



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

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Our file: A-2022-00382 / JOB

August 8, 2023

Susan O'Donnell

Dear Susan O'Donnell:

This is in response to your request made under the *Access to Information Act*, which was received in our Department on December 28, 2022 and reads as follows:

**“All communications received by the Minister, Deputy Minister, Associate Minister or Directors in the Department 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 January 1, 2016, and Present December 28, 2022. Include those communications generated within the department and those received from other federal departments, regulatory bodies and contracted entities, including but not limited to Natural Resources Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, 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.”**

Enclosed is the first package of documents that are relevant to your request.

You will notice that certain information has been withheld from disclosure in accordance with the exemptions or exclusions described in sections 15(1) I.A., 19(1), 20(1)(b), 21(1)(a), 21(1)(b), and 69(1)(g) re (a) of the *Act*. We have enclosed the texts of these sections of the *Act* for your information.

The second package of documents will be sent to you once final recommendations regarding their disclosure have been received.

Please be advised that you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within 60 days after the day that you become aware that grounds for a complaint exist. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

The Information Commissioner of Canada  
30 Victoria Street  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 1H3  
Telephone: (613) 995-2410 (National Capital Region)  
1-800-267-0441 (Toll-free)

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Julie O'Bryan at 343-543-5022 or by e-mail at [julie.obryan@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca](mailto:julie.obryan@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca).

Sincerely yours,

*Nikolina Vaskovic*

for: Ami Najm  
Director  
Access to Information and Privacy

Enclosures: Pages 1 to 70



March 24, 2022

**RE: Natural Resources Canada's Draft Policy on Radioactive Waste Management and Decommissioning**

Moltex appreciates that Natural Resources Canada's draft policy incorporates many of the recommendations the company made during the initial call for input on waste minimization, waste storage facilities, decommissioning and waste disposal. The company also agrees with the Government of Canada's vision for radioactive waste management and the three policy principles intended to guide government commitments.

However, Moltex proposes that the final policy exclude draft commitment 1.5:

*The federal government: ensures that the deployment of reprocessing technology in Canada, which allows for the extraction of fissile material from used nuclear fuel, is subject to policy approval by the Government of Canada to ensure that due consideration is given to all relevant factors, including ensuring the health, safety and security of people in Canada, as well as compliance with international safeguards and non-proliferation treaties, and respect for environmental considerations.*

When Moltex assessed which country would be most suitable for developing its technology, Canada was a top choice, because it did not have any policies opposing reprocessing.

Draft commitment 1.5 requires a reprocessing policy; this would make it very difficult to attract investment until the reprocessing policy is finalized, which could take years. Moltex would likely not have come to Canada if a reprocessing policy had been mandated at the time.

Moltex believes that, before mandating a reprocessing policy, it would be beneficial to hear stakeholder views. Industry-government discussions on this topic are underway. Moltex is ready to support these discussions, and understands that they may eventually lead to a reprocessing policy. But mandating a reprocessing policy before discussions are complete is a barrier to funding – and consequently to advancing technologies that could lead to low-carbon power generation and a reduction in radioactive waste.

Uncertainty about the need for a reprocessing policy could also affect other companies pursuing innovation in minimizing nuclear waste, and may lead them to consider deployment of their technologies in other countries. For example, it could restrict companies that are evaluating ways of converting waste streams into more stable forms prior to storage and disposal.

Moltex values the opportunity to provide input on this matter, and looks forward to a final policy on radioactive waste management and decommissioning that considers the unique needs of companies pursuing waste reprocessing and minimization in Canada.

Sincerely,

Rory O'Sullivan  
CEO, North America  
Moltex Energy