



Susan O'Donnell <susanodo.ca@gmail.com>

A-2022-00098 / NB - CNSC Access to Information Request - Response

1 message

Dubuc, Philip <Philip.Dubuc@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

30 August 2023 at 12:11

To:

Cc: "Belanger, Nancy" <nancy.belanger@cnsccsn.gc.ca>

Dear Susan O'Donnell,

This is in response to your request under the Access to Information Act for:

"Please provide all communications received by the President, any of the Vice-Presidents, the Executive Advisor, the Commission Secretary, and the Office of Audit, Evaluation and Ethics with respect to the "recycling" or "reprocessing" of nuclear fuel waste (irradiated nuclear fuel, spent fuel, CANDU fuel) including as may be undertaken in conjunction with nuclear research or small modular reactors generated between May 31, 2000 and December 31, 2022. Please include those communications generated within the CNSC and those received from federal departments, regulatory bodies and contracted entities, including but not limited to Natural Resources Canada, Atomic Energy Canada Limited and Canadian Nuclear Laboratories, and any private sector entity or agent including but not limited to the Canadian Nuclear Society, Canadian Nuclear Association, CANDU Owners Group or others. "

Please find all the accessible records you requested attached. The exemption provisions s.13(1), 19(1), 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b), 69(1)(e), and 69(1)(g) of the Act have been applied to the package (outlined below):

- 13(1) information obtained in confidence
- 19(1) personal information
- 21(1)(a) advice or recommendations
- 21(1)(b) consultations or deliberations
- 69(1)(e) briefings to Ministers on Council matters, or discussions referred to in (d)
- 69(1)(g) any records making a reference to (a) to (f)

Please refer to the following website to view these provisions: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/a-1/>

You have the right to file a complaint with the Information Commissioner of Canada about this aspect of the processing of your request for a period of 60 days following the receipt of this notice. The address is:

30 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Québec
K1A 1H3

Or online at: <https://www.oic-ci.gc.ca/en/submitted-complaint>

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Nancy Belanger at nancy.belanger@cnsccsn.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Philip Dubuc

ATIP Coordinator/ Coordinateur AIPRP

Access to Information and Privacy /

Accès à l'information et protection d'information personnel

Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission /

Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire

Khan, Muhammad Atif

From: Walker-Sisttie, Rhonda
Sent: July 28, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Velshi, Rumina; Elder, Peter; Jammal, Ramzi
Cc: Boudrias, Geneviève
Subject: RE: 2nd Open Letter

Hi President Velshi,

Thank you too! We are actively in the process of updating along the lines that you note below. I will send you what we come up with as soon as the SMEs finish with their feedback in the morning. Thanks again, Rhonda

From: Velshi, Rumina <rumina.velshi@cnsccsn.gc.ca>
Sent: July 28, 2021 8:23 PM
To: Walker-Sisttie, Rhonda <rhonda.walker-sisttie@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Elder, Peter <Peter.Elder@cnsccsn.gc.ca>; Jammal, Ramzi <Ramzi.Jammal@cnsccsn.gc.ca>
Cc: Boudrias, Geneviève <Genevieve.Boudrias@cnsccsn.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: 2nd Open Letter

Rhonda
Thx for this updated document.

I need some clarification on what exactly is our top line message re response to this second open letter. What is included below, whilst accurate and complete - does not address the concerns raised.

For example:

Whether Canada decides on reprocessing nuclear fuel is a policy decision made by xxxx and not the role of the CNSC.

CNSC's role is to ensure compliance with

Maybe a quick call tomorrow to discuss?

Rumina

On Jul 28, 2021, at 8:11 PM, Walker-Sisttie, Rhonda <rhonda.walker-sisttie@cnsccsn.gc.ca> wrote:

Dear EC,

Sharing for your information the media lines we had developed for use reactively when the first open letter was sent in late May. They are being reviewed for any necessary updates and we will keep these evergreen.

Thanks, Rhonda

Topic: On May 25, 2021, a group of US experts published an open letter to Prime Minister Trudeau about their concerns regarding Canadian support for Moltex's proposed SMR technology, which they contend could undermine the global nuclear-weapons nonproliferation regime. Moltex responded to letter and has sought CNSC advice about speaking about the IAEA's role in reviewing their technology. On July 28,

2021, the US experts published a second letter, refuting the claims that Moltex has made in their public responses, focusing on reprocessing and the IAEA's role.

Issue: The US experts are calling on Canada's government to conduct an expert review of the proliferation and radioactive waste implications of Moltex's proposal, as well as of its economic prospects. While CNSC has a role to play in these areas, our mandate requires us oversee Canada's nuclear industry by regulating the development, production and use of nuclear energy in Canada to protect health, safety and the environment. It also includes implementing Canada's existing nuclear non-proliferation policy under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Natural Resources Canada is currently leading the review of Canada's radioactive waste policy and also provided funding to Moltex to advance their molten salt reactor and spent fuel recycling project through the Strategic Innovation Fund.

Background: CNSC staff have provided technical advice to Moltex as part of a Phase 1 pre-licensing vendor design review (VDR) of the SSR W300 molten salt reactor. The VDR process is a high-level review of the proposed reactor technology's design information against Canadian regulatory requirements and guidance. The service does not involve the issuance of a licence under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and is not part of the licensing process. The conclusions of such a review do not bind or otherwise influence decisions made by the Commission. The CNSC's licensing processes will require a more detailed review of the design and safety case for a specific licence application at a specific site.

Key messages:

Non proliferation

- As part of an international community of nuclear regulators, the CNSC works with partners around the globe to strengthen nuclear security and non-proliferation at home and abroad, and participates in various committees and activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This includes the verification, through accounting and reporting procedures, that the provisions of Canada's nuclear cooperation agreements are being met.
- CNSC staff provides expert technical advice and support to Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD), and other government departments, on nuclear non-proliferation policies and control measures.
- Canada was an early signatory to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, which requires that nuclear weapons states of that time (the US, UK, France, Russia and China) not supply weapons or weapons technology to non-weapons states, and non-weapons states not seek to acquire such weapons.
- Canada is also a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) whose members adhere to guidelines on exports of nuclear and nuclear-related

material, equipment and technology to ensure such items will not be used for weapons purposes.

- For more information, see our Non-proliferation webpage:
<http://www.nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/resources/non-proliferation/index.cfm>

Vendor design review

- A Pre-Licensing Vendor Design Review (VDR) is a process whereby CNSC staff provide feedback to companies designing a new reactor, early in the process.
- Vendors can request a VDR before a licence application is submitted to the CNSC. The review is not required, is not an application for a licence, nor is it an indication of intent to proceed with a project.
- A VDR also does not certify a reactor design. The conclusions of any design review do not bind or otherwise influence decisions made by the Commission.
- The CNSC completed a Phase 1 vendor design review of Moltex's small modular reactor.
- A Phase 1 vendor design review is done against the most recent design requirements for new nuclear power plants in Canada.
- Overall, Moltex showed an understanding of Canada's nuclear design requirements.

Spokesperson:

Non proliferation: Pascale Bourassa, Director, Non Proliferation and Export Controls Division, CNSC

Vendor design reviews: Melanie Rickard, Director, Assessment Integration Division