



# Rook I Project Update and Community Engagement Activities

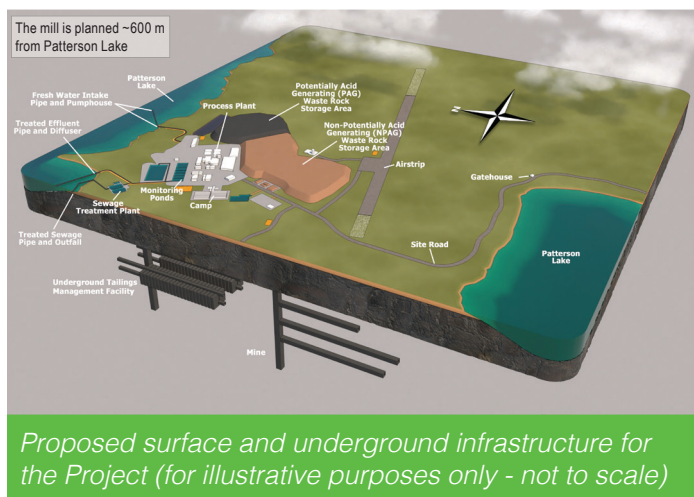
- **Rook I Project Status and Permitting Update**
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## The Rook I Project

NexGen is proposing to develop the Rook I Project (the Project), a new uranium mining and milling operation in northwestern Saskatchewan. The Project is located near Patterson Lake within Treaty 8 territory and the Métis Homeland, adjacent to Treaty 10 territory. The Project includes underground mine development, an onsite mill, an underground tailings management facility, and surface facilities to support mining and milling activities.

Uranium and nuclear projects in Saskatchewan are subject to rigorous regulatory review processes, including both federal and provincial environmental assessment (EA) and additional federal and provincial licenses, approvals, and permits.

NexGen is responsibly developing the Project, with a continued focus on environmental protection, cultural respect, health and wellness, education, careers, and training and economic capacity building.



## Current Site Activities

Current activities at the Rook I property support regional exploration programs, environmental baseline and monitoring programs for the Project, and field investigation programs to support Project design.

An existing all-season exploration camp and associated facilities are located on the Rook I property to support current activities, with all authorizations and permits in place for all current site work.

Engagement with local Indigenous Groups and communities has been ongoing since 2013. Studies to understand the existing conditions at the site and in the surrounding area have been ongoing since 2015, with specific focus on air, water, land, and wildlife.



## Permitting Status and Update

NexGen is currently in the process of seeking approvals to construct the proposed Rook I Project.

- In 2019, NexGen formally started the process for obtaining regulatory approval to proceed with the development of the Project. This involved submitting a Project Description to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV, also known as the MoE).
- The acceptance of the Project Description marked the commencement of the EA for the Project; the EA is being conducted pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA, 2012) and *The Environmental Assessment Act of Saskatchewan*.
- For the past two years, NexGen has continued to collect environmental monitoring data, engage with local communities, and has been conducting the EA, with the inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge.
- NexGen has submitted a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to the CNSC and ENV, which represents the next step in the EA process.

## What is an Environmental Assessment?

- An EA is a process used to understand the potential environmental and social effects of a proposed project. Conducting an EA is required as part of the regulatory approval process.
- An EA is also a planning tool that is used to minimize or avoid potential negative effects to the environment and people, and enhance potential benefits.
- Input from Indigenous Groups, community members, regulators, and others is important to help facilitate a high-quality EA.

## What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

- The EIS is the report that summarizes all of the work completed from the collection of baseline data, through to the design of the Project, and the 'findings' of the EA.
- The EIS includes a full description of any potential changes (positive and negative) that the Project may cause to the environment and includes a list of key mitigation measures and commitments proposed by NexGen to avoid or minimize any potential adverse environmental effects, and enhance Project benefits.
- The EIS is initially submitted as a draft, and made available to Indigenous Groups, regulators, and the public for review and comment.

## Working with Local Indigenous Groups and Communities

Engagement activities have been developed in agreement with local Indigenous Groups and community leadership to foster relationships based on respect and trust, and with a shared vision of optimizing Project outcomes.

**Community Information Sessions** were held in June 2019 in La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), and Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN).

- These workshops introduced the Project, provided information on the EA process, and used a question and answer format to connect with community members.
- The 2019 Community Information Sessions were attended by more than 260 people from local communities (i.e., Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), BNDN, BRDN, La Loche, Buffalo Narrows, and surrounding northern hamlets and settlements).



*Community members attending a meeting in CRDN*

**Study Agreements** were signed with each of the CRDN, MN-S (on behalf of Northern Region 2 [NR2]), BNDN, and BRDN. Among other things, the Study Agreements:

- created four separate Joint Working Groups (JWGs) funded by NexGen; and
- fully funded the completion of self-directed Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Land Use Studies to inform NexGen about Indigenous Knowledge to include in the EIS.

NexGen has since signed benefit agreements with the CRDN, BNDN, and BRDN.

