MCKINNON: I understand that, and I thank you for your answer.

Yes, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Any further questions?

If not, then let me turn to English River First Nation to see if you have any closing comments before we move to our next intervention.

Ms Campbell or anybody else?

MS CAMPBELL: No, we just thank you for your time and giving us the opportunity to bring our concerns to the table. It's always a pleasure to be heard by the Commission. And from our community, we thank you again.

THE PRESIDENT: And we thank you for your excellent submission.

MS CAMPBELL: Sorry, Madam President, quickly, though, are we going to have an opportunity to meet with Cameco and does the Commission have any recommendation or any kind of guidance for us, or is that something that we do with our consultant?

THE PRESIDENT: Stay tuned. The Commission will have to deliberate on this.

MS CAMPBELL: Okay. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

The next presentation is from Orano Canada Inc., as outlined in CMD 21-H2.10 and 21-H2.10A.

And I understand that Mr. Vincent Laniece will present this submission.

Mr. Laniece, the floor is yours.

CMD 21-H2.10/21-H2.10A

Oral presentation by Orano Canada Inc.

MR. LANIECE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Good afternoon. I hope that you can hear me correct. I've got a brand new headset so that I make sure that I come across correctly during the CNSC Commission intervention, so.

My name is Vincent Laniece. I am Vice-President, Safety, Environment and Engineering for Orano Canada.

And I have with me here today Tina Searcy, Manager, Regulatory and Environmental Science, and Glenn Lafleur, Manager, Northern Affairs.

Orano has been operating mine and milling operations for over 50 years in northern Saskatchewan. Orano is in a joint venture partner with Cameco in the Cigar Lake Operation.

Cameco is the operator of this mine, which is located on Treaty 10 territory and within the homeland of the Métis.

Orano and Cameco have been working together for nearly 40 years to develop the Cigar Lake mine

and prepare the McClean Lake mill to process the ore, manage the safety and environmental aspects of the two operations and engage with local stakeholders. The tandem of the Cigar Lake mine and McClean Lake mill is one of the world's leading uranium producers.

As has been demonstrated throughout the licence term, in 2014 Cameco transitioned from commissioning to production while maintaining exemplary worker health and safety results, protecting the environment and ensuring operational performance targets were met.

Through our close collaboration --

MR. LEBLANC: Excuse me, Mr. Laniece.

It's Marc Leblanc.

I just want to make sure we've got President Velshi with us.

THE PRESIDENT: I am here, Marc.

MR. LEBLANC: Oh, sorry. Just we were just wondering.

Thank you. Just to be on the safe side.
Désoler, M. Laniece.

MR. LANIECE: Thank you.

So through our close collaboration with Cameco over decades of shared operations and experiences, Orano is well informed and confident in Cameco's competence

as a reliable operator and the company's established measures, along with demonstrating performance for engaging northern communities, protecting the health and safety of workers and the public as well as the environment.

Orano fully supports the Cigar Lake licence renewal for a 10-year term. This aligns with other facilities, such as our McClean Lake Operation, which received a 10-year licence term in 2017. Some other jurisdictions have life of mine licence terms.

Cameco has demonstrated strong performance in safety, radiation, environmental protection as well as engagement and sharing of information with its stakeholders and members of the public.

The activities and performance of the Cigar Lake mine will continue to be subject to robust regulatory reviews and inspections, including an annual performance report to the CNSC Commission, which is open to the public and subject to the issuance of participant funding.

The length of the term does not result in any protection of the environment, employment, northern business development and engagement. Further, the licence renewal does not act as a request for approval of new activities; all new activity requests would be subject to additional regulatory review.

Orano is confident that Cameco is fully committed to the programs and procedures in place for the Cigar Lake mine and will continue to foster relationships with stakeholders.

Orano fully supports Cameco's application to renew the Cigar Lake uranium mine licence for a 10-year term.

If you can switch to the next slide, please.

