

**CNSC hearing to consider AECL's  
application for the restart of the  
National Research Universal (NRU) reactor**

Opening Remarks

Mr. Hugh MacDiarmid  
President & Chief Executive Officer

AECL

CNSC Presentation  
Ottawa  
July 5, 2010

Good afternoon and thank you Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen. For the record, my name is Hugh MacDiarmid, President and CEO of Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Je voudrais vous présenter Monsieur Bill Pilkington, agent principal de nucléaire pour EACL et Monsieur Hank Drumhiller, vice-président et directeur général Opérations et aussi plusieurs membres de notre équipe de gestion.

My colleagues and I are here today to report that we have successfully repaired and leak-tested the NRU vessel. We are seeking approval to refuel past the Guaranteed Subcritical Condition.

I want to thank Commissioners for accommodating our request to reschedule this hearing. I appreciate that the extensive demands on your time caused a lot of you to move your schedules around.

Completing the repairs to the NRU is a testament to more than a year of dedicated, round-the-clock effort by hundreds of AECL employees and contractor staff. I want to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts and achievements of our team at Chalk River as well as the contributions and support from the Canadian nuclear industry.

We have engaged some of Canada's leading companies as supplier partners to support us in our efforts. The demonstrated thoroughness and creativity in taking on challenges that have never been experienced before confirms the world-class status of the Canadian nuclear industry.

We have also engaged some of the world's leading experts to ensure the effectiveness of the repair techniques that we have deployed.

I want to acknowledge the timely and capable support of CNSC staff. They have displayed a high level of professionalism throughout.

As I have said on a number of occasions before Parliament, AECL takes its responsibilities very seriously to provide a reliable supply of medical isotopes to Canada and the world. It has been our foremost operational priority.

In order to ensure this reliable supply of isotopes, we have taken every reasonable action throughout the outage to improve NRU's ongoing safety and reliability. This will continue.

We at AECL are confident NRU is now ready to resume safe operation.

Let me know turn over the proceedings to AECL's Chief Nuclear Officer, Mr. Bill Pilkington in order that he can provide a more comprehensive presentation.

Thank you.