



Rook I Project Update and Community Engagement Activities

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NexGen 2023 Summer Student Program Update

NexGen was pleased to host the 2023 Summer Student Program at the Rook I exploration site again this summer. NexGen's Summer Student Program was initiated in 2016 to build skills and confidence in young adults through employment and mentorship at the Rook I site and to provide insight into potential careers available in the exploration and mining industry.

This year, a total of 10 secondary students and 2 post-secondary students were hired as part of the program. Students had the opportunity to work alongside and learn from geologists and geotechnicians, surveyors, camp operations, culinary staff, as well as safety officers and environmental monitoring staff as they completed their work at the Rook I site. In addition to working at the Rook I site, the students also supported community initiatives in La Loche, such as the Canada Day BBQ and the Yanessa Days BBQ.

NexGen thanks the Summer Student Coordinators, Chantelle Herman and Alwyn Piche, and Summer Students Hayden Fontaine, Logan Gailey, Ava Haynes, Isaiah Herman, Elizabeth Lemaigre, Preston Lemaigre, Tyra Lemaigre, Elayna Mercredi, Irwin Noltcho, and Noah Sylvestre-Noltcho for being part of the NexGen team this summer. We wish everyone a happy and safe return to school this fall.



Summer Student Orientation at NexGen's Office in La Loche

Congratulations to the 2023-2024 NexGen Scholarship Program Recipients



Lane Darbyshire
Buffalo River Dene Nation
Engineering at University of Saskatchewan



Keyanna Hansen
Buffalo Narrows
Nursing at University of Saskatchewan



Seth Lipton
Buffalo Narrows
Education at University of Saskatchewan



Cayleen Park
Clearwater River Dene Nation
Arts & Science at University of Saskatchewan

NexGen congratulates the four recipients of the NexGen Scholarship Program for the 2023-2024 academic year. This year, NexGen is pleased to award the Don Hovdebo Memorial Scholarship to Seth Lipton in recognition of Seth's exceptional commitment to community.

The NexGen Scholarship Program supports students who are leaders in their schools and their communities, as they pursue post-secondary education to develop their skills, pursue their career goals, and enhance their communities. Thank you to every student that applied for a scholarship this year; NexGen continues to be impressed with the growing number of applications received and encourages all eligible students to apply again in the future.

Congratulations to Lane, Keyanna, Seth, and Cayleen, and best wishes for a safe and successful year of studies.

Training Committee Updates

The Training Committee, formed by NexGen, and consisting of representatives from the Local Priority Area (LPA) communities, local training institutions, and NexGen, continues to meet to develop training plans based on NexGen's current and future employment needs for the Rook I Project (the Project).

The Training Committee is planning for the following programs:

- **Carpentry Applied Certificate Program** – Twelve students have been accepted into this 18-week program which began on 10 October 2023. NexGen is providing funding for this course, which is being delivered by Northlands College in La Loche.
- **Radiation Technology Program** – A 40-week program delivered by Northlands College, scheduled to begin in January 2024. NexGen will be funding 5 of the 12 seats available and will be working with the LPA Indigenous Nations and communities on student selection.
- **Applied Electrical Certificate Program** – An 18-week program accepting 12 students. This course will be delivered by Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) at Northlands College, with Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) and NexGen providing funding. This program will occur in Buffalo Narrows and is scheduled to begin in February 2024.

Additionally, NexGen is developing a uranium-specific digital transformation course for underground mining. This course is a pre-employment program specific to the uranium mining industry. Curriculum development for this program is ongoing, with the first 10-week class planned to be offered in fall 2024. NexGen will provide updates about this program and encourages LPA residents to keep an eye out for this future opportunity.

For more information on NexGen's education, training, and employment initiatives, please contact Steve Innes, NexGen Director of Employment and Training, sinnes@nxe-energy.ca or Robert St. Pierre, NexGen Project Liaison Manager, rstpierre@nxe-energy.ca, or visit Steve and Robert at the NexGen office located in the Dene Empowerment Centre in La Loche.



Opening ceremonies of the 2023 Back to Batoche Days; NexGen was proud to sponsor and attend this year's festival

Community Engagement Updates

NexGen Signs a Benefit Agreement with the Métis Nation — Saskatchewan (MN-S) Northern Region 2 (NR2) and the MN-S

On 15 June 2023, NexGen, the MN-S NR2, and the MN-S signed a Benefit Agreement with respect to the Project. The Agreement is a further formalization of NexGen, the MN-S NR2, and the MN-S working in partnership to responsibly develop the Project.

The Benefit Agreement defines the environmental, cultural, economic, employment, and other benefits to be provided to the MN-S NR2 and MN-S by NexGen in respect of the Project and confirms the consent and support of the MN-S NR2 and MN-S for the Project throughout its complete lifecycle.

NexGen looks forward to continued meaningful engagement and collaboration with the MN-S NR2 and MN-S throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

The Benefit Agreement with the MN-S NR2 and MN-S is the final Benefit Agreement with respect to the Project to be signed by all 4 LPA Indigenous Nations. The MN-S NR2, Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN), Birch Narrows Dene Nation (BNDN), and Buffalo River Dene Nation (BRDN) all have fully implemented Benefit Agreements and have full support for the Project.

