

July 20, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Dr. Nana-Owusua Kwamena
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
PO Box 1046 Station B, 280 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Re: NexGen – Proposed Temporary Airstrip

Dear Dr. Kwamena,

I am writing in response to a letter from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) dated May 11, 2022, which references a designation request made by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan in relation to the temporary airstrip proposed by NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen) as part of its 2022 Site Program for its existing exploration camp in northwest Saskatchewan.

We wish to clarify a few matters raised in your letter as outlined below.

Background

NexGen has been active in exploration activities in northwest Saskatchewan since 2013. NexGen maintains an existing exploration camp and supporting infrastructure on its Rook I property in northwest Saskatchewan, all of which have been approved through provincial permitting processes. The Rook I Project, a proposed new uranium mining and milling operation, is currently undergoing review by the CNSC pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA, 2012) and by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV) pursuant to *The Environmental Assessment Act*.

In March 2022, NexGen applied to the ENV for approval of a 2022 Site Program focused on infrastructure upgrades to support increased regional exploration activity and continued engineering data confirmation. The 2022 Site Program application includes expansion of NexGen's existing temporary camp, site access improvements, collection of field data to support the engineering design for the Rook I Project, and development of a temporary airstrip.

The proposed temporary airstrip has been under discussion with provincial and federal regulators for some time. NexGen initiated discussions on the temporary airstrip with provincial regulators in 2018, prior to (and separate from) filing the Project Description for the Rook I Project in 2019. Although NexGen temporarily suspended its pursuit of the temporary airstrip due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these discussions resumed in 2021 with both federal and provincial regulators, well in advance of NexGen making its formal application to the ENV in 2022.

The temporary airstrip is intended to facilitate improved and safer access by NexGen personnel to carry out exploration and other related provincially regulated activities, and reflects NexGen's continued focus on addressing health, safety, and environmental aspects associated with its continuing access to operational facilities and regional exploration. A primary driver for constructing the proposed temporary airstrip is to improve the safe transportation of people. Travel on the existing unpaved highway for 155 kilometres has continually been assessed by NexGen as the highest risk factor to employees, contractors, and community

members. The temporary airstrip would enhance safety for personnel and regional/community road users (through reduced use of roads/highways, improved emergency response capabilities, etc.) and mitigate environmental impacts associated with increased road use (less dust, traffic-wildlife interactions, etc.).

Indigenous and local communities are supportive of constructing the temporary airstrip and there is broad understanding that this activity is separate from the ongoing environmental assessment of the Rook I Project. Letters from the Clearwater River Dene Nation, Birch Narrows Dene Nation, and Buffalo River Dene Nation are enclosed, each confirming their support for the 2022 Site Program and the temporary airstrip.

Regulatory Considerations

NexGen's position is that the temporary airstrip is a matter of provincial jurisdiction given that it is intended to improve access to NexGen's existing exploration camp and supporting infrastructure, and to facilitate regional exploration activities (all of which were approved under or are subject to provincial permitting processes). These activities have been ongoing since 2013 and are not part of the Rook I Project being assessed by the CNSC.

The temporary airstrip proposed under the 2022 Site Program is clearly distinct in purpose, scope, and design from the airport facility described in the environmental impact statement prepared in support of the environmental assessment for the Rook I Project. Specifically:

- Runway length. The airport contemplated for the Rook I Project includes a much longer runway than the proposed temporary airstrip (1,600 metre runway versus 990 metre runway).
- Airport Structures. The airport contemplated for the Rook I Project is expected to include a fuelling area, a de-icing area, a lighting system, and navigation equipment. The proposed temporary airstrip would not include any of these structures or equipment.
- Aircraft Size. The airport contemplated for the Rook I Project would be sized to match the landing and take-off requirements of regional commuter aircraft that can accommodate up to approximately 45 passengers per flight required for construction of the Rook I Project. The proposed temporary airstrip would be utilized to transport site personnel to NexGen's existing exploration camp, and only be able to serve small aircraft up to approximately 14 passengers.

