

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

INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT SESSION – APRIL 2026



GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Canada

# Land acknowledgement

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Image source: NWMO

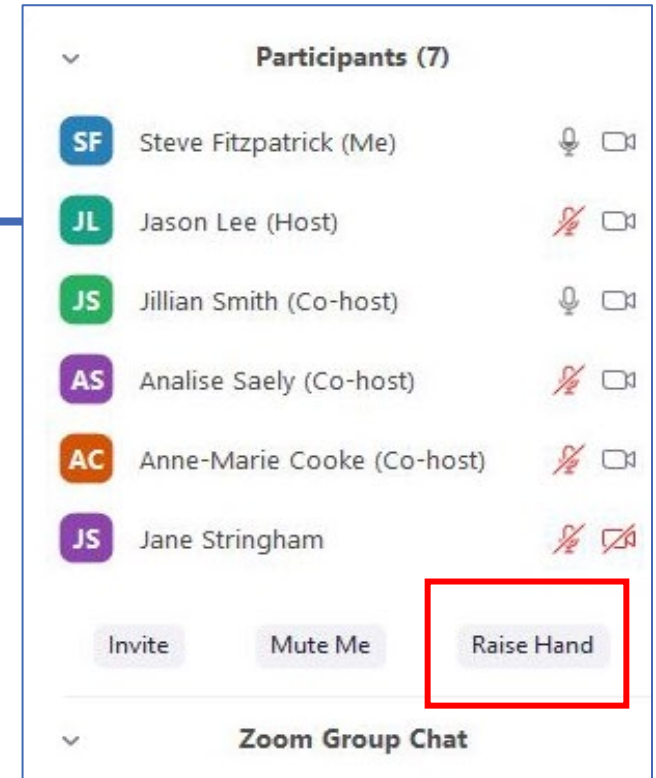


# To participate

Click the “Raise Hand” function or type the question into the chat

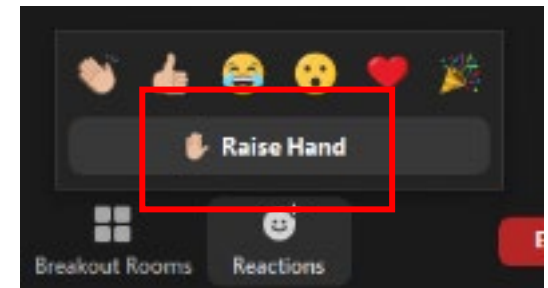
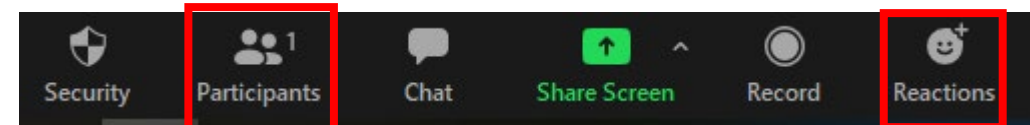
If you are on the phone, press \*9 to ask a question and \*6 to unmute/mute

Please mute your microphone unless speaking



or

or





# Overview

1. Who we are – IAAC and the CNSC
2. The project
3. Integrated assessment
4. Key documents
5. Public participation
6. Discussion

# Who we are

INTRODUCTION



# Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

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- Federal agency reporting to the Minister of **Environment and 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 meaningful 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)

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- 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

