

Summary of Issues

Beacon AI Centers Heartland Project

The Summary of Issues outlines the key issues that the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) considers relevant for the federal impact assessment process for the Beacon AI Centers Heartland Project (the project). The proponent's response to the Summary of Issues will support decision-making by IAAC on whether an impact assessment is required under section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act*. If an impact assessment is required, the key issues outlined below and the proponent's response will inform the scope of the impact assessment, and the development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans, as appropriate.

IAAC was informed by input from federal and provincial authorities, Indigenous groups, and the public received to date on the proponent's Summary of the Initial Project Description. The proponent is encouraged to read all submissions on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site for the project (Reference Number [90123](#)).

The proponent is required to describe how it intends to address the key issues identified below as part of the development of its project. A high-level description is sufficient. Where relevant, the proponent is encouraged to identify if the key issues will be addressed through existing legislative and regulatory frameworks (i.e. legislation or regulation), by proponent commitments to best practices, policies or standards, or both.

Key Issues

Accidents and Malfunctions

- Clarify the potential effects of accidental hazardous substance releases, spills, and related chemical and waste management practices on migratory birds and fish and fish habitat, and any proposed mitigation measures.

Indigenous and Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

- Clarify the process for meaningful engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples' Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes

- Clarify how the project's contribution to cumulative effects on Indigenous Peoples' rights and traditional land use will be identified and assessed.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

- Clarify the process for assessing the project's impacts on Section 35 rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples' Social and Economic Conditions

- Clarify the potential effects of the project on the social and economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples, including how it would provide meaningful long-term economic benefits.