The tandem operations of the McClean Lake mill with the Cigar Lake mine have a significant socio-economic impact on northern Saskatchewan, not only through direct employment but the generation of economic activity through commitments to northern vendors. Orano's 2020

McClean Lake workforce average was 53.3 percent of residents from Saskatchewan north and 47.8 percent indigenous.

The Ya'thi'Néné collaboration agreement signed in 2016 between the two companies and the seven Athabasca Basin communities further reinforced the two companies' commitment to continue maximizing workforce and business development, community engagement, environmental stewardship and community investment, the four pillars of our relationship with indigenous and other communities in

northern Saskatchewan. This Collaboration Agreement replaced the 1997 Impact Benefits Agreement.

Just a couple numbers.

As of December 31st, 2020, the total investments with Athabasca Basin communities since the renewal of the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement in 2016 are 27 million in community investment, 69 million in workforce development, 501 million in business development, and one in engagement and environmental stewardship.

So these numbers reflect Cameco and Orano investments.

Next slide, please.

Cameco has a comprehensive environmental monitoring plan and demonstrates strong environmental performance and regulatory compliance.

The Athabasca Joint Engagement and Environmental Subcommittee, or known as the AJES, operating under the Ya'thi Néné Collaboration Agreement replaced the previous community committee, the Athabasca Working Group. The AJES continues to meet, enhancing knowledge, understanding and programs to ensure the safety of the environment and building capacity.

The committee met in person or virtually six times in 2020 and 23 times since 2016.

The AJES is the first point of contact for

Cameco and Orano, with the responsibility and accountability for environmental management and/or community engagement matters to their respective community/communities and has the responsibility to receive and review information, including Indigenous knowledge respecting the environment, environment protection and monitoring programs in relation to McClean Lake operation and Cigar Lake mine.

The AJES also oversees and reviews a Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program which monitors the safety of traditionally harvested country foods within the Athabasca Basin.

To date, the results of the Community-Based Environmental Monitoring Program have shown no significant downstream effects from Cameco or Orano uranium operations in the Basin.

In addition to the environmental stewardship pillar created with the Collaboration Agreements, Cameco, in partnership with Orano, the Government of Saskatchewan and the CNSC established the Eastern Athabasca Regional Monitoring Program in 2011. The program assesses the ecological integrity of Saskatchewan's northern watersheds in order to address potential environmental concerns, to review potential environmental effects from uranium mining and milling, and to identify

sustainable management practices in the region.

The goal of the EARMP study design is to monitor for potential effects on the water, fish, berries and wildlife in the Athabasca region downstream of uranium mining operations. The EARMP community program was developed to address potential concerns about the safety of traditional country foods.

EARMP's community sampling program collects traditional country foods, which are currently tested by CanNorth Environmental Services, a 100 percent Indigenous-owned company, which then publishes an annual report. To date, the EARMP's community reports have consistently concluded that traditional country foods are safe for consumption.

Next slide, please.

On the engagement in both the public information programs and the collaboration agreements, Orano and Cameco have commitments to the rights-bearing First Nation and Métis communities and municipalities of the Athabasca Basin.

Orano and Cameco employ Community Relations Liaisons as a conduit between the companies and the Athabasca Basin communities. In addition to supporting recruitment and skill development, the Liaison represents Orano and Cameco at Chief/Council and public meetings and

is a direct line for receiving and addressing questions or concerns raised by leadership and community members.

The term of our licences does not dictate the engagement. Engagement with local communities, leaders, employees and businesses is routine and direct.

Engagement can take many forms like quarterly committee meetings, annual Regulatory Oversight Reports, leadership meetings, phone calls, emails or letters. And as circumstances change and issues arise, as we saw in 2020 with the need to prepare for and respond to the pandemic, the communication lines must and do remain open.

Next slide, please.