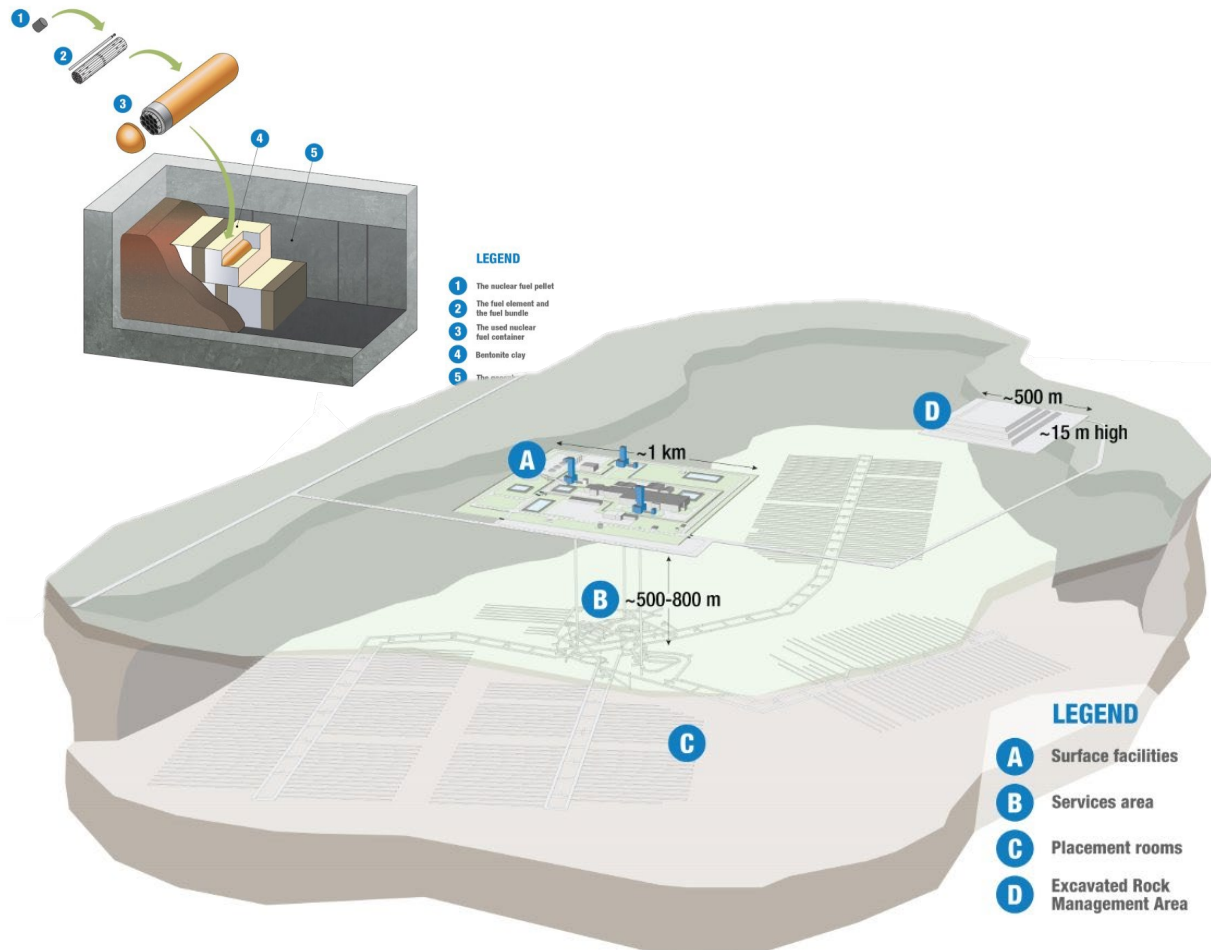


# Deep Geological Repository (DGR) for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel Project

PROPOSED BY THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (NWMO)



# 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)
- Permanent storage for ~ 5.9 million bundles of used nuclear fuel
- Underground storage complex, used fuel repackaging plant

**Location:** 43 km northwest of Ignace, Ontario

**Project lifespan:** ~160 years

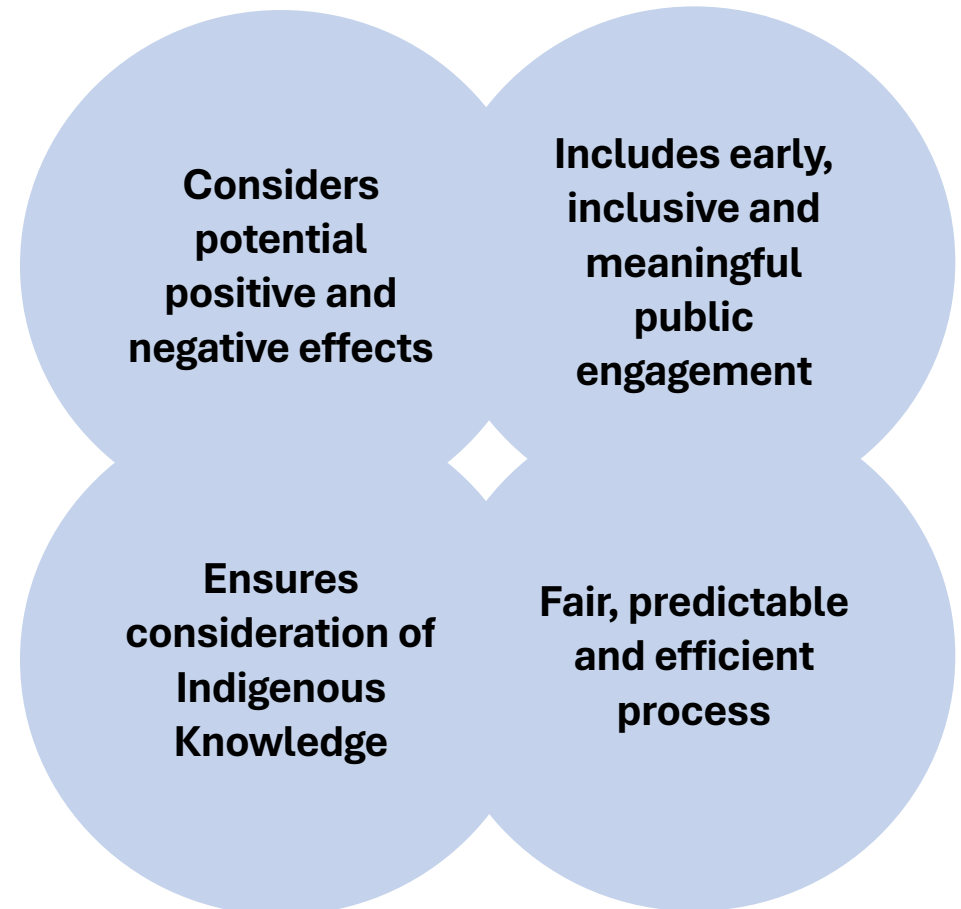
# Integrated Assessment of Nuclear Projects

