



July 31, 2025

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Scott Henuset, President
Energy Alberta
#406, 440-10816 Macleod Trail SE
Calgary, AB T2J 5N

Re: Request for a Voluntary Pause in Planning Activities for the Peace River Nuclear Power Project

Dear Mr. Henuset,

On behalf of the Cadotte Lake Métis Nation (CLMN), I wish to acknowledge the recent positive and constructive meeting between our Nation and representatives of the Energy Alberta Project team. We look forward to working together on the action items we discussed in the days ahead.

As we continue these early conversations around establishing a meaningful and respectful consultation process, we want to raise a critical concern discussed during our meeting: the rapid pace at which the Peace River Nuclear Power Project is advancing through the regulatory process.

This accelerated timeline has limited the opportunity for proper, pre-application discussions with CLMN. We have not had the chance to reach agreement on the scope of engagement, consultation responsibilities, necessary impact assessment tasks, or the funding required to support our community's full and informed participation.

While a modest amount of funding has been offered jointly by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and Energy Alberta during this initial planning phase, it is not enough to support meaningful engagement at this critical time. We are already under pressure to provide comments on the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG)—a key document that will define what is assessed in the Project's environmental and impact review. The Government of Canada's decisions on this document will have lasting implications for whether and how our rights, interests, and way of life are meaningfully considered.

We want to underscore the scale and significance of what is being proposed. This is a major project with the potential to create a wide range of direct, indirect, and cumulative effects on our lands and our people. Many of our community members have longstanding and ongoing ties to the Peace River valley and surrounding areas. The lands in question continue to provide for our cultural, spiritual, and subsistence needs. The CLMN also has unresolved legal matters before the courts concerning the Crown's failure to provide a land base to our Nation—issues directly connected to the area being proposed for development.

Because of this, our Nation has reasonable questions and concerns about the risks and impacts of this Project—on the environment, public health, safety, and our way of life. It is essential that we are given the time and support to fully understand these issues and participate meaningfully, especially now when foundational decisions about the review process are being made.

Despite our commitment to engaging constructively, we are struggling to do so meaningfully under the current process due to the following challenges:

1. Inadequate Capacity and Funding

The \$10,000 provided by IAAC and the \$10,000 matched by Energy Alberta are far from sufficient to support the technical review, expert input, and community engagement needed at this stage. CLMN currently lacks the capacity and financial resources to participate in a full and informed manner.

2. Geographic and Cultural Proximity

CLMN is located near the proposed nuclear facility and is one of the most directly affected communities. Half of the CLMN membership reside at locations in close proximity to the Project including Cadotte Lake, St. Isadore and Peace River. We have deep cultural and historical ties to the Peace River region and the core of our traditional lands. Our people continue to use this area for traditional practices like fishing, hunting, and ceremony. The proposed development poses significant risks to these practices, as well as to the broader ecosystem.

3. Potential Long-Term Consequences

The possibility of nuclear waste storage, environmental change, and permanent landscape disruption must be taken seriously. A fast-tracked process does not allow for the care and caution warranted by the scale of this Project.

4. Community Awareness and Readiness

Many of our members, including myself, are still learning about the technical nature and potential risks of this Project. Without time to conduct proper internal outreach, education, and technical review informed by our own experts, we cannot provide informed feedback on key matters such as the TISG. Our

community needs support to develop a basic understanding of nuclear energy, impact assessment processes, and project risks.

In light of these challenges, we are requesting that Energy Alberta voluntarily pause the current planning phase of the Project for a period of six months to one year. This would allow CLMN to develop the capacity and understanding needed to participate meaningfully and ensure that the consultation process is fair, inclusive, and respectful of our rights and responsibilities.

This is not a request made lightly. Given the scale of the Project and its potential intergenerational effects, we believe this is a reasonable and necessary step.

We remain committed to working in good faith with Energy Alberta and all other parties involved. But we also emphasize that meaningful consultation cannot happen without adequate time, support, and responsiveness to the concerns of directly affected communities like ours.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to your response and to continuing our work together toward a more balanced and inclusive review process.

Yours sincerely,
Signature redacted

Wendy Goulet
President
Cadotte Lake Métis Nation

CC:

Cadotte Lake Métis Nation Board / Members
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