In conclusion, through our close collaboration with Cameco over decades of shared operations and experiences, Orano is well informed and confident in Cameco's competence as a reliable operator and the company's established measures, along with demonstrating performance for engaging northern communities, protecting the health and safety of workers and the public, and protecting the environment.

As stated during the introduction, Orano fully supports Cameco's application to renew the Cigar Lake uranium mine licence for a 10-year term.

Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Laniece.

I will open the floor for questions, starting with Dr. Berube, please.

MEMBER BERUBE: Well, thank you for your presentation. It is very thorough and a glowing report of the relationship between Orano and Cameco in this pursuit.

Given your analysis, is there anything that you have that you believe could improve the current operations at Cigar Lake or are you completely satisfied with what you see there? Obviously you are a different company, a different operator. What are your perspectives now?

MR. LANIECE: Vincent Laniece, for the record.

As a joint venture partner, of course, the relationship that we have with Cameco is -- I would compare it somewhat to the relationship that I have with my wife, my partner. So in order to get together, we need to dance a bit. So we have periods of highs and lows. The one thing that I can really confirm is that I had the privilege of working for the joint venture since more than 15 years by this day and I have always been listened to. I had the privilege of bringing my experience and competencies to the joint venture and I can assure that both Cameco and Orano are really driven by continuous improvement.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon...?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes. Thank you for your presentation. It is clear there is a very good relationship.

I have a question for CNSC staff about that relationship and it is in the area of waste management.

The *Licence Condition Handbook* states that Cameco Cigar Lake Operation is authorized to carry out disposal of contaminated wastes, including offsite. So the Cigar Lake transports the ore slurry to McClean Lake for processing and the tailings are managed at the McClean Lake site. But it is not clear anywhere in the documentation that I could find where the responsibility for Cigar Lake ends. You know, is it at the offloading at McClean Lake? What is the responsibility for the tailings? Is that purely McClean Lake's responsibility? Where is the boundary for that?

So could staff please clarify that for me?

MS. MURTHY: Yes, Dr. McKinnon.

We have William Stewart, a Senior Project Officer, who will respond to the question and he will pass it on to anyone else if there is a need to.

So, William, please go ahead.

MR. STEWART: William Stewart, Senior Project Officer, Uranium Mines and Mills Division, for the record.

So the ore is processed into a slurry form at Cigar Lake and then that is transported to McClean Lake. And once it enters the McClean Lake system, it becomes their process role to remove the uranium from the ore and then take the tailings to their facility. So there is no extra management of the tailings on that side of it from the Cigar Lake side.

In terms of the waste rock in final decommissioning, there are arrangements in place to ensure that the handling of waste onsite at Cigar Lake is handled by Cameco as part of their decommissioning and wastes that need to be transferred to Orano are already approved by their process in terms of how they will get to their final decommissioning stage through their preliminary decommissioning plans, which would be addressed at the final decommissioning at that site.

Currently, there are also contaminated wastes that are shipped from Cigar Lake to Rabbit Lake as part of the process to handle contaminated waste material so that it doesn't stay on the surface at site, so it doesn't build up at Cigar Lake, and that material is transferred to Rabbit Lake, which is also an approved

disposal facility and it is transferred to their tailings facility where it is incorporated into that final disposal process at Rabbit Lake.

So each of those operations is part of the overall waste management program for Cigar Lake, and then once it becomes part of the other facility's -- or the other operation's facility, it is in their control. They then become responsible for maintaining and managing that material to the end of life.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay. And that will be specified in their own *Licence Condition Handbook* where they have responsibility for that and the capacity and so on?

MR. STEWART: Correct. That would be in their program manuals which are part of their *Licence Condition Handbooks* for each site.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay. Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. Berube, did you have anything else?
Okay.

If not, thank you very much for your intervention, Mr. Laniece.

Any closing remarks you would like to make, please?

