

The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

BY EMAIL

February 1, 2021

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

The Canadian Environmental Law Association (“CELA”) offers its full support for Sagkeeng First Nation’s request for a strategic assessment of the *in situ* decommissioning of nuclear facilities, as filed by Corey Shefman of Olthuis Kleeer Townshend LLP.

CELA is a non-profit, public interest law organization. CELA is funded by Legal Aid Ontario as a speciality legal clinic to provide equitable access to justice to those otherwise unable to afford representation for environmental injustices. For nearly 50 years, CELA has used legal tools to advance the public interest, through advocacy and law reform, in order to increase environmental protection and safeguard communities across Canada.

CELA has a direct interest in this matter based on our decades-long experience intervening in the public interest on nuclear projects. On numerous occasions, CELA has appeared before the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on licensing matters and we remain active in federal environmental assessments, including the proposed *in situ* decommissioning of the Whiteshell reactor. We have also sought to uphold high standards for environmental protection and nuclear oversight in appeals before the Federal Court and Federal Court of Appeal.

On this basis, we offer our full support for Sagkeeng First Nation’s request for a strategic assessment of *in situ* decommissioning of nuclear facilities.

Regards,

<Original signed by>

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Theresa McClenaghan
Executive Director & Counsel

Canadian Environmental Law Association

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