In advancing the works proposed as part of the 2022 Site Program, including the proposed temporary airstrip, we have followed the appropriate regulatory process and proactively engaged with regulatory agencies and local Indigenous Groups. We nevertheless understand that the CNSC has determined that the proposed activities appear to be sufficiently similar to the activities being assessed under the ongoing CEAA, 2012 assessment such that development of the temporary airstrip should be reviewed as part of the federal environmental assessment. The CNSC has recommended that NexGen not proceed with the construction of the temporary airstrip until after provincial and federal environmental assessment decisions have been issued.

NexGen and the CRDN, BRDN, and BNDN communities respectfully do not concur with the CNSC's conclusion in respect of this matter for the reasons outlined above. NexGen appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter to clarify the facts regarding the temporary airstrip and will continue to work transparently with all stakeholders and the CNSC in the advancement of the Rook I Project.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (604) 970-0248 or by email at lmoger@nxe-energy.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L Moger".

Luke Moger, P.Eng., PMP
VP Environment, Permitting & Licensing

cc. Nicole Frigault, CNSC
Dana Pandolfi, CNSC
Patrick Burton, CNSC
Brianna England, ENV
Steve Wilkie, ENV
Leigh Curyer, Chief Executive Officer & Director, NexGen

Encl: July 14, 2022 letter from Clearwater River Dene Nation
July 15, 2022 letter from Birch Narrows Dene Nation
July 15, 2022 letter from Buffalo River Dene Nation



To whom it may concern,

Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN) would like to confirm that we support the 2022 Site Program as described in the permit applications submitted to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (SKMoE) by NexGen Energy Ltd. (NexGen).

As noted in the Rook I 2022 Site Program support letter to the SKMoE (dated April 29, 2022), NexGen has engaged early on and often with CRDN, and most recently on the 2022 Site Programs that were proposed to occur at the Rook I property this year. NexGen went through a rigorous and transparent engagement process with our leadership and Engagement Team to ensure we were fully informed on the scope and objectives of the Programs. Through this process, CRDN fully understood that the scopes proposed as part of the 2022 Site Program are related to ongoing operations at the Rook I property and planned regional exploration activities, and are not in connection with the proposed Rook I Project which is currently the subject of an ongoing environmental assessment (EA).

The 2022 Site Program includes scopes relating to a proposed temporary airstrip. Through engagement with NexGen and the review and assessment of the application submitted to the SKMoE for this temporary airstrip, CRDN understands that this is not the same as the permanent airstrip in the Rook I Project EA. With that we are writing this to confirm for the benefit of all interested parties (as we did the SKMoE on April 29, 2022), that we are fully supportive of NexGen's proposed temporary airstrip, as it addresses mitigates health, safety, and environmental impacts by reducing the traffic on the highways our membership uses day in and day out.

The partnership developed between NexGen and CRDN facilitates success for both CRDN and NexGen while we advance the Rook I Project in a responsible manner. We, through our CRDN engagement process, will facilitate on-going reassurances with NexGen towards CRDN consultation requirements.

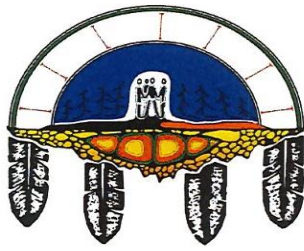
As caretakers of our homelands as identified with CRDN traditional territory, we look forward to working side by side with NexGen and to continue addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #92 as we grow the Rook I project together.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teddy Clark", written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Chief Teddy Clark

cc. Council Elect
Community Elders
Camm Willier – Engagement Lead
Jeff Langlois – JFK Law
Leigh Curyer – NXE President & Chief Executive Officer
Luke Moger – NXE Vice President, Environment, Permitting & Licensing
Adam Engdahl – NXE Vice President, Community



Birch Narrows Dene Nation

Administration

P.O. Box 40

Turnor Lake, Sask

S0M 3E0

Telephone: 306.894.2030

Facsimile: 306.894.2060

Email: officemanager@birchnarrows.ca

To Whom it may Concern,

NexGen Energy has been conducting exploration programs in northwest area of Saskatchewan with a focus around the Patterson Lake area over the last decade. Through the exploration phases, NexGen continued to engage early on and often with communities in the Local Priority Area (LPA) and more specifically with Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN).