MR. LANIECE: I would like to thank you and the Commission for hearing our intervention today and reiterate again that Orano is fully supportive of a 10-year renewed licence for the Cigar Lake mine.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

We will now move to our next presentation, which is from Ms. Taryn Roske, as outlined in CMD 21-H2.13.

Ms. Roske, the floor is yours.

CMD 21-H2.13

Oral presentation by Taryn Roske

MS. ROSKE: Hello. For the record, Taryn Roske.

My name is Taryn Roske and I have the opportunity to be the first female Jet Boring Systems operator now that production has started at Cigar Lake Operation.

I was born and raised in La Ronge, Saskatchewan, and I am a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. After high school I took the geological technician course that is offered in La Ronge. This is my first experience with mining and my work placement was at Cameco's Rabbit Lake Operation and it was a very eye-opening experience for myself. When I completed

school, I knew that I wanted to pursue my career in mining.

In 2010 I started my career with Cameco. I have always wanted to work for the company because I have had family members work for Cameco and they always spoke very highly of their time with Cameco.

I have also been very proud that Cameco supports its employees and Northern Saskatchewan, which is home to me.

I was hired on full-time as a Radiation Technician at Rabbit Lake and took on-the-job training, because I went to school for geotech, but I wasn't able to find work right away, so then with that you are able to transfer into different positions.

I progressed quickly and soon found myself as an intermediate technician. I spent six and a half years at site, then sadly they had to close their doors. I was able to go on a recall list for a few months and I was able to take over a maternity leave position at Key Lake in environment and then again they closed their doors, unfortunately, and I found myself a full-time position as a radiation technician in Cigar Lake.

Not long after I started there I was able to finish my progression and become the senior radiation technician. I worked in that position for three years and just this last week I started my full-time JBS position,

which is really exciting because I am the first female JBS operator in the entire world.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

MS. ROSKE: Yes. I'm very proud.

For my entire life I have struggled with my identity. It wasn't until adulthood that I have really been able to embrace being a mixed race person. I am honoured to get to be a positive role model for Indigenous women and women of all races really. I am in a position that is male dominant and I am changing things.

I have faced challenges as a woman in mining, but I have never let that stop me. I do my best to hold my head high and prove that I am capable of doing whatever I put my mind to.

Wow, one of the biggest struggles I have had personally is like with proper fitting personal protective equipment. They don't make stuff for women with hips.

I am encouraged by Cameco's initiative to be more inclusive and gender diverse and Cameco has been working with us to find more personal PPE equipment that fits us properly.

The company also participated in Women in Mining and Women in Nuclear, which I am actually enrolled in this year and I have a mentor. We just started a couple

of weeks ago. So that's exciting, too.

I have also been -- I have also seen women being profiled at Cameco, bringing awareness to their roles and contributions. I attended the second annual International Women's Day celebration and our executive officers presented their support and importance of women in the workplace.

There are a lot of capable women in the workplace, they just need to be given opportunities to shine and try something new, which is something that I got to do and I am so excited about.

Cameco is an experienced operator and the site has programs, processes and people working to have a safe production in the next licensing term. They are an amazing group of people working at Cigar Lake Operation. They pour their heart and soul into their work. I am one of those employees who has gained so much knowledge over the past few years with the support of other operations as we successfully transition through commissioning into full production.

I think Cigar Lake is so important because uranium provides clean energy to the markets around the world. Cameco has over 30 years of mining and milling experience in Northern Saskatchewan and I support the renewal of Cameco's uranium mining licence for this Cigar

Lake Operation.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much for your intervention.

And let's start with Dr. McKinnon.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Well, first of all, congratulations on your first in the world achievement.

MS. ROSKE: Thank you.

MEMBER MCKINNON: That is something to be really proud of. And you wrote a very compelling letter and a very passionate presentation. Thank you.

So my first question would be to Cameco actually and it is in connection with promotion of women in the workforce. We heard earlier in the day that about a quarter of the workforce would be female at this time. How does that compare with the mining industry average?

