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# Notice of Public Hearing

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October 28, 2021

Ref. 2022-H-07

## **CNSC to conduct a public hearing on Canadian Nuclear Laboratories' application to amend its Chalk River Laboratories site licence to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility**

The [Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission](#) (CNSC) will hold a 2-part public hearing on February 22, 2022, and starting on May 31, 2022, to consider an application from Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Ltd. (CNL) to amend its nuclear research and test establishment operating licence for the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) site to authorize the construction of a near surface disposal facility (NSDF). The CRL site is located in Deep River, Ontario.

The current licence authorizes CNL to operate the CRL site, composed of a range of nuclear facilities, radioisotope labs, waste management facilities and other supporting facilities. In its licence amendment request, CNL is seeking approval to add the construction of the NSDF, a proposed engineered containment mound for low-level radioactive waste along with supporting facilities, to the CRL licensing basis. The NSDF is considered to be a new Class IB facility pursuant to paragraph 19(a) of the [General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations](#) and section 1 of the [Class I Nuclear Facilities Regulations](#). CNL proposes to construct the NSDF within the next 3 years and operate the facility (waste emplacement) for 50 years. This would be followed by a 30-year period to decommission redundant supporting facilities, with capping and closure of the mound ending by the year 2100.

In May 2016, CNSC staff determined that the proposed NSDF meets the definition of a “designated project” under the [Regulations Designating Physical Activities](#) and is therefore subject to an environmental assessment (EA) under the [Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#) (CEAA 2012). Although the [Impact Assessment Act](#) came into force in August 2019, replacing CEAA 2012, it includes provisions to allow ongoing projects with EAs initiated under CEAA 2012 to continue under their existing EA processes. As a prerequisite to the licence amendment decision, the Commission must also make an EA decision to determine whether the proposed activities are likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects.

Date (Part 1):	February 22, 2022
Place:	To be determined (at the CNSC public hearing room, 14th floor, 280 Slater Street, Ottawa, ON, and/or virtual via Zoom)
Time:	As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date
Date (Part 2):	Starting on May 31, 2022 (duration to be determined)
Place:	To be determined (in local communities if possible, or at the CNSC public hearing room and/or virtual via Zoom)
Time:	As set by the agenda published prior to the hearing date

The public hearing will be webcast live and available on the CNSC website at [nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca).

The CNSC made funding available through its [Participant Funding Program](#) in 2 phases. The first phase of funding, offered in May 2016, was to assist Indigenous peoples, members of the public and stakeholders in reviewing CNL's draft environmental impact statement. The second phase of funding, offered in March 2019, was to assist in reviewing CNSC staff's Environmental Assessment Report and associated documents, and in participating in the Commission hearing process by providing topic-specific interventions to the Commission. A funding review committee (FRC), independent of the CNSC, reviewed the funding applications received and made recommendations on the allocation of funds. Based on recommendations from the FRC, the [CNSC awarded](#) a total of \$124,824.79 for the first phase to 9 applicants, and [awarded](#) a total of \$192,328.92 for the second phase to 11 applicants.

CNL first submitted a licence amendment application to construct the NSDF in March 2017. CNL's licence amendment application is posted on the [CNL website](#). CNL's submission and CNSC staff's recommendations to be considered at the hearing will be available on the CNSC website, or on request to the Secretariat, after **January 24, 2022**.

Pursuant to rule 19 of the *Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Rules of Procedure*, persons who have an interest or expertise in this matter or information that may be useful to the Commission in coming to a decision are invited to comment on CNL's application. Requests to intervene must be filed with the Commission Secretariat by **April 11, 2022**, using the [online request form](#) or the contact information below. **The request to intervene must include the following information:**

- a written submission of the comments to be presented to the Commission
- a statement setting out whether the requester wishes to intervene by way of written submission only or by way of written submission and oral presentation
- the requester's name, address, telephone number and email address

All submissions will be available for download on the CNSC website or on request to the Secretariat. Personal information, such as email address and telephone number, is essential for linking the submission to its author. If you wish to ensure the confidentiality of your personal information, please submit it on a separate page.

**For further information on the public Commission hearing process, or on the licensee or the facility being considered in this matter, or to request documents, contact:**

Senior Tribunal Officer, Secretariat  
Tel.: 613-858-7651 or 1-800-668-5284  
Fax: 613-995-5086  
Email: [interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca](mailto:interventions@cnsccsn.gc.ca)  
Web: [Participate in a public Commission hearing](#)