**REGDOC-1.2.3, Licence Application Guide: Licence to Prepare Site for a Deep Geological Repository**

**Webinar Summary**

**Introduction**

The CNSC has prepared draft regulatory document REGDOC-1.2.3, *Licence Application Guide: Licence to Prepare Site for a Deep Geological Repository,* to provide clarity on the requirements and guidance for preparing an application for a licence to prepare a site for a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) facility.

REGDOC-1.2.3 is posted on [Let’s Talk Nuclear Safety](https://letstalknuclearsafety.ca/regdoc-1-2-3-licence-application-guide-deep-geological-repository) for public consultation from February 22 to May 23, 2023. As part of the CNSC engagement activities with the stakeholders, the CNSC presented a public webinar on March 22, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST.

**Feedback**

The 30-minute presentation about REGDOC-1.2.3 was followed by a 1-hour question and answer session. The questions received can be grouped into five themes: information referenced in the REGDOC, physical design, site characterization, safety analysis and the licensing process.

*Information referenced in the REGDOC*

Participants asked questions about information referenced or information used to create REGDOC 1.2.3. This included the use of international references, such as International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) documents and different international practices, such as the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste repository in the United States.

Some of the participants were interested in gaining knowledge about the enforceability of a regulatory document versus a CSA Standard. A question was also asked in relation to other CNSC REGDOCs licence application guides for site preparation.

*Physical design*

Another topic mentioned during the question portion of the webinar was physical design. Several questions were raised regarding the requirement of an exclusion zone for a DGR and existing regulations about buffer distance. Participants were looking for an explicitly defined exclusion zone rather than what is required, a possible exclusion zone, depending on the application.

*Site characterization*

Site characterization was also discussed during the session. Some participants were interested in knowing the role the CNSC will perform in the determination of the suitability of a site proposed for a DGR facility, as well as its surrounding area, based on gathering site characterization information. There were also questions on road access and possible noise pollution due to construction.

*Safety Analysis*

There was interest in the difference between a full safety case and the demonstration of the facility’s full lifecycle suitability.

*Licensing process*

Finally, regarding the licensing process, a participant had a question related to the licence to abandon stage and the CNSC’s regulatory monitoring and control during that period.

**Conclusion**

The CNSC will consider all the feedback received during the consultation period before bringing REGDOC-1.2.3 to the Commission for a decision.