MR. MOONEY: Thank you for the question, Dr. McKinnon.

Actually, I don't think we have that at our fingertips. We could look into it, but I would like maybe Lloyd Rowson to talk a little bit about the work that Cameco has done in relation to the challenge that Taryn talked about in her presentation.

But I think it is important from my own perspective to emphasize the work my boss did, Alice Wong, a couple of years ago. She met with every single female

employee of Cameco in a group setting and talked about workplace challenges and where we can be better, and some improvements that Lloyd will be able to describe were a direct result of her efforts in that regard.

So maybe Lloyd could give you a bit more context.

MR. ROWSON: Thank you, Liam.

Lloyd Rowson, for the record.

So thanks to the courage and persistence of people such as Taryn, we have made some efforts to improve the experience of women in our workplace and understand their unique needs and respond to them. So an example of that would be looking at personal protective equipment, something that is easily overseen in mines dominated by men. Gloves as an example of PPE, too large, they don't fit properly, so we did assemble a group of women to develop recommendations. We facilitated bringing in different products for trial. That also includes coveralls of different sizes and we are going on a journey there together to make sure that those needs are met and that specific PPE is made available.

We are also looking at improving our facilities onsite for women. Most recently, under construction at the moment is a new women's dry, which is an improvement in quality over the previous one, but also

in size. In anticipation of a hopeful future where more and more women are participating in our organization, we like to create the space for them.

Thank you.

MR. MOONEY: So maybe I will just jump back in.

I am told that the Mining Industry Human Resources Council advises that women represent 16 percent of the employee workforce in the Canadian mining industry. So I think the 25 percent is good, but, as Lloyd talked about, we recognize there is an opportunity to improve that and through leadership from people like Taryn and people in management roles such as Lloyd and Kristen, we are driving there. So Cameco is committed in that regard and efforts continue as we speak.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Thank you. Yes, that is something to be proud of, that achievement.

I have a follow-on question in the area of human resource management and it is more on the technical skilled end in mining engineering. It is in connection with the fact that the operation is definitely not a common one in the world of mining, with ground freezing and jet boring. It is very, very uncommon. I can't think of anywhere else it is done. In fact, it was mentioned it is unique in the world.

So how do you find people or train them and make sure that you have an adequate pool of skilled technical people to manage that type of operation, given that the mining world does depend a lot on experience, in particular mining methods?

MR. MOONEY: I will ask Lloyd Rowson to maybe talk about some of the -- like the JBS operator, the role that Taryn is filling now, about that.

But I think a couple of things that you can also sort of pull forward in relation to Cameco. We are seen as an employer of choice. We have very loyal, low turnover rates of our employees. And you could see earlier in the presentation Victor Fern, we have multigenerational employees, families from Northern Saskatchewan who have worked with us starting in the '70s, before we were in fact Cameco, and then have moved through different operations, moved around through different operations. So in that regard I think that we are very fortunate, but it is also a product of the care with which we treat our people.

And before I hand it over to Lloyd, one other point I would make in that regard was when we had to make some of the difficult decisions that we had to as a result of the COVID pandemic. That was brought to the fore essentially because of concerns on both the spread of COVID in the broader Saskatchewan environment but also outbreaks

that were happening in some of the northern and remote communities that we draw from, and in some of those instances those communities were featured quite heavily in our jet boring operators for example. So when there were concerns about the potential for transmission and we weren't flying out of certain communities or into certain communities, that was impacting that workforce. So that relationship I think that we can talk about employer choice and also how integrated our northern residents of Saskatchewan are in our employment programs.

But on the JBS operation itself and the systematic approach to training that we employ there, Lloyd is probably the better person to comment on that.

MR. ROWSON: Thank you.

Lloyd Rowson, for the record.

