



11 February 2026

CIAR File No: 89802

Julie Lowry
Panel Manager
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

Submitted by email: wesleyville@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

Subject: NRCan Federal Authority Advice Record Response for Wesleyville New Nuclear Project

On January 12, 2026, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) received a request from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to comment on the Initial Project Description, and Summary of the Initial Project Description for the Wesleyville new nuclear project, located near Port Hope, Ontario and to complete the federal authority advice record (FAAR) form.

Pursuant to section 23 of Impact Assessment Act (IAA 2019), NRCan is participating in the impact assessment of the Wesleyville nuclear project. NRCan has reviewed the Initial Project Description and Summary of the Initial Project Description as a subject matter expert in geosciences, nuclear waste management policy, nuclear energy economics and policy, explosives safety, manufacturing and storage. NRCan's comments are included in the Attachment 1: Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) form.

Furthermore, the Proponent should be made aware of the [Open Science and Data Platform](#) (OSDP), a centralized data hub led by Natural Resources Canada that provides access to diverse science, data and regulatory information to support the assessment. The OSDP can help guide the Proponent in early planning and align project proposals with regulatory expectations to contribute to more efficient reviews. For example, the dataset, [Canadian National Wetlands Inventory-](#) (Environment and Climate Change Canada) may be of interest to the Proponent. NRCan is available to meet and provide more details about what the OSDP has to offer and can be contacted at osdp-psdo@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Matt Abramson at Matt.Abramson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Sincerely,

Matt Abramson

Policy Analyst
Impact Assessment Division, Office of the Chief Scientist
Natural Resources Canada

CC: Annie Montpetit, Acting Team Lead, Impact Assessment Division
Sonja Kosuta – Senior Director, Impact Assessment & Science Capacity
Attachment 1 Federal Authority Advice Record Wesleyville new nuclear

Attachment 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 11, 2026
Department/Agency	Natural Resources Canada/Office of chief Scientist/Impact Assessment Division
Lead Contact, Title, Work Unit	Matt Abramson, Policy Analyst
Email, Phone	Matt.Abramson@nrca-nrcan.gc.ca
Alternate Contact, Title, Work Unit	Natalie Robinson, Sr Impact Assessment Officer
Email, Phone	Natalie.Robinson@nrca-nrcan.gc.ca

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?

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

Based on the information provided to date, it is likely that NRCan may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project, as NRCan may issue a licence, under the Explosives Act, for explosives storage.

OPG must meet its nuclear liability obligations *Nuclear Liability and Compensation Act* (NLCA), which is administered by the Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). The NLCA establishes a compensation and liability regime in the unlikely event of a nuclear incident resulting in civil injury and damages. Under the NLCA, the operator of a nuclear power plant is responsible to pay up to C\$1 billion for civil damages resulting from an incident at that plant, and the operator must maintain financial security for this amount.

By the time the facility starts to create nuclear fuel waste, OPG needs to ensure it meets its obligations under the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*. All nuclear energy corporations, meaning bodies that owns nuclear fuel waste resulting from the production of electricity by means of a commercial nuclear reactor, are subject to the requirements of the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, for which NRCan is responsible. These responsibilities include becoming a member of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), establishing a segregated trust fund and contributing annually to the segregated trust fund based on the NWMO funding formula, and record keeping. The financial institution

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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that hosts a trust fund on behalf of a Nuclear Energy Corporation must provide NRCAN with audited financial statements of that trust fund within three months after the end of the fiscal year of each trust fund. As OPG is already a nuclear energy corporation subject to the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*, they are required to continue to fulfil these responsibilities.

NRCAN is responsible for ensuring that audited financial statements indicate the required monies are being set aside by nuclear energy corporations in the established trust funds and are deposited annually. The Minister also has the authority to audit a nuclear energy corporation to ensure compliance with the Act. Further details can be found in the *Nuclear Fuel Waste Act*.

