

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

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| Submission Date | February 11, 2026 |
| Department/Agency | Health Canada |
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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, Health Canada (HC) will not exercise a power, perform a duty of function, or provide financial assistance related to the project to enable any carrying out in whole or in part, including under the *Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan (FNEP)* or *Emergency Management Act (EMA)*. HC recommends the removal of the bullet under “Emergency Management Act” in Table C-1 in Appendix C of the IPD (pdf pg. 351), which indicates “HC plays a key role in protecting Canadians from the risk of radiation exposure and lead federal department responsible for the Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan. There is potential for amendments to Federal Nuclear Emergency Plan (FNEP) under Emergency Management Act.” While the first sentence is correct on its own, it is not relevant to the undertaking of an impact assessment. HC would also like to clarify that there is no relationship between amendments to the FNEP and the EMA.

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
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

Julie Boudreau,
Impact Assessment Specialist

Name and title of Departmental / Agency Responder

February 11, 2026

Date

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.

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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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 |
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| <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> <p>an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:</p> <p>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</p> | <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> <p>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance for which your department or agency is responsible;</p> <p>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</p> <p>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</p> | <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> |

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| <p>HC-01</p> | <p>Potential effects to human health. Effects to human health may occur from exposure to non-radiological contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) in air and to noise emissions. Effects to human health are also included in IAAC's potential key issues list under Question 2 of the Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR), "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"</p> | <p>The operation of vehicles and heavy machinery during site preparation, construction and decommissioning may result in potential effects to human health. Table 5 of the Initial Project Description [IPD] estimates that site preparation, construction and decommissioning of this 10,000 MW project will take a considerable amount of time, estimated at 7 years, 15 years and 30 years, respectively. Table 29 of the IPD indicates there are anticipated emissions of noise and non-radiological emissions to air from vehicles and heavy machinery during these phases.</p> | <p>Site preparation, construction and decommissioning may result in non-radiological air and noise emissions to which people in or near the project area may become exposed. Table 29 of the IPD indicates potential non-radiological air emissions from site preparation (particulate matter or PM) and emissions from vehicles and heavy machinery during construction [sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO₂) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)]. Additionally, noise emissions are predicted from on-site machinery. Although Table 29 indicates it is a preliminary list of potential emissions to land, air and water, other potential contaminants commonly associated with construction activities [fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, including diesel exhaust PM_{2.5}), volatile organic carbons (VOCs) and metals]¹ have not been included in the emissions list. The IPD indicates there is mixed residential, agricultural and commercial uses on-site and in the areas bordering the project boundary. However, the IPD does not clearly show all potential receptor locations, including temporary and seasonal receptors, sensitive receptors such as schools or hospitals or clarification on whether there may be site visitors to any of the leased buildings currently on site [IPD pdf pg. 127] during any of the project phase (e.g., site preparation).</p> | <p>Lack of clarity on the location and nature of human receptors. Details on the location and nature of potential human receptors, including information on the presence of sensitive receptors, has not been provided. From a geospatial database (Google Earth images) it appears that there are several residences abutting and in close proximity to the project boundary. Additionally, it is not clear whether there may be visitors to any of the leased buildings currently on site [IPD pdf pg. 127] during any of the project phase (e.g., site preparation). As this is a large-scale nuclear infrastructure project with an estimated combined site preparation, construction, and decommissioning duration of approximately 52 years, noise and non-radiological air emissions will be generated over an extended period. As a result, there is potential for human receptors located in close proximity to the project to experience higher levels and longer durations of exposure to these emissions.</p> | <p>Potential for human receptors in close proximity. Receptors appear to be in close proximity or abutting lands that may be affected by the project [IPD Figure 2], as well as along transportation routes (e.g. Lakeshore road). These human receptors may be exposed to non-radiological air emissions and noise emissions from construction trucks and heavy machinery over a considerable period of time.</p> | <p>Potential impacts to Indigenous health may occur from exposure to air and noise emissions. The Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg First Nations (MS-WTFNs) have provided details on historic land use in Section 3.1 of the IPD and have stated the following project-specific concerns, including those related to air and noise: <i>"We express concern regarding real and potential adverse impacts and effects related to changes in air quality and increases to air pollutants associated with the N N W Project. This includes increases as a result of activities related to pre-planning and feasibility studies which are being undertaken at the NWW site, prior to the IA. Such changes impact our health and the health of our Relatives. They also disrupt our relationships with our Relatives and our ways of knowing and being; Poor air quality impacts plant harvesting, ceremonial practices, and the ability to relate to our Celestial Relatives such as seeing the stars and Dabik Giizis Nookimis..."</i> and; <i>"We express concern regarding changes and increase in noise ...pollution associated with the N N W Project, including through preliminary assessment activities occurring prior to the IA. Changes and increases in noise ...pollution adversely impacts many of our Relatives, disrupts our relationships with them, and disrupts our ways of knowing and being..."</i> [IPD pdf pg. 65 and 66].</p> | <p>Apply standard air and noise construction mitigation measures and include project-specific mitigation measures. As part of the commitment to implement a noise management plan [IPD pdf pg. 301], HC supports the development of a noise complaint resolution plan. The implementation of this plan, in tandem with a communication plan with the communities, is an approach to monitor any emerging noise issues experienced by the community members. HC also supports consideration of best practices, such as commonly applied construction noise mitigation measures that can be found in Appendix H of HC's Noise Guidance² and also, "Best Practices for the Reduction of Air Emissions From Construction and Demolition Activities (Cheminfo Services Inc, 2005)" that are referenced in HC's Air Guidance¹.</p> | <p>Provide maps and details on receptor locations and conduct air and noise assessments utilizing Health Canada's Impact Assessment guidance. HC recommends providing maps and identifying all potential receptor locations, including sensitive receptors and their proximity to the project site. Modelling predicted noise and air emissions from vehicles and heavy machinery, including along transportation routes (e.g., Lakeshore road), and committing to conducting noise and air assessments at all receptor locations in accordance with HC's Air¹, Noise², and Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Guidance^{3,4,5} are recommended. Additionally, HC recommends committing to implementing mitigation measures and/or follow-up monitoring, if required.</p> |
