

**CNSC-SASKATCHEWAN ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT
FOR THE REGULATION OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
AT SASKATCHEWAN URANIUM MINES AND MILLS**

OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the Saskatchewan departments of Environment and Labour have negotiated an administrative agreement which optimizes the participation of Saskatchewan Environment (SE) and Saskatchewan Labour (Labour) in the administration of the CNSC's regulatory regime, while continuing to ensure the protection of health, safety and the environment with respect to uranium mines and mills.

The Agreement responds to the recommendation of the Joint Federal-Provincial Panel on Uranium Mining Developments in Northern Saskatchewan that further cooperation between the federal and provincial agencies regulating uranium mines and mills would reduce costs, simplify compliance on the part of operators and make it easier for the public to research the impacts of uranium mines and mills.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Agreement is to provide for collaboration between the CNSC, SE and Labour in the regulation of uranium mines and mills in Saskatchewan, in order to:

- protect the health, safety and security of Canadians and their environment;
- harmonize the CNSC's, SE's and Labour's regulatory requirements and regulatory activities, where practicable;
- optimize the participation of SE and Labour in the CNSC's assessment, licensing and compliance programs for uranium mines and mills; and
- improve the delivery of regulatory programs through a single regulatory process to the fullest extent possible.

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COMMITMENTS UNDER THE AGREEMENT

Compliance, assessment and licensing

- The CNSC, SE and Labour agree to develop and implement a harmonized compliance program, which will lead, within three years, to the administration by Saskatchewan of agreed upon elements of the CNSC's compliance program.
- Following successful completion of training in the CNSC's regulatory requirements, SE and Labour inspectors will be appointed as inspectors under the NSC Act.
- In a pilot project, Saskatchewan officials will participate in the preparation of staff licensing recommendations made to the Commission. The results of the pilot project will be taken into consideration in the development and implementation of a harmonized licensing assessment process.

Review of federal and provincial statutes and regulations

Federal and provincial statutes and regulations will be reviewed to determine if a better legal framework could be established for the regulation of uranium mines and mills. This review will include a consideration as to the appropriateness of incorporating by reference provincial legislation related to the protection of health, safety and the environment as regulations under the NSC Act.

Development of a harmonized assessment and licensing regime

Within three years, the CNSC, SE and Labour will enter into further negotiations with respect to the development of a harmonized assessment and licensing regime. These negotiations will build upon the cooperative arrangements put in place under this Agreement, and take into considerations the lessons learned during the development of the harmonized compliance program and the pilot program on licensing assessment.

KEY PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION

Some of the key principles which will guide this process are:

- When developing and implementing any arrangements or measures as part of this Agreement, the priority will be to ensure the protection of health, safety and the environment.
- The CNSC, SE and Labour undertake to improve the delivery of their regulatory programs for all stakeholders by (a) improving access to their regulatory regimes, (b) increasing the coordination and timeliness of regulatory decisions, and (c) developing where practicable, a "single window" regulatory process.

- The CNSC, SE and Labour remain accountable for the administration of their respective regulatory requirements.

RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS

The Agreement includes a process for ensuring consultation between the CNSC, SE and Labour in order to resolve any disagreements regarding the administration of the Agreement. The process for resolving disagreements does not interfere with the responsibilities of the CNSC, SE or Labour to enforce their respective regulatory requirements, or alter any rights of licensees or any persons affected by a decision to comment upon, dispute or appeal orders or decisions, as provided for in statutes.