From this open, transparent, and respectful manner that NexGen engages with BNDN, we have developed a strong relationship and solid partnership to collaboratively develop the Rook I Project in a responsible manner.

NexGen takes the steps and supports BNDN to ensure leadership and the community are fully informed on the scope and objectives of the programs in which they are proposing to conduct at Rook I. Through this transparent and agreed upon engagement process, BNDN has been made aware and understands that the 2022 Site Program are related to ongoing operations at the Rook I property and planned regional exploration activities. The BNDN engagement team and leadership understand that these programs for 2022 are not connected with the ongoing environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Rook I Project.

The early engagement on the 2022 Site Program included a review of the proposed temporary airstrip. Through this transparent engagement with NexGen and assessment of the application submitted to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment for this proposed temporary airstrip, BNDN understands that the scope for this proposed temporary strip is not the same as the permanent airstrip in the Rook I Project EA. Even more so, BNDN understands the proposed temporary airstrip will address health, safety, and environmental impacts by reducing the traffic on the highways. With that we want to ensure that all regulatory bodies (both provincially and federally) and NexGen fully understand that we are supportive of the proposed temporary airstrip.

BNDN would like to share that we support NexGen and their efforts to conduct these 2022 programs at the Rook I property in the responsible manner they have conducted themselves with to date.

Thank You,

Chief Jonathon Sylvestre

Birch Narrows Dene Nation

cc. Anthony Clark – BNDDI Chief Executive Officer
Luke Moger – NXE Vice President, Environment, Permitting & Licensing
Adam Engdahl – NXE Vice President, Community



BUFFALO RIVER
DENE NATION

To Whom it may Concern,

Over the years NexGen has continued to show that they are genuinely committed to engagement and participation with Indigenous communities. Early on, Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN) leadership and membership noticed this engagement approach was different. NexGen was there to listen and learn in a collaborative manner.

NexGen engages with BRDN in an open, transparent, and respectful manner that has continued to cultivate a genuine relationship and solid partnership to collaboratively develop the Rook I Project (the Project) in a responsible manner that addresses the Project and community needs.

During early engagement in late 2021 and early 2022, BRDN engaged with NexGen and had the opportunity to review the permit applications that NexGen was planning to submit to the respective Saskatchewan Ministries to conduct an exploration program and site works program in 2022 at the Rook I property.


The collaborative engagement process defined by BRDN and NexGen went through the proposed 2022 Site Program application in detail. Through this engagement, BRDN fully understood the scope of the 2022 site program and that it is related to the ongoing operations at the Rook I property, and is not connected to the ongoing environmental assessment (EA) for the Project.

This transparent engagement with NexGen included a review of the proposed temporary airstrip. This letter is to confirm that BRDN is fully supportive of NexGen's proposed temporary airstrip as it adds yet another level to reduce environmental impacts while providing a safer manner of travel to and from the Rook I site for everyone.

BRDN would like to share that we support NexGen and their efforts to conduct these 2022 programs at Rook I in the responsible manner they have conducted themselves to date.

The mutual respect and collaboration between NexGen and BRDN supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #92 "Economic Reconciliation". It is established with meaningful participation woven throughout the relationship ensuring sustainability for each partner, the environment, and is a holistic approach to modern developments.

Thank You,



Chief Norma Catarat

cc. Adam Engdahl – NXE Vice President, Community