GENERAL OVERVIEW AND CURRENT STATUS



# 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 applicable CNSC and IAAC 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



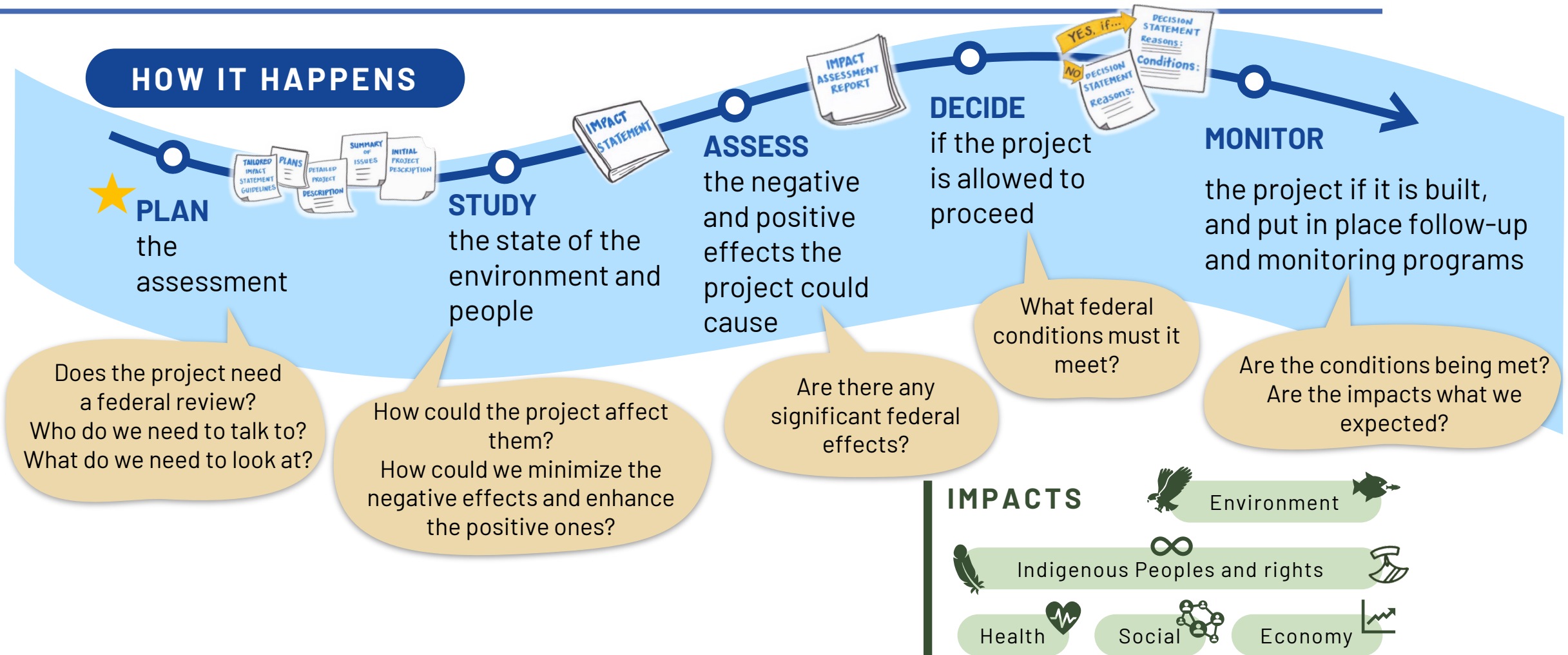
# Engagement and consultation with Indigenous Peoples