For any questions related to Benefit Agreements or community initiatives, please contact your local Implementation Coordinator or Band Office.



CRDN Band Office
306-822-2021



MN-S NR2 Implementation Coordinator
Leonard Montgrand
leonardmontgrand@yahoo.ca
306-822-7643



BNDN Band Office
306-894-2030



BRDN Implementation Coordinator
Elmer Campbell
elmercampbell35@gmail.com
306-235-7673

Community Information Sessions for the Rook I Project

NexGen was pleased to host the 2023 Community Information Sessions (CISs) for the Project between 12-16 June 2023 in Buffalo Narrows, La Loche, Turnor Lake and BNDN, Dillon and BRDN, and CRDN.

The annual CISs were hosted to:

- share information about and updates on the Project;
- answer questions, listen to community members, and receive feedback on the Project;
- provide information and a status update on all Project regulatory requirements, including the Environmental Assessment (EA) process, Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Project licensing; and
- provide details on education, training, employment, and procurement opportunities.

The CISs were a drop-in format at venues within the communities and consisted of a series of 12 stations with 3 posters each. A total of 16 NexGen staff and subject matter experts were present to provide an overview of the Project to community members, to answer community members' questions, and to receive feedback on the Project to incorporate into future decisions.

This year, over 480 community members registered their attendance throughout the week; this is a significant

increase from 2022. This increase in attendance recognizes the community's interest and excitement for the Project.

Some of the topics most discussed this year were:

- training and employment initiatives;
- environmental protection and monitoring; and
- timelines for the Project.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV) and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) also attended the CISs; each had separate stations to explain their role as regulators, provide information specific to the respective regulatory processes for the Project, and to answer questions from community members.

Thank you to everyone who attended the CISs — we appreciate the meaningful dialogue and feedback. NexGen also thanks all Leadership and community members for the warm welcome and for all the help organizing the CISs, including providing delicious meals.



Similar to previous years, NexGen created a summary booklet of all of the posters displayed at the CISs, which is available for pickup at NexGen's office in La Loche, or for download on the Rook I Project website.



PHOTOS STARTING TOP LEFT AND GOING CLOCKWISE:

CIS at Buffalo Narrows; CIS at La Loche; CIS at BRDN / Dillon; CIS at CRDN; CIS at BNDN / Turnor Lake.



Rook I Project Update and Community Engagement Activities

Rook I Project Regulatory Process Updates

Environmental Assessment (EA) Update

Following the submission of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) and Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ENV) in May 2022, NexGen continues to advance the Project EA through the Provincial and Federal regulatory processes.

Provincial EA Update

The ENV completed a technical review of the draft EIS in late September 2022 and provided technical comments for NexGen to respond to. After addressing all technical review comments provided by the ENV, NexGen submitted a revised Provincial EIS to the ENV in early July 2023. Following a conformance review, the ENV formally accepted the document as the Provincial Final EIS. The 30-day Provincial Final EIS public review process commenced on 2 September 2023 and concluded on 3 October 2023. ENV staff are now in the process of making a recommendation to the Saskatchewan Minister of Environment, who will ultimately decide on approval of the Project EA. The Provincial Final EIS is available for download from the ENV website at <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/categories/4212>.

Federal EA Update

Following completion of a 30-day conformity review of the Draft EIS completed by the CNSC in July 2022, the Federal technical and public review comment period concluded on 12 October 2022. By December 2022, the CNSC had provided NexGen with Federal technical and public comments on the Draft EIS. NexGen is currently advancing responses to all Federal public comments received. NexGen provided all Federal technical review comment responses to the CNSC in early September 2023, which will undergo a completeness check and then be reviewed. Upon the technical comments responses being accepted by the CNSC, NexGen will submit a revised Federal EIS to the CNSC as well as responses to the Federal public comments.

Following acceptance of the revised EIS by the CNSC, a Federal EA decision on the Project will be made by

the CNSC Commission members following a public hearing. All information related to the Federal EA review of the Project is available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80171>.

Licensing and Permitting Update

On 30 June 2023, NexGen submitted the final components of the Federal Licence Application for Construction of the Project to the CNSC. Once received, the CNSC completed a 60-day sufficiency review to ensure the application was complete. The CNSC formally accepted NexGen's Licence Application on 1 September 2023.

Similar to the EA process, the decision to approve a Federal Licence for the Construction Phase of the Project will be made by the CNSC Commission following a public hearing. As NexGen has been conducting the Federal EA and licensing in parallel, a joint EA and licensing hearing will be conducted for the Project. The date for the hearing has not yet been determined by the CNSC.

Following a positive EA decision by the Province, NexGen will require a Mineral Surface Lease Agreement and Approval to Construct Control Facilities from the Province prior to construction.

The Project will be fully approved for construction to begin once NexGen receives a positive EA decision from both the Provincial and Federal regulators, a positive permitting decision from the Provincial regulators, and a positive licensing decision from the Federal regulators. Upon receipt of required Provincial and Federal approvals, NexGen and our Nation partners will commence construction of the Project, and continue to deliver on the generational economic, social, and environmental benefits in partnership with local Indigenous Nations and communities.

NexGen will maintain ongoing engagement with Local Priority Area (LPA) Indigenous Nations and communities to keep them informed of the Project's progress through the four approval processes.

