

# Integrated Impact Assessment of the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Canadian Impact Assessment Agency and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission

# Land Acknowledgement

---



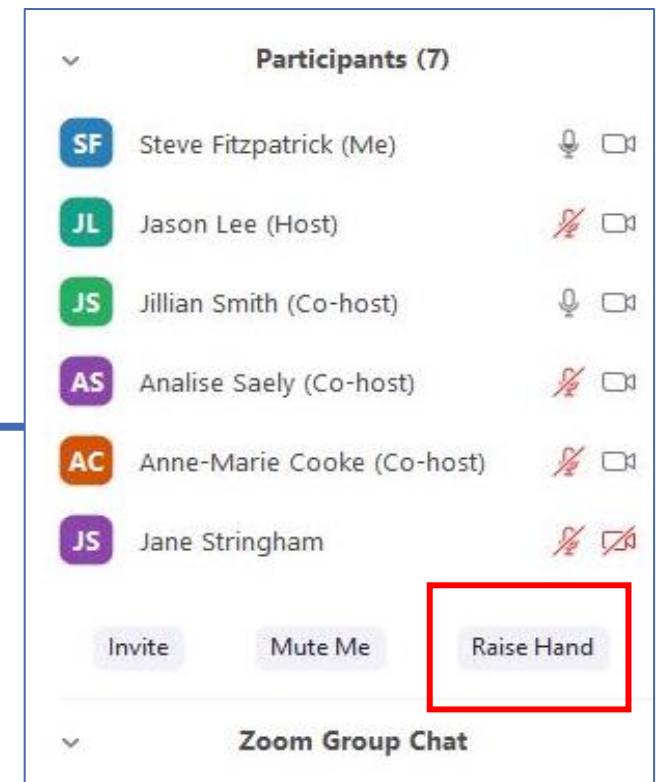
Source: Township of Ignace



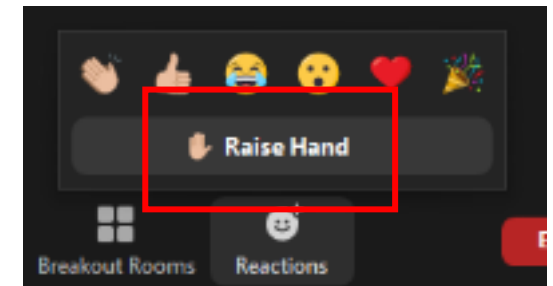
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

# To participate

- Click the “Raise Hand” function or type the question into the chat
- If you are on the phone, press \*9 to ask a question and \*6 to unmute/mute
- Please mute your microphone unless speaking



OR



# Session Overview

---

- **Who we are:** The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
- **Why we're here:** Deep Geological Repository Project (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel
- **What we do:** Integrated assessment of nuclear projects
- **Public participation**
- **Discussion and Questions**



# Who we are

THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA & THE CANADIAN NUCLEAR SAFETY COMMISSION



# Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

---

- Federal agency reporting to the Minister of **Environment, Climate Change and Nature**
- Conducts federal impact assessments on major projects in Canada (like marine terminals, major mines and nuclear facilities) under the ***Impact Assessment Act***
- Works with the support of other federal departments
- Conducts meaningful Indigenous consultation and public engagement
- Cooperates with provincial, territorial and Indigenous jurisdictions



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

# Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC)

---

- Canada's nuclear regulator
- Regulates the use of nuclear energy and materials to prevent unreasonable risk to health, safety, security and the environment
- Administers the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act* (NSCA)
- Implements Canada's international commitments on the peaceful use of nuclear energy
- Disseminates objective scientific, technical and regulatory information to the public



