

Record of Proceedings

Ruling on Requests from Intervenors for the Deferral of Hearings and the Relocation of the Hearings in Port Hope Concerning the Mid-Term Reports of Cameco's Port Hope Facility and Zircatec Precision Industries

1. Introduction

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission is holding hearings on February 23, 2005, regarding the mid-term performance reports of Cameco's Port Hope and Blind River facilities and of Zircatec Precision Industries Inc.. A number of intervenors have requested that the hearings pertaining to Cameco's Port Hope facility and Zircatec Precision Industries Inc. be deferred to a later date when additional information is available. They have also requested that the hearings be held in Port Hope.

2. Establishment of Panel

On Thursday, October 24, 2002, the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission established a panel of the Commission consisting of Linda J. Keen pursuant to section 22 of the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* to rule on procedural matters pertaining to hearings of the Commission, including: requests for a change in venue of the hearing/meeting; requests for a delay in the commencement of proceedings; requests for late filing of documents; and requests to extend the time periods within which parties may file an intervention.

3. Decision

Based on its consideration of this matter, the panel of the Commission has rejected the requests for a deferral of the hearings and the relocation of the hearings in Port Hope.

The purpose of the mid-term hearings is to require CNSC staff to present their assessment of the performance of a licensee at or near the mid-term point of their operating licence. CNSC staff has filed its reports within the hearing deadlines set by the Commission. The mid-term hearings were originally planned to take place in August 2004, but were

postponed to be held at the same time as a separate hearing on the Environmental Assessment screening report for a proposed Cameco SEU facility. In light of delays with the latter project, the Commission decided that a further postponement in the hearings on the mid-term reports could not be justified. The panel of the Commission is satisfied that the hearings should proceed as planned on February 23, 2005 and that further steps, if any, be determined at the conclusion of the scheduled hearings when the participants have been heard.

With respect to the relocation, the panel of the Commission confirms that the hearings on the mid-term reports will be held in Ottawa. However, it notes that video-conferencing facilities will be set up in Port Hope and that local residents will be able to fully participate from Port Hope.

3. Conclusion

This ruling will be read into the public record and form part of the transcripts to be made available to the public in the days following the hearings scheduled to take place on February 23, 2005.

Linda J. Keen

Date