



Canadian Nuclear  
Safety Commission

Commission canadienne  
de sûreté nucléaire

## Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission Informing the Public



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[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)

E-docs 3554427

## Nuclear safety means protecting Canadians



### Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

- Canada's nuclear regulator
- Established in May 2000 under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*
- Regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to:
  - protect the health, safety and security of persons and the environment;
  - respect Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy; and
  - disseminate objective information



***Our mission is clear!***

## ***CNSC regulates all nuclear -related facilities and activities...***

- Nuclear power plants
- Uranium mines and mills
- Uranium fuel fabricators and processing
- Nuclear substance processing
- Industrial and medical applications of nuclear substances
- Research and educational facilities
- Export/import of controlled nuclear substances, equipment and technology
- Waste management facilities



***...from cradle to grave***

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## ***Communication isn't optional for the CNSC...***

Section 9.(b) of the NSCA states that the Commission will

- “...disseminate objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public concerning the activities of the Commission and the effects, on the environment and on the health and safety of persons...” from nuclear energy, nuclear substances, prescribed equipment, and prescribed information



***...it's the law!***

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## The CNSC communicates with the public...



Commission Proceedings



Public Presentations



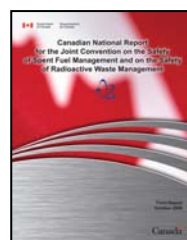
Community Events



Conferences and Tradeshows



Web Site



Public Reports

**...in a variety of ways**

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## Commission Tribunal



- Quasi-judicial administrative tribunal, with independent members
- Holds public hearings and meetings on licensing matters for major nuclear facilities
- Commission hearings are Webcast
- 11 separate licensing hearings and 145 intervenors in 2009
- Commission decisions and transcripts posted on CNSC public Web site



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## CNSC staff engage communities...

Community presentations,  
information sessions and  
open houses



Joint regulatory group inspections  
with federal, provincial, local  
partners and members of the public

**...to inform them about what we do for Canadians**

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## Aboriginal Consultation



- The CNSC ensures that all its licensing decisions under the NSCA and environmental assessment decisions under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*
- Codification of Current Practice: CNSC Commitment to Aboriginal Consultation ([nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca))
- Harmonized Aboriginal consultation with other federal, provincial, and/or territorial regulatory departments and agencies through a one-window approach, with respect to environmental assessment and licensing activities

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## Stakeholder input on the Regulatory Framework



- Consultation with the public, licensees and interested organizations is an important part of the CNSC's process to develop many of the regulatory tools within its regulatory framework
- The CNSC welcomes public input on draft documents that are open for consultation
- Each document is made available for public comment in its draft form for a specified period of time
- A Consultation Report is then prepared to summarize the feedback and made available to the Commission Tribunal when the draft document is presented for approval or publication

## Example of stakeholder input into Regulatory Framework: CNSC Webinar on April 28, 2010



- Hosting Webinar workshop for stakeholders on pre-consultation on the development of new regulatory documents.
- CNSC staff presentations
- Online questions answered in real-time
- Format enabled interactive participation across Canada and abroad
- Made information easily accessible





## CNSC Web site: [nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



- Commission Tribunal agendas, decisions and transcripts
- Information on how the public can get involved and have their say
- Regulatory Framework documents
- Information about Environmental Assessments and new nuclear projects
- CNSC annual reports and publications
- CNSC technical papers, presentations and articles
- Activities in the nuclear sector and CNSC participation in public events
- Timely and factual nuclear-related information about:
  - News releases and information bulletins
  - Regulatory action
  - Industry safety performance reports
  - Fact sheets

***An important vehicle to disseminate information***

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## Licensee Public Information Programs



- Class I nuclear facilities must have an ongoing Public Information Program (PIP)
- Regulatory Guide G-217, *Licensee Public Information Programs* outlines the program's elements
- Primary goal of G-217: *“ensure that environmental and health and safety issues that may arise as a result of the facility...are effectively communicated to the public, in a manner that complies with established regulations”*
- Assessed throughout the facility's lifecycle
- Included in CNSC staff recommendations that is presented to the Commission at licensing hearing
- CNSC staff may make recommendations for improvement to the licensee's PIP if it is found to be inadequate or incomplete

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## Proactive Disclosure



- The importance of proactive public disclosure on important developments as accurately, broadly and quickly as possible
  - a recent and on-going example is Atomic Energy of Canada Limited's public communications, including a dedicated Website, related to its efforts to repair the National Research Universal nuclear reactor

***Ensures the public is informed of CNSC and licensee activities***

## What have we learned?



- Information for the public should be proactive, timely, in plain language and readily available
- To ensure the public is receiving factual information it is important to rebut non-scientific statements regarding radioactive waste management
- Tailor communications to the target audience and engage early
- Developing relationships is a two-way street; it takes time and commitment

***Information is a right, not a privilege***

## New Initiatives: CNSC 101



### CNSC 101: An Information Session for Stakeholders

- On June 11, 2010 - CNSC will hold a one-day pilot information session that will provide a comprehensive introduction to the CNSC.
- Designed to provide any members of the interested public and licensees with an overview of the CNSC's history, structure, mandate, and three core processes: Manage the Regulatory Framework, Licensing and Compliance.
- Future sessions in the fall of 2010

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## For more information on CNSC...

Visit our Web site  
[nuclearsafety.gc.ca](http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca)



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Thank You



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