**Joint Working Groups** were formed with each of the CRDN, MN-S (on behalf of MN-S NR2), BNDN, and BRDN, with representatives chosen by the leadership of each group. The JWGs facilitate regular, ongoing engagement and allow for sharing of Indigenous and Local Knowledge as it relates to the Project and for inclusion in the EA.

**Workshops and interviews** have been conducted to support EIS studies and engagement, including:

- N-19 Trappers workshop;
- youth workshop; and
- key person interviews (e.g., health, education, social service providers).

**Meetings with local community leadership** and economic development leaders have been held to discuss:

- employment at the Project (if approved) and maximizing opportunities for local community members;
- local training requirements and the development of suitable programs tailored to local community needs; and
- business opportunities and processes to maximize business ventures in the Local Priority Area.

## The Regulatory Process

There are several opportunities throughout the regulatory process for members of the public to provide feedback on the Project. There is also funding available for members of the public to participate.

The Project proposed by NexGen is undergoing a harmonized review by the federal and provincial regulators, which means that they work together in reviewing the EA for the Project. Approval of the Project requires a positive decision on the EA from both the federal (CNSC) and provincial (ENV) regulators.

As part of the EA process, NexGen has submitted the draft EIS to the federal (CNSC) and provincial (ENV) regulators. The CNSC and ENV are currently undergoing their respective reviews of the draft EIS.

## Draft EIS Review

The CNSC starts their review process by making sure that the draft EIS contains all information required. The ENV completes this check at the same time as starting their technical review.

- On July 13, 2022, the CNSC confirmed that the draft EIS contains all necessary information to start the 90-day federal technical and public review process. The draft EIS is now publicly posted for members of the public to provide comments. Information on the CNSC public comment process for the Project can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80171?&culture=en-CA>).
- Once the CNSC has completed their technical review, and received all public comments, they will compile questions and comments for NexGen to answer.
- At the same time that the CNSC is completing their review, the ENV will complete their technical review and then provide comments back to NexGen to address.



## Developing a Final EIS

Once NexGen has received comments from the CNSC (including public comments) and ENV, NexGen will respond to all comments, and start developing a final EIS.

- The ENV will post the final EIS for public comment, and ENV staff will use the results from the public comment period and their technical review to make a recommendation to the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment.
- The CNSC staff will develop an 'EA Report' which they will post for public review. The CNSC staff make a recommendation to an independent Commission, which takes place in a hearing.

For more information on the federal EA process for the Project, please refer to the CNSC's website: <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/uranium/mines-and-mills/rook-1/>.

For more information on the provincial EA process for the Project, please refer to the ENV's website: <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/4212>.

## NexGen's Continued Engagement – Your Feedback is Important!

Throughout the regulatory review process for the Environmental Assessment, NexGen will continue to work directly with local Indigenous Groups and communities.

The draft EIS and supporting documents can be accessed at the above link to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website or on the Rook I Project website (<https://www.saskatchewanuranium.ca/environmental-impact-study/>).

**Community Information Sessions | La Loche Office | Workshops | Newsletters | Project Website**



## NexGen Community Updates



Community Information Session in La Loche in 2019

### Community Information Sessions

NexGen held more Community Information Sessions in June 2022 to update community members on the Project.

The sessions included information on:

- the EA process;
- data collected and monitoring completed for the draft EIS; and
- results of the EA.

Community Information Sessions were held between June 22 and 25, 2022 in the following communities:

- La Loche
- Buffalo Narrows
- Clearwater River Dene Nation
- Turnor Lake and Birch Narrows Dene Nation
- Buffalo River Dene Nation

Over 300 community members attended these sessions. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend to learn more about the Project.

For more information on the Community Information Sessions, please contact Robert St. Pierre.

#### Interested in Learning More?

Contact us at **1-833-333-8895** or [engagement@nxe-energy.ca](mailto:engagement@nxe-energy.ca)

Let us know if you have any questions—we are interested in what you think!

### 2022 Summer Student Program

NexGen is proud to announce that the 2022 Summer Student Program has commenced. This year, NexGen hired a total of eight post-secondary and secondary students from the Local Priority Area (LPA). These students are working at the Rook I exploration camp this summer with our team of professionals to advance their skills and learn more about the exploration and mining industries.

Summer students completing environmental monitoring in 2019



### 2022-2023 Scholarship Program

Thank you to all of the interested students who submitted applications for the 2022-2023 Scholarship Program. The application deadline closed on June 30, 2022 and NexGen is now reviewing all applications.

NexGen's Scholarship Program is designed to support students from the LPA who will be attending post-secondary education (trade, technical program, or university program) and who are leaders in their schools and communities.

### Continued Engagement

NexGen is undertaking regular engagement with community members including women, youth, and Elders and will continue to do so throughout the life of the Rook I Project.

Anyone who has questions about the Project or about NexGen's community programs is encouraged to visit Robert St. Pierre, Project Liaison Manager at NexGen's office in the Dene Empowerment Centre in La Loche. Office hours are Monday to Friday between 9 AM and 5 PM. Robert can also be contacted directly by email at [rstpierre@nxe-energy.ca](mailto:rstpierre@nxe-energy.ca) or by phone at 306-822-7579.