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Larry Maguire, MP (Brandon-Souris, Manitoba)
Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Maguire:

It was a pleasure to meet with you on May 17th, 2022. The information you provided in your March 4th letter helped us further understand the context and nature of your interests, concerns, and questions regarding drones and unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), and I understand you raised a number of related issues the following day during a meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources (RNNR).

Before I turn to addressing your questions, I would like to clarify that the CNSC is Canada's independent nuclear regulator. The CNSC is a quasi-judicial administrative tribunal that reports to Parliament through the Minister of Natural Resources, and not to the Minister. As such, we will be able to address your concerns and questions more expeditiously in the future if you contact us directly. As an open and transparent regulator, we welcome the opportunity to work with Parliamentarians to ensure their information needs are met.

As we discussed on May 17th, the CNSC's nuclear security requirements, including reporting requirements, encompass any nuclear security threats that involve an attempted or actual breach of security, or an attempted or actual act of sabotage, including credible threats made against a nuclear power plant. This would include events involving drones and unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP). The [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#), [Nuclear Security Regulations](#), associated [regulatory documents](#) and licence conditions outline strong requirements on the part of licensees to ensure readiness to mitigate, deter, and respond to credible threats to regulated facilities.

The CNSC is taking steps to enquire with our licensees about any reported drones or UAP sightings and to confirm that nuclear security was not put at risk from any related sightings. That includes a letter that I have sent to licensees for high-security nuclear sites.

We have also approached our United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (US NRC) colleagues regarding the nature of their nuclear security requirements for drones and UAPs and potentially evolving requirements. We will discuss their approach further as it evolves. For now, existing nuclear security requirements in both countries are well-aligned.

You had three particular questions for follow-up after our May 17th meeting:

1. Understanding the spectrum of CNSC-regulated facilities;

2. The length of time Canadian nuclear facilities retain security-related data, including video footage; and
3. Confirming with CNSC licensees that no incidents with drones or UAPs have occurred at nuclear facilities since the March 2nd RNNR meeting.

On the first question, Canada has one of the most diverse nuclear sectors in the world. Regulated facilities include [uranium mining, milling, and refining](#); [nuclear substances processing and end-users](#); [fuel production](#); [nuclear power](#) and [nuclear research reactors](#); and [waste management](#).

On the second question, High Security Site licensees are required to retain all relevant security related records regarding security events for the duration of their operating licence. Unless there is an identified incident, data that are not related to specific events may be disposed of by these licencees as per their specific security program and management system program.

On the third question, the CNSC is not aware of any reported incidents of drones or UAPs near Canadian nuclear facilities. With a regulatory lens regarding nuclear security, we have taken steps to confirm with licensees that no such events have occurred.

You raised six related questions to Mr. Hannaford, Deputy Minister of NRCan, at the May 18th meeting of RNNR. I would like to provide a response to five of the six questions. On the sixth question, which pertains to the CNSC's receipt of your March 4th letter, I can confirm we have received your letter and have since discussed these issues with NRCan.

- 1. A lack of standardized reporting requirements for licensees to report on UAP or drones and no formal investigative guidelines to understand origin and/or intent; and**
- 2. Your request to direct nuclear facility licensees to ask employees and security officials to ensure all drone and UAP incidents are properly reported.**

As discussed on May 17th, our regulatory framework is largely performance-based and not prescriptive in how licensees are to meet safety and security objectives and requirements. Licensees are required to report on credible threats. As mentioned above, I have sent a letter to licensees of high-security nuclear sites asking for relevant information. I will be pleased to update you with any related information received that I am able to share.

Licensees are required to prepare for and respond to any credible threats against their sites or facilities. In the case of nuclear security events, an investigation would typically be led by the police service of jurisdiction and would be supported by the CNSC.

- 3. Whether NRCan would support the Chief Science Advisor (CSA), were the Government to direct that she lead a whole-of-government approach to standardize the collection of reports and analysis for unidentified drones and UAPs**

While this question was directed to NRCan, the CNSC as a technical and scientific organization would offer its full support to the CSA were she directed by government to undertake such an effort.

4. The willingness of the CNSC to begin a conversation with the US NRC on unidentified drones and UAPs

As noted above, I have reached out to the US NRC and have concluded that our respective nuclear security reporting requirements are aligned. As noted above, we will discuss their approach further as it evolves

5. Awareness by CNSC officials of UAP sightings near Canadian nuclear facilities

The CNSC has not received any reports of drone or UAP sightings near any nuclear facilities. Since our conversation, we have also confirmed that neither drones nor UAPs have caused breaches to nuclear security, or been involved in attempts or actual acts of sabotage to the nuclear security of nuclear facilities.

I would be pleased to provide you with the results of our Request for Information to licensees as mentioned earlier. Please feel free to contact the CNSC directly in the future on nuclear regulatory matters, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Yours sincerely,

Kathleen Heppell-Masys
Director General
Directorate of Security and Safeguards
Technical Support Branch
Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

CNSC: A. El-Jaby, K. Dewar