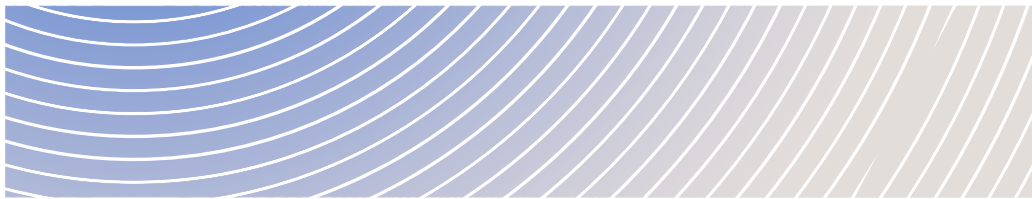


Cooperation Plan



BRUCE C NUCLEAR PROJECT

JUNE 12, 2025

DRAFT VERSION





1. Introduction

On December 16, 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) determined that an impact assessment is required for the Bruce C Nuclear Project (the Project), pursuant to section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA).

On the same day, IAAC, on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (Minister) referred the impact assessment to a review panel. Pursuant to section 43 of the IAA, the Minister must refer to a review panel designated projects that include physical activities regulated under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA). The review panel will conduct an integrated impact assessment (integrated assessment) that follows the framework outlined in 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](#) (the MOU).

IAAC and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will cooperate with the common objective that both legislative requirements are achieved in a single integrated assessment. The process will result in both a federal decision by the Governor in Council on the Impact Assessment, as well as a separate, independent decision by the review panel on the issuance of a Licence to Prepare Site.

Although the Project is under federal jurisdiction of the IAA and NSCA, activities related to the Project may be subject to provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements and to provincial permitting and approval requirements that include an assessment of environmental effects.

The draft Cooperation Plan (the Plan) was developed by IAAC and the CNSC with input from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to set out intentions and plans for a cooperative assessment process for the Project. Input from additional provincial ministries with potential EA, permitting or approval requirements related to the Project is being sought during the public comment period to inform the final Cooperation Plan.

For anticipated federal permits required, please see the Project's [Draft Permitting Plan](#).

2. Project

Bruce Power (the proponent) is proposing the site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning of a new nuclear generating station within the existing Bruce Power site, located in the Municipality of Kincardine, Ontario. As proposed, the Project would provide up to 4,800 megawatt-electric of new nuclear generating capacity in Ontario and operate for 60 to 100 years. Several nuclear reactor technologies will be considered for the Project. As part of the integrated assessment process, the proponent will be submitting the information necessary to make an IA decision and make a licence to prepare site (LTPS) decision under the NSCA. Bruce Power may pursue subsequent licences to construct, operate, and decommission at later stages, should the Project receive a positive IA decision and an LTPS. The assessment is being conducted in collaboration with the CNSC.



For more information on the integrated assessment of the Project or to view the information and comments received, visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the Registry) at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88771?culture=en-CA>.

3. Approach to cooperation

Through cooperation, IAAC, the CNSC and participating Ontario ministries (participating ministries) will strive to increase efficiency and certainty for the proponent, as well as for the public and Indigenous Nations and communities, and ensure that the best available expertise is shared and applied. The Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude IAAC, the CNSC or participating ministries from making changes to the cooperative approach described in this plan in order to accommodate changes that may occur during this assessment process, or any provincial assessment or permitting process that may be required in the future.

4. Gathering and review of proponent information

The Government Review Team (GRT), comprised of federal authorities and participating ministries who possess expert information or knowledge with respect to the Project has been established. IAAC and the CNSC will continue to involve MECP, and any other Ontario ministries as requested, as member(s) of the GRT (listed in Appendix 1 – Table A1.). Proponent information will be shared with the MECP through the GRT. Frequent and timely review of proponent information by Ontario ministries will facilitate an efficient integrated assessment process, the review of the proponent's application for a licence to prepare site, and allow for any necessary updates to the approach described in this plan, should changes occur that impact the Province of Ontario's role during the integrated assessment process.

5. Timelines and time management

Timelines for the integrated assessment process are legislated under the IAA. When possible, IAAC and the CNSC will provide the participating ministries with advanced notices of opportunities for cooperation. IAAC and the CNSC will also work with the participating ministries to ensure that timely and effective communication occurs throughout the integrated assessment process.

