



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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Agency File No: 005893

December 20, 2024

SENT BY EMAIL

May Lyn Trudelle
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Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks
135 St Clair Ave W, 7th floor
Toronto, ON M4V 1P5

May Lyn Trudelle:

Subject: Notification that a federal impact assessment is required for the Bruce C Nuclear Project and the assessment is referred to a review panel

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), with input from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), has decided that an impact assessment is required for the Bruce C Nuclear Project (the Project) proposed by Bruce Power (the proponent). In accordance with subsection 43(a) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) must refer the impact assessment of a designated project with physical activities regulated under the *Nuclear Safety Control Act* to a review panel. On December 5, 2024, the Minister delegated the obligation under subsection 43(a) of the IAA to IAAC. IAAC's Notice of Impact Assessment Decision and Notice of Referral have been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry¹.

As the Project includes activities that are regulated by the CNSC, the Project is subject to an integrated impact assessment process under the IAA. IAAC and the CNSC will collaborate in accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding on Integrated Impact Assessments under the Impact Assessment Act between the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission*².

¹ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88771>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/corporate/acts-regulations/legislation-regulations/memorandum-understanding-iaac-cnsc.html>

Next Steps

IAAC and the CNSC are anticipating a 40-day public comment period starting from **mid-January 2025 to late February 2025**, to gather views from potentially impacted Indigenous Nations and communities, federal authorities, the public, and other interested parties on the following documents, and will provide notice of the start of the comment period:

- draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines)
- draft Public Participation Plan

In addition to these, IAAC is also anticipating posting drafts of the other planning documents (i.e., the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, the draft Cooperation Plan, and the draft Permitting Plan) at the start of the comment period.

Before the comment period, your ministry may receive targeted requests from IAAC for the purpose of developing the draft Guidelines, and draft Cooperation Plan. IAAC's understanding of potential provincial regulatory instruments and approvals will be included in the draft Cooperation Plan.

During the comment period, you will be asked to verify:

- the required information and studies presented in the draft Guidelines;
- regulatory instruments under the authority of your ministry in the draft Cooperation Plan that are anticipated to be required to allow the Project to proceed; and
- the proposed path forward between the province and IAAC in the draft Cooperation Plan.

When providing feedback, IAAC requests that you consider the approach to tailoring the Guidelines outlined in the *Operational Policy Statement: Development of Tailored Impact Statement Guideline*³.

In providing advice on the Guidelines, your ministry is asked to consider the issues of main concern for the Project from the standpoint of your mandate and expertise. Provincial expert advice should be commensurate to the situational context of the Project and informed by risk-based prudence and evidence in the proponent's Initial Project Description⁴ and Response to the Summary of Issues⁵, with strong reliance on well-understood mitigation measures, existing guidance, and regulatory instruments that will manage effects.

Your ministry is also invited to start considering potential complementary measures with respect to potential adverse effects of the Project. Complementary measures are additional authorities of federal ministers or

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/operational-policy-statement.html>

⁴ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/158463>

⁵ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/160093?culture=en-CA>

federal programs that may be used to mitigate effects that may be beyond the care and control of the proponent. IAAC will work with your ministry during the impact assessment process to identify relevant policies and programs and develop a list of potential complementary measures for the Project.

As other Ontario ministries may also have expertise relating to the Project, IAAC asks that your ministry circulate this letter with other potentially interested ministries as notice of the upcoming comment period. Should you have any questions, please contact me at bruce@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or 613-222-3507.

Sincerely,

< *sent electronically* >

Dominic McRae
Acting Agency Review Manager, Review Panels Division