September 30, 2020

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Marc Leblanc
Commission Secretary
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
P.O. Box 1046, Station B
280 Slater Street
Ottawa, ON K1P 5S9

Dear Mr. Leblanc:

Cameco Corporation – Blind River Refinery Renewal of Licence FFOL-3632.0/2022 for a 10-year term

As you are aware, the current licence for Cameco Corporation’s (Cameco) Blind River Refinery, FFOL-3632.0/2022 is set to expire on February 28, 2022. We are writing to you, as the licence applicant, to request a renewal of our Class IB Nuclear Fuel Facility Operating Licence for a period of 10 years.

The Blind River Refinery (BRR) is located at 328 Eldorado Road, Blind River, Ontario. The facility is currently licensed to process and store natural uranium compounds. The current licence allows for the production of up to 18,000 tonnes of uranium as uranium trioxide (UO₃) with approval to increase the annual production rate to 24,000 tU as UO₃ subject to the following conditions:

(a) The proposed modifications of the facility as specified in Cameco’s letter dated June 28, 2011, are completed and commissioned;

(b) a final commissioning report on the proposed modifications specified in Cameco’s letter dated June 28, 2011, is submitted to the Commission or a person authorized by the Commission for review and acceptance; and
(c) the final commissioning report specified in (b) above is accepted in writing by the Commission or a person authorized by the Commission.

 Cameco is not seeking changes to the authorized activities or approved production rates as set out in this application and referenced documents.

 The attached application will provide the information required to support renewal of the licence for a period of ten years. A detailed mapping of the licence application requirements is provided in Appendix 4 of the attached application.

 Cameco is committed to the safe operation of all of our facilities and strives to continually improve safety performance and processes to ensure the safety of our employees and the people in neighbouring communities. In support of continual improvement, BRR maintains strong programs, plans and procedures in the areas of health safety, radiation protection, environment, emergency response, fire safety, waste management and operations quality assurance.

 As a result of these actions, BRR’s operations have maintained radiation exposures well below the dose limits. Environmental emissions are being controlled to levels that are a fraction of the release limits, and public radiation exposures are well below the established limits.

 The performance of this facility over the current licence period demonstrates that BRR is qualified to carry out the activities permitted under the licence. As required by subsection 5(a) of the General Nuclear Safety and Control Regulations (GNSCR), the enclosed application describes the BRR operations and the supporting information to demonstrate that Cameco is qualified to carry on the activities that the licence renewal would authorize and will, in carrying on its 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.

 Pursuant to section 15 of the GNSCR, I have the authority to sign the application on behalf of Cameco and certify that all statements and representations made in the application and any supplementary documentation are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and are binding on Cameco.
If you have any questions or if we can provide you with additional information to facilitate your review of this application, then please do not hesitate to contact me or the BRR General Manager, Chris Astles.

Sincerely,

Dale Clark,
Vice President, Fuel Services Division

c. J. Thelen, C. Ducros, K. Murthy (CNSC)
   T. Smith, C. Astles, R. Peters, K. MacIver, L. Mooney ( Cameco)