6. Sharing of information

All information relevant to the integrated assessment of the project will be posted by IAAC or the review panel on the Registry. As such, participating ministries and regulatory boards will have access to the public record for the integrated assessment. The Registry contains all comments and submissions from participants in the assessment, including the public, Indigenous Nations communities, federal departments, provincial ministries, in addition to all information submitted by the proponent, except for protected or classified information.

IAAC, the CNSC and participating ministries will respect requirements related to privacy and confidentiality, including protection of Indigenous knowledge and prescribed information, when sharing or publicly posting information.

IAAC, the CNSC and participating ministries will share, as appropriate, the following information obtained during the assessment of the Project. More opportunities for cooperation may be identified and developed at each stage of the regulatory process:

Table 6.1 – Opportunities to share information with participating provincial ministries during the integrated assessment process

Integrated Assessment Process <i>*in collaboration with CNSC</i>	Information Sharing Opportunities and Efficiencies
<p>Planning Phase – 180 days</p> <p>IAAC accepts Initial Project Description (IPD).</p> <p>IAAC and the CNSC conduct early engagement and develop the Summary of Issues (SOI).</p> <p>IAAC determines if an impact assessment is required.</p> <p>IAAC and the CNSC develop Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Integrated Guidelines).</p> <p>IAAC and the CNSC develop Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP), Public Participation Plan (PPP), Permitting Plan, and the Cooperation Plan.</p>	<p><u>Documentation:</u></p> <p>Collaborate on the development of the Cooperation Plan.</p> <p>Provide input on the development of the Integrated Guidelines.</p> <p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>Share information as applicable on the development of the Cooperation Plan.</p> <p>IAAC shares information from review of technical documents (e.g., IPD, SOI)</p>

Integrated Assessment Process <i>*in collaboration with CNSC</i>	Information Sharing Opportunities and Efficiencies
<p>IAAC and the CNSC prepare draft review panel Terms of Reference (TOR)</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>IAAC shares information on the development and content of the review panel's TOR.</p> <p>There is opportunity for the review panel's mandate to be broad and include consideration of provincial matters and requirements, if applicable, without use of a formal joint review panel mechanism.</p>
<p>Impact Statement Phase – max 3 years including government review time</p> <p>The proponent prepares and submits Impact Statement which includes application for a licence to prepare site.</p> <p>IAAC and the CNSC invite comments on the Impact Statement.</p> <p>IAAC leads the review of the Impact Statement, with input from GRT, to determine if it conforms to the Integrated Guidelines. (IAA, Section 19(4) decision).</p> <p>CNSC reviews the application for a licence to prepare site to determine if there is adequate information for staff to make recommendations based on regulatory requirements.</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>IAAC keeps Ontario informed of any important issues.</p> <p>The GRT cooperates and leverages technical expertise and capacity during the review of the proponent's Impact Statement, including the identification of potential deficiencies and information requests, and information sharing.</p>
<p>Impact Assessment Phase – 300 days (up to 600 days)</p> <p>Review panel will hold a public hearing once it has determined that it has sufficient information</p> <p>Review panel drafts potential conditions and make them available for public comment.</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>The GRT continues to cooperate and leverage technical expertise and capacity during the review of the proponent's information.</p> <p>Participating ministries provide complete and timely information to the review panel, as appropriate.</p>

Integrated Assessment Process <i>*in collaboration with CNSC</i>	Information Sharing Opportunities and Efficiencies
<p>Review panel prepares Impact Assessment Report, which summarizes the integrated assessment process and considers the information and evidence provided by the proponent, GRT, Indigenous Nations and communities, and the public.</p> <p>Review panel makes recommendations and submits its report to the Minister.</p> <p>IAAC prepares recommendations to assist the Minister, including the Consultation and Accommodation Report.</p>	<p>The GRT shares information in advance of any submissions to the review panel to avoid duplication and ensure consistency/alignment, to the extent possible.</p>
<p>Decision-making Phase – 90 days</p> <p>Governor in Council makes public interest determination.</p> <p>Minister issues Decision Statement.</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>IAAC to share decision statement, when issued, with the GRT.</p>
<p>Post-decision Phase</p> <p>The Review Panel, as the Commission, decides on the LTPS under the NSCA including proposed conditions.</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>CNSC to share record of decision on the LTPS, when issued, with the GRT.</p>
<p>Public engagement and Indigenous consultation (throughout assessment process)</p>	<p><u>Information sharing:</u></p> <p>If Ontario determines it has consultation obligations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on Indigenous Nations and communities, preliminary consultation information, including contacts, protocols and potential impacts to rights where possible <p><u>Indigenous consultation and engagement:</u></p> <p>If applicable, coordinate engagement and consultation activities (to the extent possible), including comment periods and Indigenous</p>