# Why we're here

DEEP GEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY (DGR) FOR CANADA'S USED NUCLEAR FUEL PROJECT



# Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

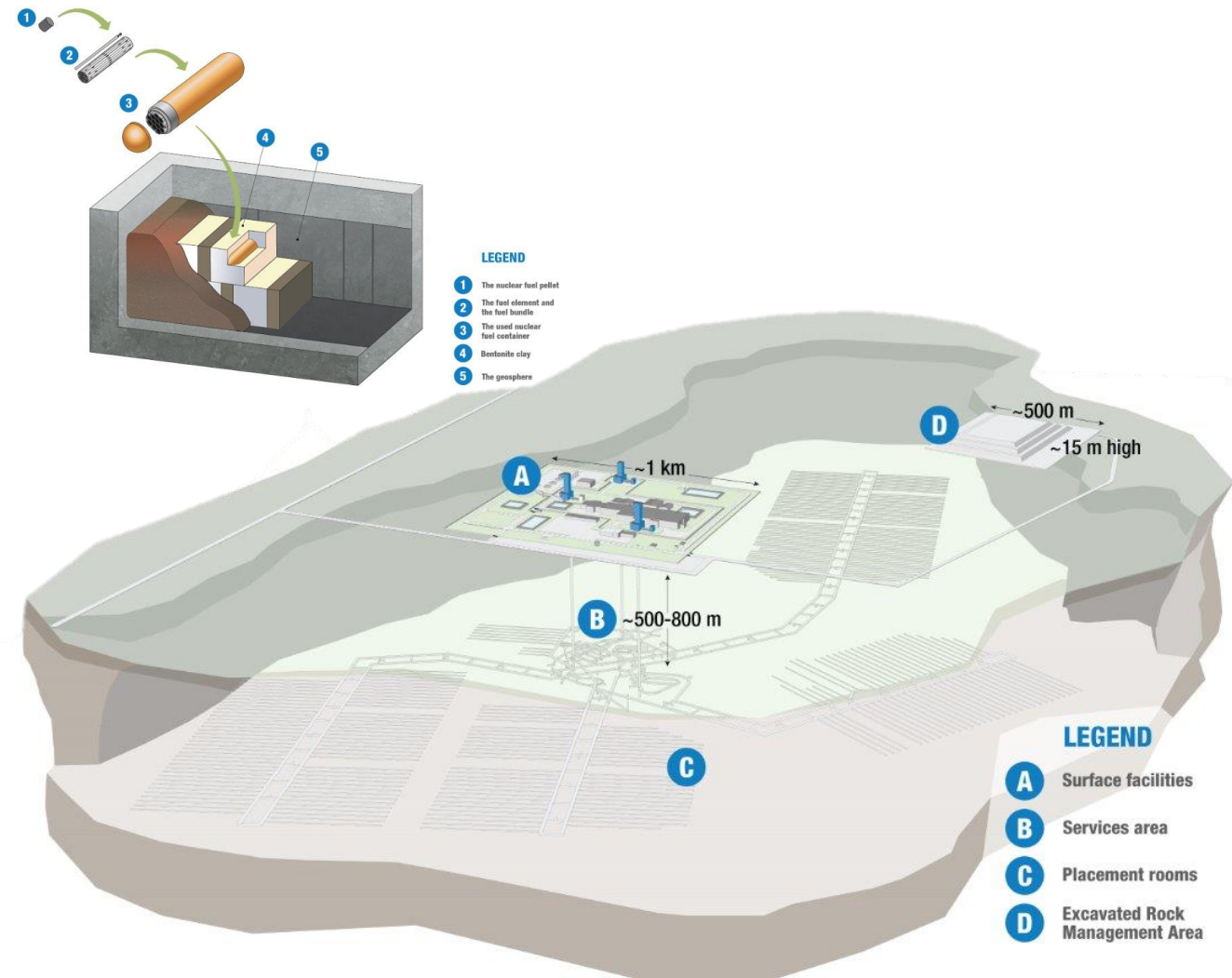
**Proponent:** Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO)

**Project:**

- Site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning and closure of a Deep Geological Repository (DGR)
- 5.9 million bundles of used nuclear fuel (remaining radioactive for millions of years)
- Depth greater than 500 metres underground
- Surface Facility Footprint: 340 hectares

