

Whiteshell Laboratories

2024 CNL APPLICATION FOR SITE LICENCE RENEWAL
CELA Comments

Dr Ian Fairlie
Consultant on Radiation in the Environment
London
United Kingdom

Present situation at WL

Whiteshell Laboratories in a shutdown state where only essential compliance and maintenance work can be carried out plus three work stand-downs “... necessary to ensure protection of the public, the environment, and staff”

CNSC's Regulatory Oversight (initial report) disclosed the following during 2020, 2021, 2022

- *“serious deficiencies in fire and emergency training,*
- *serious deficiencies in equipment inspection,*
- *lack of testing of personal protective equipment*
- *lack of maintenance of personal protective equipment and*
- *incomplete/expired personal protective equipment.”*

CNSC's full CMD -28 report added the following shortcomings

- *“unavailability of firewater pressure and flow*
- *unavailability of fire hydrants*
- *non-maintenance of sprinklers*
- *non-testing of sprinklers and*
- *non-testing of emergency lighting in buildings.”*

Should CNL be granted an
extension of their site licence at
WL?

Serious Problem of Poor Safety Culture at WL

Need to tackle this at CNL Board level

CELA recommends (inter alia)

Commission to require, in any future licence,

- CNL appoint a senior health and safety Director
- CNL draw up a written policy on health and safety matters with emphases on finance
- CNL introduce a site safety committee chaired by the Board H&S Director
- CNL introduce safety representatives among the workforce with paid time off work for safety functions, and
- CNL incentivise safety among its directors

Missing Reports

- Table 5 (last four rows) states that four inspection reports for 2024 are "*forthcoming*". These include a report on Emergency Management and Fire Protection. (see pp 64, 65 of CMD 24-H7.1). To date only one has been made available.
- further report from CNL which is expected shortly on the series of safety shortcomings self-reported to the Commission in 2023 and 2024.