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



Site preparation

Construction

Operation

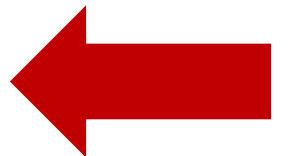
Decommissioning

Release from CNSC  
regulatory control



# Planning phase timeline

Process step	Date
<b>Initial Project Description</b> posted to registry	January 5, 2026
<b>First public comment period</b> (30 days)	January 5 to February 4, 2026
<b>Summary of Issues</b> posted to registry	February 16, 2026
<b>NWMO response to the Summary of Issues</b> posted to registry after a conformity review	March 12, 2026
<b>IAAC determination that Integrated Assessment is required and referral to Review Panel</b>	March 18, 2026
<b>Draft Integrated Guidelines &amp; draft plans</b> posted to registry	April 10, 2026
<b>Second public comment period</b> (30 days)	April 10 to May 10, 2026
<b>Final Integrated Guidelines, final plans and Notice of Commencement</b> posted to registry	By July 4, 2026



# Key documents

DRAFT INTEGRATED GUIDELINES & DRAFT PLANS



# Overview of key documents

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The integrated assessment process includes several key documents which are drafted during the planning phase:

- Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Public Participation Plan
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Cooperation Plan
- Permitting Plan



# Integrated Guidelines

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Inform the NWMO what information and studies need to be provided and how to collect and analyze the information for their project

- Address project-specific environmental, health, social and economic effects
- Scope the factors to be considered
- Provide clarity on baselines and required studies
- Provide direction on how NWMO will work with Indigenous Nations and communities and the public
- Identify the valued components to be included in NWMO's analysis of positive and adverse effects



# Integrated Guidelines

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## Integrated Guidelines **can**:

- ✓ Request information to understand:
  - the environment and community
  - the project and its components
  - potential project effects
  - cumulative effects
- ✓ Identify ways to minimize negative project effects and maximize positive effects
- ✓ Focus the assessment on key issues of greatest importance and concern






## Integrated Guidelines **cannot**:

- × Force the proponent to change, stop, or significantly delay their project
- × Approve or provide pre-approval for the project
- × Provide instructions to parties other than the proponent (for example, provincial ministries or federal departments)



# Key sections of the draft integrated guidelines



- Section 5: Physical Environment 
- Section 6: Biological Environment 
- Section 7: Human Environment 
- Section 8: Indigenous Nations and communities
- Section 9: Effects of Potential Accidents or Malfunctions 
- Section 10: Planning for transportation 

A summary of the draft Integrated Guidelines is available on the project's registry page.

# Licence to Prepare Site application

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Appendix A of the Integrated Guidelines provides requirements and guidance on the information needed to apply for a licence to prepare site for a deep geological repository facility.

In addition to the integrated guidelines, the applicant must satisfy CNSC staff with information addressing these “Safety and Control Areas”:

- Management System
- Human performance management
- Operating performance
- Safety analysis
- Physical design
- Fitness for service
- Radiation protection
- Conventional health and safety
- Environmental protection
- Emergency management and fire protection
- Waste management
- Security
- Safeguards and non-proliferation

# Public Participation Plan

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- Designed to provide the proponent, the public and other participants with certainty about how and when public participation will occur
- Tailored to the project and includes:
  - Objectives of the plan that reflect the views heard during the planning phase.
  - A table that describes the phases of the integrated assessment and the engagement opportunities during each phase.

## Public Participation Plan



# Public Participation

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSESSMENT



# Comment Period

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**April 10 to May 10, 2026**

Submit your comments on the:

- Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Draft Public Participation Plan

Your comments will inform the final versions of these documents.



