



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0E4

Larry Maguire, M.P.
Brandon–Souris
Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca

Dear Larry Maguire:

Thank you for your correspondence of March 4, 2022, regarding a follow-up from Natural Resource Canada's March 2, 2022, appearance before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources on the Supplementary Estimates (C). Further to your question on incident reports of drones or unidentified aerial phenomena in or near Canadian nuclear facilities, the Department submitted a response to the Standing Committee on Natural Resources on March 14, 2022 (enclosed). The response was prepared by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and signed by Kathleen Heppell Masys, Director General, Directorate of Security and Safeguards.

Should you have any outstanding questions or concerns regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Again, thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

John Hannaford
(he/him/il)

Enclosure: (1)

c.c.: Geneviève Desjardins
Clerk of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources
RNNR@parl.gc.ca

Canada



March 11, 2022

e-Doc: 6752757

House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources
Mr. John Aldag, Chair
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6
RNNR@parl.gc.ca

SUBJECT: Information on Reporting of Drone Sightings Near Canadian Nuclear Facilities

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

During a [March 2, 2022, meeting](#) of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Natural Resources, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) officials were asked by Committee Vice-Chair and Member of Parliament Larry Maguire for information related to reporting of drone sightings near Canadian nuclear facilities. NRCan committed to ensuring that the request was addressed and asked the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), Canada's independent nuclear regulator, to respond.

The CNSC can report that **there have been no reported drone intrusions or attempted intrusions at Canadian high-security nuclear facilities.**

All CNSC licensees, including operators of high-security sites such as nuclear power plants and Chalk River Laboratories, are required as conditions of their licences and under CNSC regulations to report on any attempted or actual breaches of security, or attempted or actual acts of sabotage at their sites. This requirement applies to any actual or attempted intrusion of the facilities by "drones", including autonomous, semi-autonomous and remotely piloted aircraft systems.

The CNSC's high-security site licensees do have existing response protocols and offsite response arrangements in place that they can rely on to respond to intrusions into the airspace above their facilities.

The Committee may be interested in knowing that on April 18, 2021, a notice was issued by Transport Canada to restrict airspace to 1 nautical mile with a 1,000-foot ceiling around the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station (PLNGS) in New Brunswick. The notice, which was requested by the PLNGS operator, New Brunswick Power Corporation (NB Power), was for 60 days and expired on June 18, 2021. NB Power's request was made in response to information it received indicating that an individual identifying as a journalist and documentary filmmaker planned to operate a remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) over the PLNGS. The individual's stated intent was to take video footage of the PLNGS utilizing the RPAS. The safety and security of the PLNGS was not compromised as a result of this activity, as the individual complied with Transport Canada's notice and flew their RPAS in accordance with the established boundaries.

Should the Committee have any outstanding questions or concerns regarding this information, or on the CNSC and its mandate, roles and responsibilities, please do not hesitate to contact me at kathleen.heppell-masys@cnsccsn.gc.ca

Yours sincerely,



Recoverable Signature

X A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Heppell-Masys".

Signed by: HeppellMasys, Kathleen

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

XXXXXX