I was part of the rollout and the commissioning of a brand-new novel mining method, as Mr. McKinnon referenced, and that was an experience similar to pulling oneself up from their own bootstraps. We did have no opportunity obviously to hire experienced jet boring system operators and we were forced to make them and, as Liam referenced, we did that using a systematic approach to training where we methodically went through all of the steps, analyzed the hazards, created proper procedures to mitigate those, and then trained people and verified their

competence in the field and then turned them into trainers. And like that, we did just that, pull ourselves up from our bootstraps in a very successful program, in fact, that we use not only the JBS but also in all other areas of our operation, conventional or not.

And on the technical side, to answer the other part of the question, we did have -- really this does relate to diversity in many respects, diversity of technique as well. So when we started, we did have a lot of specialists on staff, many of which were female and even in mining engineering reference that we were for many years carrying two strong female leads in our engineering department.

But also diversity in backgrounds. So ground freeze people can be found as experts and rock mechanics people can be found as experts, and we at Cigar had to marry those two together. And we did just that and broke a lot of new ground -- maybe no pun intended there -- and found a lot of success through that diversity that we intentionally staffed our technical group with.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay, thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. Berube?

MEMBER BERUBE: Well, Taryn,

congratulations on being number one. That's very impressive. I'm sure it makes you feel mixed at this point.

You said that you've been at this point about a week ago. Is that true or ...?

MS ROSKE: So our shifts are two and two, so I started -- I just flew home yesterday, so over the last two weeks I got my first experience working on the JBS.

MEMBER BERUBE: Well, I want to ask you a question about that. It's a very impressive machine, first of all, and novel as several persons have been pointing out. So a heck of a learning curve, I would think. Could you speak to your experience of being trained under Cameco? How does that, you know, how did that work? How did that flow? How do you feel about that, I mean, if you don't mind speaking to that.

MS ROSKE: Yeah, for sure. So it's going to be all on-the-job training. I don't have any background in -- like from my understanding, when they first started hiring JBS operators, they wanted mechanics, electricians, people with a Red Seal trade to run this machine, because it's very high tech. I have nothing. So it is very much on-the-job training.

But the people that I'm working with have

six, seven, eight years' experience on the rig. So they know it like the back of their hand. And so far everything has been -- it's been going really well. They take the time to stop, explain it, make sure that I understand what's happening. We slow things down. It's -- they're not pushing me beyond what I am capable of, so it's been a really good experience thus far.

MEMBER BERUBE: So you're very satisfied so far with this new experience? It's definitely --

MS ROSKE: Yes.

MEMBER BERUBE: -- very different.

MS ROSKE: Yes, I am very happy.

MEMBER BERUBE: Good, thanks.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Thank you. And Ms Roske, thank you very much for your intervention today. It's always good to see the changing face of the nuclear sector. And you portray that extremely well. It brings certainly me, personally, great joy to see you. And I do hope that, you know, when you mentioned that you are a role model, that you maximize that and go out in the community and speak to young girls and show what a promising, fulfilling career an opportunity like this can have.

I do have one question for you. If there's one thing you could change to make it easier for you to succeed in your new role, and you know, you talked

about PPEs and you do have a mentor now. But other than that, what is -- you know, this is your opportunity to be heard by Cameco's leadership. What would you want to change to make your work environment just more conducive for you?

MS ROSKE: It's funny that you mention the question. Kirk Lamont -- I'm not sure if you know him; I'm sure you do -- recently reached out to all of the females working at site and said he has made it a target for himself to make Cigar Lake a better place for all of us.

And I did not hold back at all. I let him know what my experiences have been and some of the things that I wish would change. And so one of the most simple things for me -- I mean, it's not cheap. It's not going to be cheap. But to have a functioning washroom close to where I'm going to be working. Because I am spending all day underground. And he was like, Oh, of course. Like that -- we didn't even think of that. But yeah, absolutely. I was like, Yeah, I'm a girl. I'm going to need one.

