

## Enclosure 1: Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) - Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

Registry File: 88774

Please submit the completed form by **February 4, 2026** via email to [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)<sup>1</sup>. In order to be posted on the Registry, and to align with the Official Languages Act, IAAC is requiring that you submit the FAAR form, or a summary of it, in French and English.

### Department/Agency Contact Information

Submission Date	2026-01-04
Department/Agency	Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor)
Lead Contact, Title, Work Unit	Robert Fan Initiatives Officer, FedNor-Program Delivery, Northwest Region
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Review the draft Initial Project Description and answer the following questions:

1. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge in its area of expertise that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the project?

Yes. FedNor possesses specialist expertise related to the economy and economic development in Northern Ontario.

The Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor), has the mandate to promote economic growth, diversification, job creation and sustainable, self-reliant communities in Northern Ontario. Through its programs and services, and its financial support of projects that lead to job creation and economic growth, FedNor works with businesses and community partners to build a stronger Northern Ontario.

As a funder, pathfinder, convener and advocate, FedNor helps Northern Ontario communities (indigenous and non-indigenous) obtain federal government funding to participate in the planning, development and implementation of infrastructure projects linked to regional economic development opportunities.

FedNor led the [Prosperity and Growth Strategy for Northern Ontario, 2025-2030](#), which reflects a whole-of-government approach to catalyze strong economic development in the region.

2. Will your department or agency exercise a **power, perform a duty or function**, or provide **financial assistance**, related to the project to enable it to be carried out in whole or in part?

The Federal Economic Development Agency for Northern Ontario (FedNor) does not currently have any projects seeking financial assistance from NWMO, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation (WLO) or the Township of Ignace that are directly or indirectly, to the Deep Geological Repository site.

FedNor programs and initiatives are available to organizations located in Northern Ontario and applications can be submitted on a continuous basis. As such, the Agency may be asked to support business or economic development initiatives or opportunities that they arise as the Deep Geological Repository project progresses.

Following are the core funding programs at FedNor:

A. Northern Ontario Development Program (NODP)

Through its Northern Ontario Development Program, FedNor invests in projects led by municipalities, First Nations, and other organizations and institutions that support community economic development, diversification, job creation and self-reliant communities in Northern Ontario. Funding may be prioritized under the priorities of:

Community Economic Development

FedNor targets its support to help rural and remote communities create the conditions necessary for economic growth and development. This includes investments in projects such as strategic community and business planning, strengthening of communities' industrial and business assets, implementation of priority initiatives, as well as support for youth internships.

Business Growth and Competitiveness

Funding for Northern Ontario businesses to facilitate access to capital, support modernization of operational and management processes, and increase trade, exports, and access to new markets. Investments target activities that accelerate the growth of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) within key industry sectors and contribute to the expansion of the regional economy.

Community Investment Initiative for Northern Ontario

Funding is available for small communities or First Nations to hire a qualified individual to help develop the local economy. This economic development professional will work to foster opportunities and partnerships in the region and help implement strategies that seek to strengthen the community and create jobs.

B. Regional Economic Growth Through Innovation (REGI)

FedNor delivers two streams of programming to help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses and create the conditions for the development of strong, dynamic and inclusive regional innovation ecosystems across the country:

Business scale-up and productivity - Funding offered under this program stream helps businesses at various stages of development, including high-growth firms, to accelerate growth and adopt innovative technologies that support scale-up, commercialization, productivity and market expansion to become more competitive globally.

Regional innovation ecosystems - Funding under this program stream helps not-for-profit organizations create, grow and develop strong and inclusive regional networks that support business growth and innovation. This will foster the entrepreneurial environment necessary for more innovative regional economies and increase the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

3. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context-specific **key issues** based on the expertise within your mandate<sup>1</sup> and the information in your possession. Available information may include your access to databases and corporate knowledge, the draft Initial Project Description, any exchanges with the proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects.

FedNor has no additional key issues to raise that have not been acknowledged in the Initial Project Description.

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC](#).

**Table 1: Key Issues to inform the integrated assessment process**

This table should outline key issues to inform the integrated assessment process, including whether an impact assessment is required and, if so, the scope of the assessment and tailoring of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Key issues are the major concerns directly related to a project component or activity, the analysis of which is anticipated to be material to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*. Federal authorities' advice should be guided by the identification and resolution of key issues. If an impact assessment is required, it will be focused on key issues.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their rights	e) Means for issue resolution	f) Additional information from the proponent
<p>Identify each comment by your organization's acronym and a sequential comment number.</p> <p>e.g.: IAAC-01</p>	<p>Specify each key issue (e.g., specific species and location).</p>	<p>Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.</p> <p>Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity of the component or activity.</p>	<p>Identify the specific effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).</p>	<p>Describe why it's a key issue within the mandate of your department or agency, including in terms of priorities of the federal government and in terms of anticipated likelihood, severity or uncertainty of effects.</p> <p>Identify if the key issue is common for project activities of this nature or in this sector, or whether it is unique to this project due to the project's complexity, size or novelty; a sensitive or rare receiving environment; and/or proximity of sensitive environmental or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples).</p>	<p>Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;</li> <li>presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);</li> <li>novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;</li> <li>high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</li> <li>unknown or unproven mitigation; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>a factor for the justification in the public interest anticipated to be material to decision-making such as a likely positive effect contributing to sustainability, to Canada's environmental obligations or climate change commitments or in supporting governmental priorities, such as reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ul>	<p>Describe how key issues you have identified within your mandate and expertise may lead to impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their rights.</p> <p>This advice must be informed by knowledge and input from Indigenous Nations and communities during the comment period, or within the Initial Project Description to support a more accurate, respectful and collaborative assessment.</p>	<p>Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance for which your department or agency is responsible;</li> <li>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;</li> <li>Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or</li> <li>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</li> </ul>	<p>Describe information the proponent could provide, or commitments the proponent could make, that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means (to be considered for the final Initial Project Description, future Summary of Issues and response, or (potential) Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines).</p> <p>Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.</p>