**Project Location:** Ignace, Ontario

**Project Lifespan:** approximately 160 years



# What we do

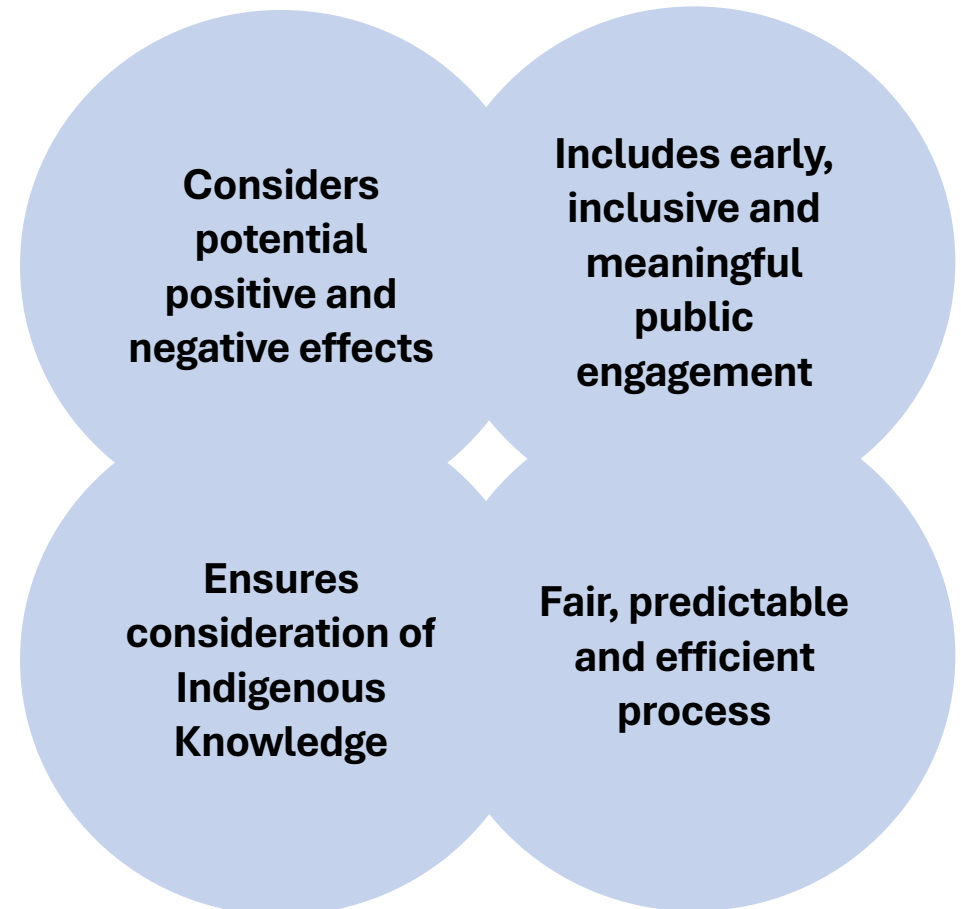
INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF NUCLEAR PROJECTS



# Integrated Assessment of Nuclear Projects

---

- When a project includes activities regulated under the NSCA, IAAC works with the CNSC to conduct an integrated assessment.
- IAAC and the CNSC:
  - cooperate with the common objective that all their requirements are achieved in a single integrated assessment as "one project, one assessment"
  - assess potential effects over the lifecycle of the project and considers the application for the first licensing phase of a nuclear facility (e.g., "Licence to Prepare a Site").
- CNSC has a robust regulatory framework for licensing and compliance of nuclear facilities and activities.