So just -- it's just been little things like that where men have different perspectives than women when it comes to that kind of stuff. So just opening his eyes more to what it's like being a female full time underground really changed. It's already making changes,

and I'm really happy to see that.

So anything that I did have issues with, I'm already seeing those changes, which I'm really happy about.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thanks very much for sharing that. And I'm really again happy that Cameco is making a positive effort, a committed effort. And I know they've been showing a lot of leadership in the nuclear sector in this area, both the CEO and Alice Wong definitely are.

So I wish you all the very best, and I look forward to hearing great things about you in the future.

Any final words before we move on?

MS ROSKE: I just want to say thank you for your time.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you again, thank you for your intervention.

Our next presentation is from Athabasca Basin Development, as outlined in CMD 21-H2.15. And I understand that Mr. Geoff Gay will present this submission.

Mr. Gay?

CMD 21-H2.15

Oral presentation by Athabasca Basin Development

MR. GAY: Thanks very much.

Good afternoon. And for the record, my name is Geoff Gay, and I am the CEO of Athabasca Basin Development Limited Partnership, a position which I've held since the company's inception in 2003.

I want to thank the CNSC for allowing me to present today in support of Cameco's Cigar Lake licence renewal.

Through our direct ownership investment in northern enterprises and joint ventures, Athabasca Basin Development is a participant in these longstanding operations, and our goal is to have our investments remain major contractors for years to come.

We are an investment company owned by the seven Athabasca communities within the Athabasca Basin region. We originally began by providing services primarily to the mining industry that was operating near these communities. However, based on the philosophy of the leadership and elected and non-elected leaders back in the late '90s, they had a vision that the communities, that this development corporation would build something for future generations and would have something when the mining

is done.

So since then, we've grown to establish complete and partial ownership in 12 companies that provide a wide range of services both in and outside the uranium mining industry with operations that have spanned across eight Canadian provinces and employs over a thousand people. Our investments include mining security, construction, electrical, aviation, drilling, retail, and more.

For many residents of the Athabasca Basin region of northern Saskatchewan, gaining employment at the mine or at one of the ABD companies is a first step towards permanent employment. We've seen during COVID and the last several years when there isn't growth in the mining industry, where it becomes very stagnant in terms of employment. So it definitely is a benefit to see when mines are up and running, we see tremendous benefit from that.

Almost all these northern residents are Indigenous Canadians, most of whom are predominantly from Dene-speaking communities, including Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids, Black Lake, Hatchet lake, Wollaston, Camsell Portage, and Uranium City, which are owners of Athabasca Basin Development through their various development corps or through their communities.

Cameco has been a strong partner for us for many years. In the last term, Cameco completed construction activities and successfully transitioned Cigar Lake to commercial production. During this time, Cameco contracted many of our investments and employed local people, providing workforce development programs. We observed that Cameco prioritized health, safety, and the environment and kept us well informed of activities.

We appreciate the mandate of the CNSC and its interests in all matters related to safe uranium mining.

We also appreciate the strong safety and health focus within all of Cameco's operations and understand fully that under their contractor management programs, all safety rules, such as conducting the job hazard analysis before starting on a work site project, apply equally to our investment workers and managers while they are working at a Cameco site. We appreciate the diligence in which Cameco's safety personnel, including their radiation safety staff, work with contractors to focus on keeping all workers safe and healthy.

We believe Cameco has proven to be a competent operator and we look forward to working with Cameco to support these operations into the future.

In closing, I want to again thank the CNSC

for allowing me to present to you today. And we are fully in support of Cameco's renewal of their licence. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. Berube?

MEMBER BERUBE: Thank you for your presentation.

As ABD, are you actually engaged directly in operations? Are you financing operations? Or what is the nature of that relationship?

MR. GAY: For the record, this is Geoff Gay.

That's a great question. In our initial years, we were operating directly many of our investments. And we realized in order for us to grow that we had to have management teams and board of directors specifically for all the investments and have them run on their own so that they can grow and focus on their specific area of expertise.

