

Enclosure 1: Federal Authority Advice Record – New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project

Registry No. 89802

Please submit the completed form by February 11, 2026, via email to wesleyville@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.¹ 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	February 11th, 2026
Department/Agency	Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
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Review the draft Initial Project Description and answer the following questions:

1. 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?

No.

As relevant,

- a) Specify the power, duty or function, or financial assistance, and the likelihood that it will be required to construct the project, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required
- b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines, and elaborate on any potential opportunities for consultation coordination with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required
- c) Describe any associated information requirements (e.g., alternative means assessment, habitat offsetting), and specify those that may be coordinated with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required
- d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide
- e) Indicate whether your department or agency has identified any power that it will be unable, or may be unable, to exercise to allow the project to proceed, in whole or in part as currently planned, with reasons; if unsure, explain what must be resolved to increase confidence

¹ Please note that advice provided to IAAC may be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site or otherwise made available to the public.

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2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context-specific **key issues** based on the expertise within your mandate² 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.

For each key issue:

- a) Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
- b) Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
- c) Explain why it is a key issue based on:
 - i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
 - ii. concerns unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
 - iii. the issue being material³ to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*
- d) Potential pathways from key issues that could lead to an impact on Indigenous Peoples and their rights
- e) Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through other means than an impact assessment (e.g., other regulatory oversight)
- f) Identify additional information the proponent could provide to build confidence about how the issue could be addressed through other means

IAAC has prepared a preliminary list of potential effects that are likely to be key issues for the impact assessment.⁴ While completing **Table 1**, IAAC requests that, as appropriate based on your department or agency's mandate and expertise, you validate this list, add precision or rationale where appropriate, and recommend any additional key issues for consideration. For a federal work or undertaking, such as nuclear energy works, a broader range of effects are within federal jurisdiction, including socio-economic effects.

IAAC has identified the following topics as **potential key issues** for the impact assessment:

- Effects to Biological Environment: vegetation (terrestrial, riparian and wetland environments), wildlife, reptiles and amphibians, fish and fish habitat, birds, species at risk
- Effects to Physical Environment: geology and geochemistry, soils and sediment, ambient radioactivity, air quality/emissions, surface water quality/quantity, groundwater quality/quantity, effects to Lake Ontario
- Accidents and malfunctions and effects of the environment on the project
- Impacts to Indigenous rights, current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, physical and cultural heritage of Indigenous peoples and sites of archaeological importance, with a focus on potential archaeological resources on land or water, and species of cultural importance
- Effects to the health, social and economic conditions and the positive and negative consequences of these changes that are likely to be caused by the carrying out of the designated project

Please see ESDC responses in Table 1 below.

**Eva Lazar – Executive Director,
Strategic Integration, Policy and
Partnerships Directorate (SIPPD)
of the Skills and Employment
Branch (SEB), ESDC.**

² Refer to the [Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC](#).

³ An issue is material to decision making if its analysis is anticipated to affect the conclusions on (1) whether adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct and incidental adverse effects (collectively adverse federal effects) are likely not significant, or of low, medium or high significance; (2) appropriate mitigation measures for significant adverse federal effects; or (3) justification in the public interest.

⁴ IAAC has prepared this list based on limited information prior to receipt of the draft Initial Project Description. It may change based on input received from federal and provincial authorities, Indigenous communities, and the public.

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Name and title of Departmental /
Agency Responder

February 11th, 2026

Date

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Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process

This table should outline key issues to inform the impact 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"> 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"> federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments; presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples); novel or complex project activities, components or technologies; high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures; unknown or unproven mitigation; or 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. 	<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"> Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance for which your department or agency is responsible; Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province; Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description). 	<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>
ESDC-01	Economic Impacts	Economic Context, pp. 35 – 37.		In this section of the Summary Initial Project Description (IPD), a somewhat detailed description is provided regarding the number and percentage of the labour force that is currently available for each region impacted by the proposed Project. However, there is no indication if the labour force currently available is sufficient for the construction and operation of the proposed Project.			It is recommended that the proponent be required to determine if the existing labour force in the impacted areas of the proposed Project is adequate for the Project's construction and operation and indicate this in either the next iteration of the IPD or the Detailed Project Description (DPD). This would involve providing a clear indication of the required size of the labour force and its required skill set and whether it is currently available within the impacted regions.	<input type="checkbox"/> How the project would economically benefit the community as a whole and equity-deserving groups in the community's labour market at the local, regional, and national levels. <input type="checkbox"/> Explicit indication of the anticipated