# Consultation with Indigenous Peoples

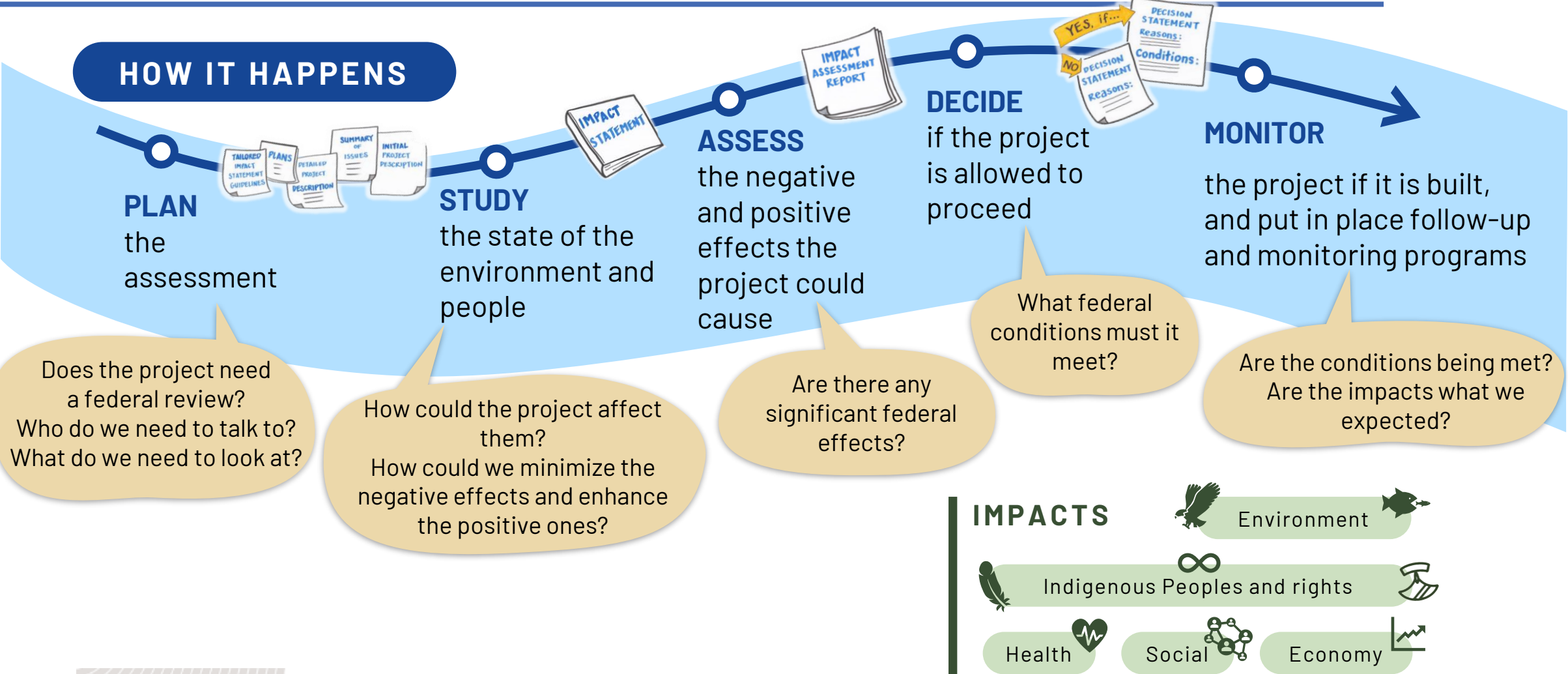
---

IAAC and CNSC will work throughout the integrated assessment process with Indigenous peoples to:

- promote relationship building
- meet the Crown's duty to consult
- ensure consideration of Indigenous Knowledge
- meet statutory obligations as outlined in the *Impact Assessment Act*
- fulfill the Government's commitment to implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

