

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 11, 2026
Department/Agency	Indigenous Services 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?

Indigenous Services Canada will not exercise a power or perform a duty or function relative to this project, nor does it have permits and authorizations to issue relative to the proposed project.

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

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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- 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

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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Jan Triska, Environmental Management Officer

Name and title of Departmental /
Agency Responder

February 11, 2026

Date

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Preamble

ISC acknowledges and supports the contributions from the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg Nations of the Williams Treaties First Nations (MS-WTFNs) on the Initial Project Description for the New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project. ISC recognizes that Indigenous-led perspectives are essential to understanding potential health, social, economic and environmental impacts associated with nuclear development, particularly in relation to community health, land use, cultural continuity, environmental stewardship, and emergency preparedness. ISC views the MS-WTFNs' concerns and recommendations, especially those outlined in Table 24, as critical components of a comprehensive and equitable impact assessment.

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
Identify each comment by your organization's acronym and a sequential comment number. e.g.: IAAC-01	Specify each key issue (e.g., specific species and location).	Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue. Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity of the component or activity.	Identify the specific effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).	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. 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).	Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either: <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 	Describe how key issues you have identified within your mandate and expertise may lead to impacts on Indigenous Peoples and their rights. 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.	Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by: <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). 	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). Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.

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<p>ISC-01</p>	<p>Cumulative effects to current use of lands and resources and to the health, social, and economic conditions of Indigenous peoples.</p>	<p>Construction phase activities, including new access infrastructure, as well as increased traffic stemming from such activities, and the operations phase</p>	<p>Project effects to current use of lands and resources and to the health, social, and economic conditions of Indigenous peoples will interact with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, thus resulting in cumulative effects.</p>	<p>Knowing the full potential extent of cumulative effects, to which this project may contribute, is key to being able to assess long term impacts on rights, including land use practices. These impacts may also affect the economic situation and a sense of well-being in Indigenous communities. ISC has a mandate to support social and economic development of Indigenous communities (on and off reserves).</p> <p>ISC understands that the proposed project area is in a region that has been developed for a variety of industrial uses, including nuclear power generation in Darlington (24 km distant), steel fabrication and other manufacturing, the effects from the proposed project may interact with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities on the landscape in distinct ways that warrant consideration.</p>	<p>It is noted that the project may have adverse effects on Indigenous peoples' current use of lands and resources and health, social, and economic conditions and may result in impacts on rights, all of which are areas of federal jurisdiction and may become relevant in a justification decision when evaluating the project in the context of reconciliation. The highly developed region in which the project is proposed makes for an already sensitive receiving environment, biophysically and socio-culturally. Furthermore, the project is anticipated to have a 78 year long operational lifespan, with decommissioning adding another 50 years after that; this adds uncertainty to the cumulative effects assessment given the long term projections required.</p>	<p>The IPD document itself has identified the project's direct effects and tied these to "real and potential impacts to rights Relations' health, identity, spirituality and holistic well-being from an Indigenous (MS-Williams Treaty First Nations) perspective." This has been established in dialogue and collaboration with MS-WT First Nations. Potential cumulative effects to rights should also be considered in this context.</p>		<p>Cumulative effects assessment should identify past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects, and should assess ongoing and projected changes to land use and the exercise of rights, informed by engagement with affected Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The regional study area should be clearly identified, and established in engagement with affected Indigenous communities to support a comprehensive understanding of factors and developments that may affect land use and the exercise of rights, and the extent of project effects vis a vis reserve lands, communities, and traditional territories. Maps of appropriate scale should be produced to support engagement and the assessment of effects.</p>
<p>ISC-02</p>	<p>Non-negligible adverse effects on the health and social conditions of Indigenous Peoples due perception of risk.</p>	<p>Construction and operation phases</p>	<p>The Project may affect the biophysical health and social determinants of health, including mental</p>	<p>ISC is responsible for supporting the health, safety, and overall well-being of Indigenous Peoples. It is important to</p>	<p>Perceived risk must be recognized and considered as a meaningful health and social condition within the Impact Assessment process as it:</p>		<p>All potential real or perceived impacts on Indigenous health and well-being, especially those included in Table 24 by the MS-WTFN, and any</p>	<p>The proponent should collect baseline information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Radiological doses to