Integrated Assessment Process *in collaboration with CNSC	Information Sharing Opportunities and Efficiencies
	<p>consultation to avoid consultation fatigue and ensure Indigenous Nations and communities have the capacity to actively participate</p> <p><u>Public engagement:</u></p> <p>If applicable, coordinate engagement activities, including comment periods (to the extent possible) to avoid engagement fatigue and to support participation.</p>

7. Public participation and participant funding

If the province or proponent identify any comment periods for potential provincial EA processes or for any provincial permits and approval applications that may be required, IAAC and the CNSC will collaborate with participating ministries to align comment periods with the integrated assessment, to the extent possible, and include links to each others' websites, coordinate public notices, and share comments received, where appropriate.

Funding to support public participation in the integrated assessment process is available through IAAC's Participant Funding Program. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding please see the National Program Guidelines and application on the following page <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

For further information on public participation and engagement activities, please see the Project's [Draft Public Participation Plan](#).

8. Indigenous consultation and engagement

IAAC will lead Crown Consultation on behalf of the Government of Canada for this assessment, in collaboration with the CNSC. If applicable, Ontario would be responsible for Crown Consultation for applicable provincial decisions.

IAAC will coordinate, to the extent possible and desired by Indigenous Nations and communities, with the Province while respecting the principles of Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP) and Indigenous Data Sovereignty.



Where Ontario also has consultation obligations, federal and provincial consultation and engagement can be aligned, where appropriate and supported by Indigenous Nations and communities, to minimize consultation fatigue and share information, while ensuring Indigenous Nations and communities have the capacity to meaningfully participate.

For further information on proposed Indigenous consultation and engagement activities as part of the integrated assessment process, please see the Project's [Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#).

9. Decision Statement

If applicable, IAAC, the CNSC and participating ministries will consult with each other regarding draft Conditions to ensure consistency of Conditions and improve regulatory efficiencies.

10. Interpretation

This Plan is not a legal document and does not change any existing federal, provincial, or Indigenous legislative or regulatory jurisdiction, right, power, privilege, prerogative or immunity by virtue, nor does it create any new legal powers, duties or legally binding obligations.

11. Contact Information

The IAAC office designated for administering the integrated assessment of the Project in collaboration with the CNSC is:

Integrated Assessment for the Bruce C Nuclear Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Review Panel Division
Email: bruce@iaac-aeic.gc.ca



Appendix 1

Table A1. Ontario Ministries Participating in the Integrated Assessment

Provincial Ministry	Areas of Expertise	Contact Information
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks	Air quality, noise impacts, groundwater and surface water, drinking water sources, species at risk, environmental spills (land and surface water), alternatives assessment, and Aboriginal and treaty rights.	Environmental Assessment Services 135 St Clair Ave W Toronto ON, M4V 1P5 Tel.: 416-358-9934 Email: Nick.Colella@ontario.ca or maylyn.trudelle@ontario.ca



Appendix 2

Table A2. Ontario Ministry Regulatory Mechanism References

Regulatory Mechanism	Reference
Permit to Take Water under the Ontario Water Resources Act and subject to the requirements of Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (section 34.6 of OWRA)	https://www.ontario.ca/page/permits-take-water https://www.ontario.ca/page/great-lakes-st-lawrence-river-basin-sustainable-water-resources-agreement
Amendments to the existing Environmental Compliance Approval for Air, Noise and Sewage works under the Environmental Protection Act and Ontario Water Resources Act	https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-compliance-approval
Authorization under the Endangered Species Act	https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-get-endangered-species-act-permit-or-authorization