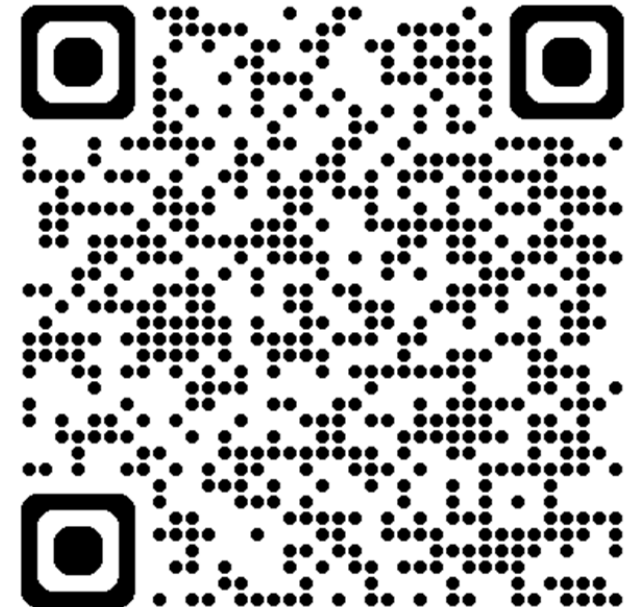
# How to participate

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- Attend an information session hosted by IAAC, CNSC or the proponent to ask questions and share your views
- Visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry:
  - Use the “submit a comment” feature on the project page
- Write to [nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nuclearwaste-dechetsnucleaires@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)
  - with your comments and questions
  - to add your address to the project’s email notification list

- Send comments by mail to:

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3  
Deep Geological Repository for Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel  
Integrated Assessment Team



Deadline:  
**May 10, 2026**

# 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 (WLO) and the Township of Ignace have been selected as the host communities for the proposed project, which is located 21 kilometres southeast of the WLO 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

April 10, 2026 — The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission are [inviting public comments](#) by May 10, 2026, on the [draft integrated tailored impact statement guidelines](#) and the [draft public participation plan](#).

### At a glance

Progress bar showing stages: Planning (95/180 days), Impact Statement, Impact Assessment, Decision Making, Post Decision.

**Key documents**

- [Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Draft Permitting Plan](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Draft Cooperation Plan](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Summary of the Draft Integrated Guidelines](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Technical Considerations and References for the Preparation of an Impact Statement](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Generic Requirements for the Preparation of an Impact Statement](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) | April 10, 2026
- [Notice of referral to review panel](#) | March 23, 2026
- [Notice of early decision with reasons](#) | March 23, 2026
- [Consolidated Information on the Transportation of Used Fuel - Plain Language Summary](#) | March 17, 2026

**Comment periods**

- [Public Notice - Comments invited and information sessions on the draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and draft Public Participation Plan](#) | April 10, 2026 to May 10, 2026 - Open
- [Public Notice - Comments invited on the summary of the Initial Project Description and Funding available](#) | January 5, 2026 to February 4, 2026 - Closed

### View interactive map



- Disclaimer**
- Location**  
43 km northwest of Ignace (Ontario)
  - Nature of Activity**  
Waste Management
  - Assessment Status**  
In progress
  - Start Date**  
2025-01-06
  - Proponent**  
Nuclear Waste Management Organization
  - Authorities**  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
  - Assessment Type**  
Planning Phase for Impact Assessment
  - Reference Number**  
88774

### Nearby assessments

- [Josephine Cone Mine Project](#)
- [Bending Lake Iron Project](#)
- [Wabigoon Lake Water Treatment System Expansion](#)
- [Wabigoon Lake First Nation](#)

## 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

### Related Documents

Document Title	File	Date Posted
<a href="#">Summary of the initial project description of a designated project</a>	pdf (115.71 MB)	2026-01-05

From 2026-04-10 to 2026-05-10

### Related Documents

Document Title	File	Date Posted
<a href="#">Draft Public Participation Plan</a>	pdf (0.44 MB)	2026-04-10
<a href="#">Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines</a>	pdf (1.04 MB)	2026-04-10

### 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, including confidential Indigenous knowledge, or inappropriate content. Refer to the contact information identified on the relevant assessment page to submit information via other means.

