

Opening Remarks:

Terry Jamieson  
Vice-President, Technical Support Branch  
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

Standing Committee on Access to Information, Privacy and Ethics

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members of the Committee.

Je m'appelle Terry Jamieson et je suis vice-président de la Direction générale du soutien technique à la Commission canadienne de sûreté nucléaire. Je suis accompagné de Lisa Thiele, notre avocate-générale principale. Nous vous remercions de nous avoir invités à venir discuter de la participation de la CCSN en tant qu'institution destinataire aux termes de la Loi sur la communication d'information ayant trait à la sécurité du Canada.

The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) is Canada's nuclear regulator. Under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA), the CNSC carries out its threefold mandate:

- Regulating the use of nuclear energy and materials to protect health, safety, security, and the environment
- Implementing Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Disseminating objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public

We are an independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal. The CNSC regulates all things nuclear in Canada, including uranium mining, nuclear fuel fabrication, nuclear reactors and power plants, the production and use of medical isotopes, the decommissioning and remediation of nuclear sites, and the safe management of nuclear waste.

The CNSC was established in 2000 under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources. The Commission may have up to seven appointed permanent members whose decisions are supported by more than 800 employees.

Our employees review applications for licences according to regulatory requirements, make recommendations to the Commission, and enforce compliance with the NSCA, regulations, and any licence conditions imposed by the Commission.

The CNSC has two key responsibilities with regard to national security under the NSCA. First, the CNSC is responsible for preventing risks to national security by regulating the development, production and use of nuclear energy, nuclear substances, prescribed equipment and prescribed information.

The CNSC has one of the top nuclear security programs in place in the world. Our focus is on preventing sabotage of a nuclear facility or theft of nuclear material. We identify

potential risks and threats to the Canadian nuclear industry – and develop the regulatory requirements necessary to ensure risks are mitigated and that threats are prevented, detected, or responded to appropriately.

In 2015, Canada welcomed a peer review mission from the International Atomic Energy Agency. The mission's report concluded that Canada operates a mature, effective and well-established nuclear security regime.

Our second area of responsibility with regard to national security is the implementation of Canada's obligations relating to the safeguarding and non-proliferation of nuclear materials. One example of how the CNSC works to prevent proliferation is through our licensing program, which controls the import and export of nuclear material, equipment and information. This program requires information in order to assess applications and verify compliance with control measures.

The CNSC became a recipient organization under Security of Canada Information Sharing Act (SCISA) to ensure that we receive timely information about any nuclear related activity that would undermine the security of Canada. Such events are low, and to date the CNSC has not had to use SCISA. Under the Act, the CNSC's authorities to receive information have not changed: however, other Government of Canada institutions are provided with a better understanding of our mandate as a recipient institution and given the authority to disclose relevant information to us.

En tant qu'institution destinataire aux termes de la LCISC, la CCSN considère hautement prioritaire la protection de l'information ayant trait à la sécurité nationale et le respect des dispositions de la Loi sur la protection des renseignements personnels relatives au traitement de tels renseignements.

While we have existing processes in place, we are committed to continuous improvement. As a result of the Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report, the CNSC is undertaking a privacy impact assessment for our security program that will capture SCISA. We are also working to clarify our procedures to ensure they are well understood by all impacted areas of our organization.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.