So Athabasca Basin participates in the governance of these companies. We participate in all aspects of ownership. But there is direct management teams that run every one of these businesses individually.

MEMBER BERUBE: And right now, any idea what activities are happening on site at Cigar Lake that

would come underneath your control?

MR. GAY: Yes. So in a normal situation, we are owners of Rise Air Aviation which does primarily all the workforce transportation to Cigar Lake. We are owners of Team Drilling Limited Partnership, which does the freeze hole drilling at site. We are owners of Athabasca Basin Security, which provides the security for Cameco at Cigar. We're an owner of Flyer Electric, which is a leading electrical contractor in Western Canada, and they are quite present at Cigar Lake as well as the other mine sites. And oddly enough, we own a company called Arctic Beverages, which is a distributor, and they would distribute products from time to time at sites like Cigar Lake. We're also in the Mudjatic Thyssen Mining joint venture. So we have up to seven different companies that would be working from time to time at Cigar Lake operations.

MEMBER BERUBE: Given that, if you're in a position to -- I'm not sure if you are having direct exposure to the operations or not -- but can you speak to any of the experiences that you have as you basically began working with Cameco in terms of on-site training, employee familiarization, these kind of things that are relevant to occupational health and safety.

MR. GAY: For the record, Geoff Gay.

And that's a great question. So I'll give

an example of one of our companies that is working on site there, a long-term contractor. This company has daily toolbox meetings in which two Cameco representatives participate in the meetings. They also have weekly meetings with the on staff site, and the management team from this company participates with Cameco senior management on a quarterly basis. And in talking to the management team of this service provider, safety is always the number one issue that they're discussing along with environment. And they're also pushing on our hiring of RSN residents for the job site as well.

MEMBER BERUBE: So your impressions are that things are well managed over there and that your businesses are well taken care of in terms of their needs when they're on site?

MR. GAY: Yes. All of our -- Geoff Gay, for the record.

Yes, our companies are very positive on that. And just to give some perspective, as I mentioned, we work -- our companies work all across Canada for many other resource companies and speak in high regard of Cameco's policies and procedures.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Dr. McKinnon?

MEMBER MCKINNON: Yes, thank you. It's

very I think important for mines to have the long-term sustainable benefits economically to northern communities.

Have any of the businesses that have been formed -- have any businesses been formed specifically through serving Cigar Lake that will persist beyond the life of the mine and operate regionally?

MR. GAY: So when we were formed -- Geoff Gay, for the record.

In 2003, when we were formed, almost all of our work was within the uranium industry and in particular at a mine site like Cigar. We've encouraged all of our companies to diversify beyond just the uranium industry. So for instance, our drilling company, when it first started out, was doing the freeze hole at Cigar. They're now working within the diamond sector, potash sector. They've done work in iron ore, copper, gold, you name it.

So that is part of our mandate is to, you know, maximize on the opportunities that are available at a mine site like Cigar, but also encourage the diversification because we want to make sure that if the mine eventually closes that we do have something when the mine is done. And again, that was really the thoughtful leadership from Athabasca leaders way back 20 years ago.

MEMBER MCKINNON: Okay, thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Gay. And any final words from you?

MR. GAY: No, I just want to thank the Commission for hearing me today. And Athabasca Basin Development is in support of Cameco's relicensing.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you for your intervention.

This concludes the oral presentations scheduled for today and brings us to the close of the hearing for today. The hearing will resume tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m. EDT or 8:30 a.m. Saskatchewan time.

Thank you all for participation and attendance today. And have a nice evening, and I look forward to seeing you again tomorrow.

Bye bye.

--- Whereupon the hearing adjourned at 5:04 p.m., to resume on Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. /
L'audience est ajournée à 17 h 04 pour reprendre le jeudi 29 avril 2021 à 10 h 30