- 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

The licensing by NRCAN under the *Explosives Act* would likely not trigger additional Indigenous or public consultation.

- 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

Not applicable.

- d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide

Obligations under the NLCA are distinct from those under the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, which is administered by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). OPG will need to ensure that the Wesleyville nuclear site is designated as a nuclear installation under the NLCA. The designation must come into force on the day on which the site receives its operating license from the CNSC. Designation under the NLCA can take from 1-2 years to complete. The designation process should be initiated with NRCAN immediately after OPG submits its application for an operating license to the CNSC.

Under Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning (2023), waste generators and owners are responsible for waste management and ensuring adequate funding is available for long term management of their radioactive waste, including disposal sites, as well as the decommissioning, clean-up, remediation, and closure of their facilities and sites, as applicable.

Proponent could provide the economic impacts and opportunities presented by the Signal 49 Research (previously known as Conference Board of Canada) for Wesleyville. Currently, the IPD includes high-level qualitative economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and the public but lacks the supporting quantitative reference.

- 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

Not applicable.

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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

Matt Abramson, Impact Assessment Officer

Name and title of Departmental /
Agency Responder

11 February, 2026

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
<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>
NRCan-01	Alternatives to the Long-term Management of High-Level Radioactive Waste	Management of Nuclear Fuel Waste		<p>The <i>Nuclear Fuel Waste Act</i> (NFWA) is administered by NRCan.</p> <p>The NFWA applies to all nuclear energy corporations that own nuclear fuel waste resulting from the production of electricity by means of a commercial nuclear reactor. This includes OPG who is already a nuclear energy corporation subject to the Act.</p>	<p>The NFWA requires nuclear energy corporations to establish a waste management organization, the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO), as a non-profit entity to manage the long-term management of all Canada's nuclear fuel waste.</p> <p>Under the NFWA, the Government of Canada is responsible for reviewing the initial study of long-term management options prepared by the NWMO, selecting a long-term option from those proposed, and ensuring oversight during its implementation.</p> <p>After a comprehensive three-year study and public engagement, in June 2007, the Government of Canada selected the NWMO's Adaptive Phased Management (APM) approach</p>		Alternatives to the long-term management of nuclear fuel waste were examined under the NFWA.	NRCan recommends the proponent could provide more information about NFWA and the adaptive phased management approach in relation to the project's long-term management of used nuclear fuel.

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					<p>for the safe and secure long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The APM approach includes containment and isolation of Canada's used nuclear fuel in a deep geological repository.</p> <p>The NWMO is responsible for implementing the Governor in Council selected APM approach under the NFWA.</p>			
NRCan-02	Low and intermediate level waste	Alternatives for the Management of Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste		<p>NRCan is responsible for Canada's Policy for Radioactive Waste and Decommissioning.</p> <p>In October 2023, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources released a public statement signalling the Government of Canada's acceptance of the first iteration of the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste. Informed by international best practice and public and Indigenous engagement, the Strategy makes two fundamental recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-level waste and non-fuel high-level waste to be disposed of in a deep geological repository with implementation by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. • Low-level waste to be disposed of in multiple near surface disposal facilities with implementation by waste generators and waste owners <p>Waste owners and generators are currently collaborating on the Strategy's implementation and will work to update the Strategy by 2028.</p>				<p>NRCan recommends the proponent should indicate if waste will be exported for waste processing and then returned for disposal.</p> <p>The proponent could provide further information about the Integrated Strategy for Radioactive Waste in relation to long-term management of low and intermediate-level waste.</p>
NRCan-03	Real and Potential Impacts to Physical, Biological Environment, and Health, Social, and Economic Contexts	Social and Economic context	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<p>NRCan recommends the Proponent clarify the economic impacts and opportunities presented by the Signal 49 Research (previously known as Conference Board of Canada) for Wesleyville. The IPD provides high-level qualitative economic opportunities for Indigenous communities and the public but lacks the supporting quantitative reference.</p>

Please insert additional rows as necessary.