



Natural Resources  
Canada

Ressources naturelles  
Canada

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0E4

Francis Scarpaleggia, M.P.

Chair, Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development

131 Queen Street

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Francis Scarpaleggia:

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is pleased to provide a progress report to the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, and the Office of the Auditor General on the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development's (CESD) Audit of Radioactive Waste Management, tabled on October 4, 2022.

The Government appreciates the importance of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development's Audit, its findings, and the recommendations provided to Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission. These agencies will each be providing management action plans that address the recommendations to their respective organization. While the audit report did not direct any recommendations to NRCan, we are providing an update on the actions taken to address the finding that implicated the Department:

*We found that Natural Resources Canada had begun to modernize its radioactive waste management policy. However, the policy modernization was ongoing during the audit period.*

We are pleased to inform you that we have finalized the modernized Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning and anticipate publishing the updated policy imminently. This will be the culmination of three years of work by the Department, in collaboration with other federal organizations and with input from diverse Canadians, to ensure that there is a strong policy in place that protects and prioritizes the health, safety, and security of people and the environment. This work, and the extensive engagement that informed the final Policy's development, will establish a framework that reflects the views and

Canada

principles of Canadians, including Indigenous Peoples, and continues to meet international standards based on the best available science. The modernized Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning will be published on the NRCan radioactive waste webpage.

Protecting the health and safety of Canadians and the environment is the Government's top priority when it comes to nuclear energy. This includes ensuring that all radioactive waste in Canada is managed safely for generations to come. The modernized Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning is an important part of the radioactive waste management framework, and NRCan looks forward to continuing the dialogue to ensure the implementation of the policy once published.

We trust that the Committee finds this useful for its work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH', written over a light grey circular stamp.

John Hannaford  
(he/him/il)  
Deputy Minister  
Natural Resources Canada

cc: John Williamson, M.P.  
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Karen Hogan, FCPA, FCA  
Auditor General of Canada

Jerry V. DeMarco  
Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development