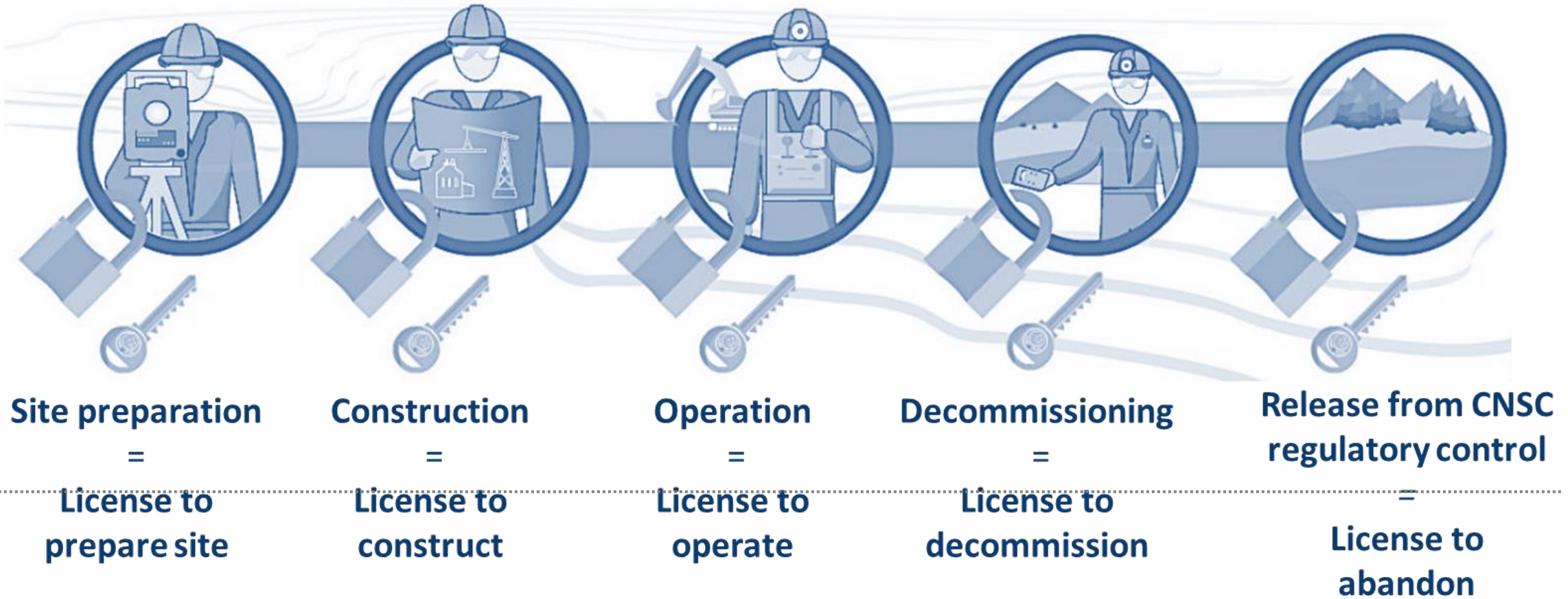


# Overview of integrated assessment process





# Nuclear Facility Licensing Stages



# Public Participation

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSESSMENT



# Why Participate

---

By participating, you can:

- identify issues that are important to you
- help us understand the context in which the proposed project would take place
- provide important knowledge or views about a project's potential impacts
- help identify and address the potential impacts of a proposed project in the early stages of an assessment
- influence decisions about projects or measures to mitigate impacts



# How to participate

---

- Visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:
  - Use the “[submit a comment](#)” feature on the project page
  - Use the “[subscribe for notifications](#)” feature on the project page to stay informed
- Attend a **public session** hosted by IAAC and CNSC to ask questions and share your views
- Write to : [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca) with your questions



# Have your say

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE SUMMARY OF THE INITIAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION



# Have Your Say – Current Comment Period

---

Public comments are invited on the summary of the **Initial Project Description (IPD)** from January 5 to February 4, 2026

- This is your opportunity to identify key issues related to this project.
- When providing comments, consider the following:
  - **What matters to you and your community?** For example: wildlife, noise, water quality, jobs, health, etc.
  - **How could this project benefit or affect your community?**
  - **Do you have specific knowledge about your community that may be relevant to the assessment of this project?** For example: history, environment, social, etc.
- A **Summary of Issues** will be provided to NWMO, who must respond outlining how issues will be addressed.

## Key Documents :

The **IPD** is prepared by NWMO - it provides an overview of the proposed project

The **Summary of Issues** is prepared by IAAC and the CNSC - it outlines key issues for the proposed project

# The Canadian Impact Assessment Registry

## Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

The Nuclear Waste Management Organization (the NWMO) is proposing a new underground deep geological repository system designed to safely contain and isolate used nuclear fuel. Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WOLON) and the Township of Ignace have been selected as the host communities for the proposed project, which is located 21 kilometres southeast of the WOLON and 43 kilometres northwest of the Town of Ignace, Ontario along Highway 17. As proposed, the Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project would provide permanent storage for approximately 5.9 million bundles of used nuclear fuel. The project is expected to span approximately 160 years, encompassing site preparation, construction, operation and closure monitoring. The project assessment is being conducted in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission.