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								<p>time frame for the construction and completion of the project and its anticipated lifespan - including consideration of potential risks and mitigation measures related to boom-bust economic cycles.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Project's approximate budget and how much will be spent locally on construction and operation phases including the contracting that will be made to local businesses and the labour force.</p>
ESDC-02	Employment	Social, Economic, and Health, pp. 33 – 37.		<p>The demographics, income and employment levels for each region impacted by the proposed Project is provided in this section of the summary IPD in addition to its available labour force (see ESDC-01) What impact the proposed Project will have on each region's demography, income and employment levels, however, is not provided.</p>			<p>It is recommended that the Proponent be required to provide a detailed analysis of the effect the proposed Project will have on the demographic, income and employment levels of its impacted communities. This type of analysis will allow for a better understanding of to what degree the proposed Project will improve the quality of life for each impacted community.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>Forecast of the number of jobs to be created, their job categories (i.e. contractual, part-time, or full-time), and the timeframe of these jobs during the construction phase and operation phases of the project.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Labour force characteristics of the community and local workforce (i.e., employment rate, participation rate, income distribution, level of education), broken down by gender, age, equity deserving groups (ie. Indigenous Peoples, racialized groups, persons with disabilities, newcomers) and any other relevant</p>

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								<p>socioeconomic characteristics.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adverse effects to local employment - how would they be managed or mitigated (mitigation measures); what employment related programs will be made accessible to those negatively affected by the project (e.g. ESDC employment and training programs), such as job skills and employment training or re-training.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive inclusive workforce strategies that outline plans to hire and retain local residents and identify and reduce employment barriers to improve the labour market outcomes of Indigenous Peoples and equity deserving groups.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Assistance to be provided to former employees when the project's facility will permanently shut down (ie. severance pay, retraining/skilling, an offer of another job, or an early retirement package).</p>
ESDC-03	Training and Apprenticeships			The summary IPD does not make mention of any initiatives with respect to training and apprenticeships that would be required for the construction			It is recommended that the Proponent be required to provide a detailed description of existing training and apprenticeships that are currently	<input type="checkbox"/> Employer-sponsored training of employees and potential employees

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				<p>and operation of the proposed Project. There is also no indication of what training and apprenticeships are currently available in the impacted areas of the proposed Project and to who.</p>			<p>available in the impacted communities of the proposed Project. This will allow for a better understanding of what resources are currently available to assist in ensuring the proposed Project is completed and operated successfully.</p> <p>– how this will be facilitated, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Engagement with the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) and the Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) First Nations and Métis service delivery providers in the region throughout the project's lifespan.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Details on the types of skills and knowledge that may be required to support the completion of the project throughout each stage of the project's lifespan (from construction to operation) and how to assist the local workforce in acquiring them, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and equity-deserving groups.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>The availability and accessibility of training programs to effectively train the local population and potential workers from surrounding areas (e.g. ESDC employment and training programs).</p>
<p>ESDC-04</p>	<p>Socio-economic conditions for Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Real and Potential Impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada (Preliminary), p. 46.</p>		<p>This section of the summary IPD does not provide any insight or analysis regarding the economic impacts the proposed Project will have on any</p>			<p>It is recommended that the proponent be required to provide a detailed analysis of the economic impact the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Specific strategies to increase hiring and training of Indigenous people</p>

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		Summary of Real and Potential Impacts (Preliminary), pp. 62, 75.		impacted Indigenous communities with respect to such topics as employment or improved standard of living.			proposed Project will have on effected Indigenous communities.	of varying socioeconomic characteristics, such as through the ISET and the SPF programs. These strategies must include an estimation of the total number of employees expected from local Indigenous communities and the elimination of existing barriers to participation of Indigenous peoples.
ESDC-05	Socio-economic conditions	Social, Economic, and Health, pp. 33 – 37. Summary of Real and Potential Impacts (Preliminary), p., 75.		Sections of the summary IPD touch on the existing socio-economic conditions of the communities potentially impacted by the proposed Project; however, little detail is given on how they will be affected by the Project itself. Furthermore, there is no indication within the summary IPD of how economically and socially disadvantaged populations will benefit from the proposed Project or how the Proponent intends to assist in ensuring they do benefit.			It is recommended that the Proponent be required to provide a detailed analysis of how the proposed Project will impact the socio-economic conditions of potentially impacted communities, especially with respect to economically and socially disadvantaged populations.	<input type="checkbox"/> The social and economic context of the region of study (i.e. main economic industries, similar projects in the area) in relation to the project. <input type="checkbox"/> Details on any commitments to maximize the positive socio-economic outcomes of the project for local communities and all segments of their populations, such as employment and enhanced social services. <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation of the availability and affordability of childcare services for workers that provides details on the number of childcare spaces available, costs and how the project will impact access to early learning and childcare programs