[Submit a comment](#)

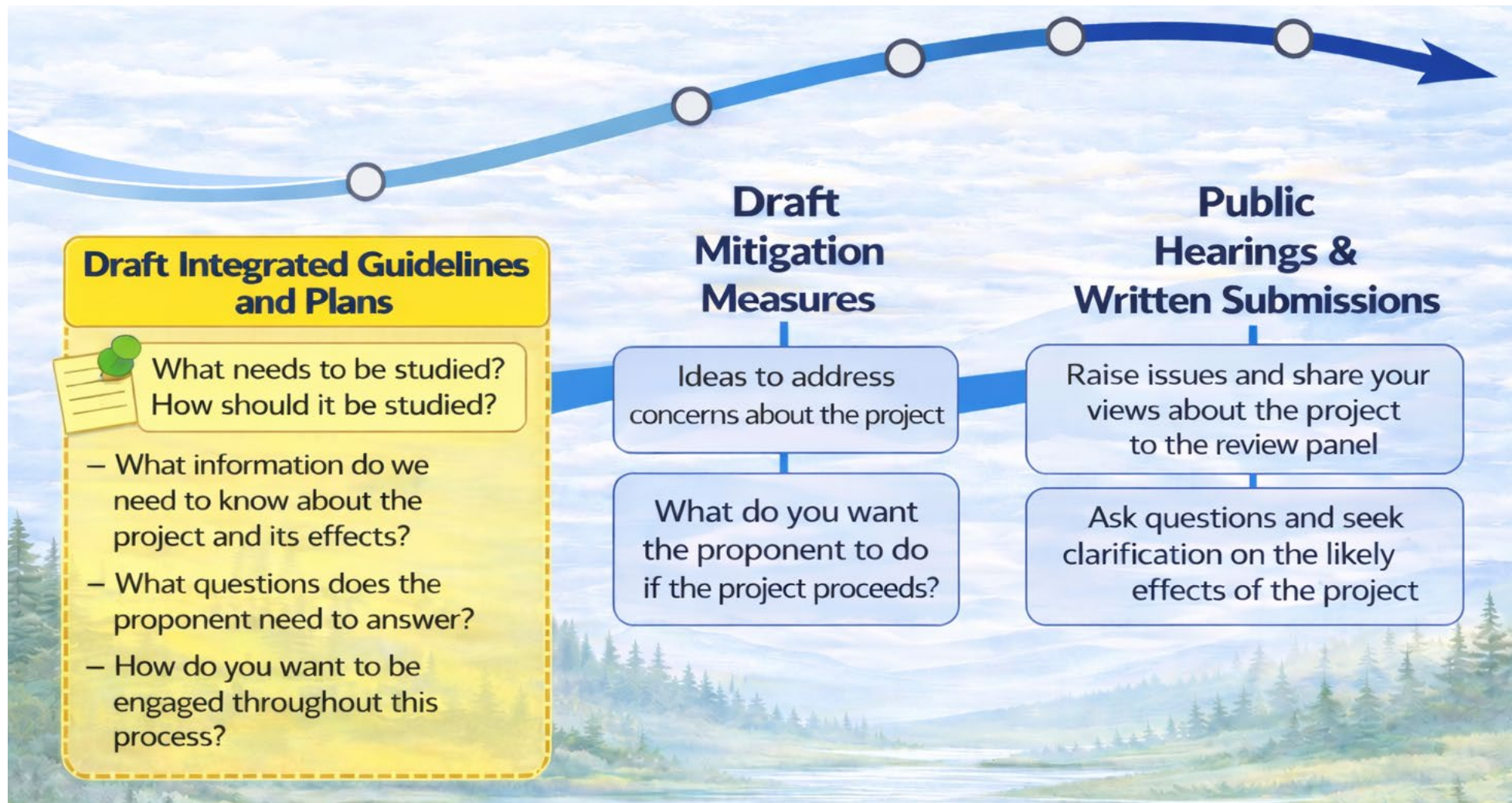
[View existing comments](#)

## Participate

[Submit a Comment](#)

[View Comments](#)  
Total: 933

# Information needs for comment periods



# Providing meaningful input

More  
Specific



Integrated Guidelines Section # 1.2.3

The draft Integrated Guidelines say “describe the potential effects of changes to economic conditions for specific sectors including fishing, hunting, and trapping”. I am a professional guide and outfitter in the area and want to understand the effects of the project on my profession. I recommend adding “guiding” to this list.



Integrated Guidelines: Health Section

I want the NWMO to study the effects that the project may have on mental health and wellbeing of community members

More  
General



What effects will the project have on my community?

\* Comments with derogatory language or profanity are **not** accepted. See IAAC’s submission policy: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

# Thank you! Questions?

## Reminders:

Submit your comments on the:

- Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Draft Public Participation Plan

Before **May 10, 2026** at 11:59 pm

## Contact Information:

### Integrated Assessment Team:

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

**Phone:** 343-598-5270

### Mailing Address:

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

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

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