### Latest update

January 5, 2026 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission [invite Indigenous Peoples and the public](#) to review the [summary of the Initial Project Description](#) for the Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project and provide feedback by February 4, 2026. Comments received will be used to prepare the summary of issues. [Funding](#) is also available to help participate in the impact assessment process for this project. Applications received by February 4, 2026, will be considered.

### At a glance

Planning	Impact Statement	Impact Assessment	Decision Making	Post Decision
📅	...	...	...	...

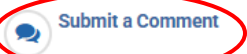
#### Planning

Not started 0/180 days

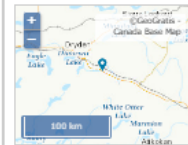
#### Comment periods

- [Public Notice - Comments invited on the summary of the Initial Project Description and funding available](#) | January 5, 2026 to February 4, 2026 - Open

### Participate



#### View interactive map



#### Disclaimer

- Location: 43 km northwest of Ignace (Ontario)
- Nature of Activity: Waste Management
- Assessment Status: In progress
- Proponent: Nuclear Waste Management Organization
- Authority: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
- Assessment Type: Planning Phase for Impact Assessment
- Reference Number: 88774

### Nearby assessments

...within 200 kilometres

- Josephine Cone Mine Project  
Ignace
- Bending Lake Iron Project  
49 kilometres southwest of Ignace
- Wabigoon Lake Water Treatment System Expansion  
Wabigoon Lake First Nation
- Goliath Gold Project  
Dryden

## Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

### Planning (Active)

#### About this comment period

To prepare for a potential assessment, there are opportunities to comment on the benefits and concerns of a project, who should conduct the assessment, like a province or panel, and what types of studies are needed. Your comments play an important role in better understanding the project and ensuring the assessment is well run.

From 2026-01-05 to 2026-02-04

No related documents for this period.

#### Disclaimer

The use of this online submission tool is voluntary and subject to the [Terms of Use](#). To submit information or comments, you will need to provide a valid email address. Information submitted via this tool must comply with the [Submission Policy](#) and should not contain confidential information or inappropriate content. Refer to the contact information identified on the relevant assessment page to submit information via other means.



[View existing comments](#)

# Providing Meaningful Input

More  
Specific



“I go ice fishing for walleye each winter in Aptos Lake. I am not sure that it will be safe after the project is built, I want to know if there will be changes to the amount of fish in the lake and that the fish remain safe to eat.”



\* Specific Concern

\* Specific Request



“I want to learn more about how many full-time jobs the project will bring to my community.”

“This project is very bad for ice fishing in the area.”



“This project is very bad.” or  
“I support this project!”



General opinion with no  
details or request

More  
General

\* Comments with derogatory language or profanity are **not** accepted

# Participant Funding Program

---

## What is it?

- Funding that is provided at key stages of the assessment process for participants who want to provide relevant knowledge or expertise to the integrated assessment.

## Who is eligible?

- Individuals, non-profit organizations, and Indigenous Nations and communities and organizations that meet at least one of these eligibility criteria can apply:
  - have a direct local interest in the project, such as living or owning property in the area
  - have community knowledge or Indigenous Knowledge relevant to the assessment
  - have expert information relevant to the anticipated impacts of the project
  - have an interest in the project's potential impacts on Treaty lands, settlement lands or traditional territories, or related claims and rights.



# Participant Funding Program

---

Deadline for submitting an application for the Planning Phase:

**February 4, 2026**

- Funding opportunities are published on the [Registry's project page](#) and [IAAC's website](#).
- For any questions or to request help with your application, contact:

Funding Programs Team

Phone: 1-866-582-1884

Email: [fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)



# Discussion & Questions



# Discussion and Questions

---



## Reminder – By February 4, 2026:

- Submit your comments on the summary of the Initial Project Description
- Submit an application for participant funding

## Contact Information:

### Integrated Assessment Team:

**Email:** [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

### Mailing Address:

Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Team

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin, 22nd Floor, Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H3

**Phone Number:** 343-598-5270

**Social Media:** @iaac\_aeic

**Media relations:** [Media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Media@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

**Participant Funding:** [fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:fp-paf@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)