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			<p>health, of Indigenous Peoples through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Real or perceived risk of traditional and/or recreational land use activities. - Real or perceived risk of the contamination of country/traditional food. - Real or perceived risk to community safety. 	<p>recognize that perceived risks can have meaningful impacts on mental health, cultural practices, and community wellness. Ensuring these perceptions are understood and considered is consistent with ISC's responsibility to promote safe, healthy, and culturally supportive environments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directly affects the mental health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples by heightening stress, anxiety, and emotional strain. - Can alter Indigenous Peoples behaviour in ways that affect food security, traditional practices, and overall health, such as avoiding harvesting or consuming country foods and medicines, or disengaging from land-based and cultural activities. - Affects the perception of community safety among Indigenous Peoples. 		<p>other concerns raised by Indigenous Peoples and communities through community engagement must be adequately addressed and meaningfully considered in the Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The proponent should commit to addressing the concerns raised by the MS-WTFN and any other concerns raised by Indigenous Peoples through ongoing engagement throughout the Impact Assessment process. The proponent should implement mitigation measures to address the concerns.</p>	<p>Indigenous Peoples who practice traditional ways of life in proximity to the project, and where possible, the proponent should support Indigenous-led monitoring initiatives using wearable technologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terrestrial, aquatic, and plant species consumed. - Diet consumption (e.g., country foods vs. store-bought food). - Diet composition variations by age range/population group. - Perception of contamination of country foods. - Perception of community safety. <p>On-going Indigenous-led monitoring should be implemented once the Project commences.</p>
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<p>ISC-03</p>	<p>Non-negligible adverse effects on the health and social conditions of Indigenous Peoples due to potential accident and malfunction scenarios caused by natural disasters.</p>	<p>Operation phase</p>	<p>Accidents and malfunctions may occur due to inadequate infrastructure that has not been designed to withstand natural disaster events. If a natural disaster event occurs which results in damage to project components, an accident or malfunction could occur and this could harm the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples living or spending time near the project area.</p>	<p>ISC is responsible for supporting the health, safety and well-being of Indigenous Peoples. If project infrastructure is damaged during a natural disaster, it could lead to accidents or malfunctions that may pose risks to the health and safety of Indigenous Peoples living or spending time near the project area.</p>	<p>Ensuring that the Project's infrastructure can withstand natural disasters, such as tornadoes, seismic activity, flooding and extreme weather events, is material to federal decision-making. Insufficient resilience can increase the likelihood of accidents or malfunctions during these events, which in turn may lead to adverse health outcomes for Indigenous Peoples who live in, use, or rely on areas near the project site.</p>		<p>The proponent should ensure the Project's infrastructure can withstand natural disaster scenarios, such as tornadoes, seismic activity, flooding and extreme weather events.</p> <p>Emergency management plans and associated communications materials should be developed in collaboration with each First Nations community, First Nations Health Directors, and First Nations community-based emergency management teams. The communications materials, such as preparing for nuclear emergencies (e.g., Fact Sheet: Preparing for a Nuclear Emergency) should be shared with First Nations community members and should be available at First Nations Health Centers.</p>	<p>ISC agrees with the concerns made by MS-WTFNs in Section 1.4.4.1.6 Emergency Preparedness and Risk.</p> <p>The proponent should collaborate with each First Nations community First Nations Health Directors and First Nations community-based Emergency Management teams to co-develop emergency management plans and communication materials. First Nations communities should be given the opportunity to review and provide input into emergency management plans, communication plans, and communication materials.</p>
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Please insert additional rows as necessary.