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| <p>HC-02</p> | <p>Potential effects to human health. Effects to human health may occur from exposure to radiological COPCs. Effects to human health are also included in IAAC's potential key issues list under Question 2 of the FAAR, "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"</p> | <p>Disturbance of radiological COPCs during site preparation, and construction (if present) may result in potential effects to human health. Given the legacy radiological contamination of soil and sediment in the neighbouring communities of Port Hope [IPD pdf pg. 92] and Port Granby [pdf pg. 91], there are possible non-natural baseline sources of radiological COPCs in soil and sediment at the project site. There is the potential for disturbance of radiological contaminants (if present) in soil or sediment during project activities such as excavation or the near-shore infilling of Lake Ontario.</p> | <p>Disturbance of radiological COPCs (if present) during site preparation and construction activities may lead to human exposure for anyone located in or near the project area. For example, during the site preparation and construction phases, if lake infilling is undertaken, disturbance of radiological COPCs in sediment may impact fish quality and subsequently impact the health of humans consuming these fish. While the IPD indicates there is mixed residential, agricultural and commercial uses on-site and in the areas bordering the project boundary [IPD pdf pg. 151], not enough information is provided about receptor locations and land use that would be needed to determine which exposure pathways are operable.</p> | <p>Potential data gap in baseline levels of radiological COPCs at the site. Given the local radiological contamination issues at Port Hope and Port Granby areas, there is the potential for baseline radiological contamination within the project site from local inputs. Although a summary of baseline results for non-radiological COPCs in soil and groundwater has been provided in Section 3.4.1.2.8 of the IPD, a summary of baseline radiological COPCs has not been provided. However, HC is aware that, as a requirement of REGDOC 1.1.1⁶ for site evaluation and licensing, the proponent will be asked to "consider contaminants of potential concern (COPCs) associated with historical, present or proposed future use of the site".</p> | <p>Potential impacts to human health from exposure to radiological COPCs. Human health may be affected by exposure to radiological COPCs. Although Section 3 of the IPD lists descriptions of existing and historic land use, it does not clearly show all potential receptor locations, including temporary and seasonal locations, sensitive receptors such as schools or hospitals or clarification on whether there may be site visitors to any of the leased buildings currently on site [IPD pdf pg. 127] during any of the project phases (e.g., site preparation).</p> | <p>Potential impacts to Indigenous health from exposure to radiological COPCs. The MS-WTFNs have provided details on historic land use in Section 3.1 of the IPD and have stated the following project-specific concerns, including those related to radiological impacts: <i>"We express concern regarding real and potential adverse radiological impacts and effects to our communities and our Relatives. Currently, radiological impacts assessments do not consider a First Nation Receptor, nor are ecological receptors considered as more than as a resource from a human-centric perspective. Radiological impacts and effects to our communities and our Relatives must be identified, evaluated and protected against. Thresholds based on our Relatives wellbeing and inclusive of consideration for the interconnectedness of all our Relatives must be established. Radiological impacts and effects must be presented in ways that are more relatable to our communities. Decisions regarding acceptable radiological doses to our Relatives must be inclusive of our values and ways of knowing and being and must uphold our decision-making authority"</i> [IPD pdf pg. 66].</p> | <p>Assess impacts to human health, including Indigenous health from radiological COPCs using HC's guidance. The life cycle of nuclear facilities, including potential impacts to human health, is regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission of Canada (CNSC). To integrate the CNSC's licensing process and the Impact Assessment process, HC supports a commitment to undertake a HHRA, including a conceptual site model showing the operability of potential exposure pathways for radiological COPCs. An HHRA can utilize HC's Radiological Guidance⁷. If the assessment conclusions indicate the presence of operable pathways and potential human health risk, project-specific mitigation measures or follow-up monitoring could be captured in the project conditions.</p> | <p>Provide baseline radiological data for all environmental media. HC supports the collection of baseline radiological data in all environmental media (i.e., air, soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, country/traditional foods) to inform an HHRA. Refer to HC's Radiological Guidance⁷.</p> |
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¹Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Air Quality. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-1-2023-eng.pdf
²Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Noise. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-3-2023-eng.pdf
³Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Human Health Risk Assessment. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-6-2023-eng.pdf
⁴The human health risk assessment should consider all potential operable pathways for all COPCs (i.e., radiological and non-radiological). To support the evaluation of human health effects in Impact Assessment, Health Canada makes available the following additional guidance: Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-2-2023-eng.pdf
⁵The human health risk assessment should consider all potential operable pathways for all COPCs (i.e., radiological and non-radiological). To support the evaluation of human health effects in Impact Assessment, Health Canada makes available the following additional guidance: Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Country Foods. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-5-2023-eng.pdf
⁶Canadian Safety Nuclear Commission. REGDOC-1.1.1, Site Evaluation and Site Preparation for New Reactor Facilities, Version 1.2. Available at: [REGDOC-1.1.1, Site Evaluation and Site Preparation for New Reactor Facilities](https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-4-2023-eng.pdf)
⁷Health Canada. 2023. Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Radiological Impacts. Available at: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2024/sc-hc/H129-54-4-2023-eng.pdf