

## Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

**FAAR Response must be submitted by January 26, 2026**

Beacon Centers AI Heartland Project – Heartland Power.

Registry File: 90123

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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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, duty, or function relative to the project. It does not foresee providing any financial assistance enabling the 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, based on the Initial Project Description, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required
  - b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines
  - 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 not be exercising or may not be able to exercise to allow the project to be carried out, in whole or in part.
2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate<sup>1</sup> and the information in your possession, including the Initial Project Description, any exchanges with the proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects of the project. 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's a key issue based on:
      - i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
      - ii. concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
      - iii. the issue being material<sup>2</sup> to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act*
    - d) Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment
    - e) Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to the [Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC](#).

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Jan Triska  
Environmental Management Officer,  
Indigenous Services Canada

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Name and title of Departmental /  
Agency Responder

January 26, 2026

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Date

**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) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the proponent
<p>Identify comments by organization and comment number.</p> <p>e.g.: IAAC-01</p>	<p>Specify the 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 or the component or activity.</p>	<p>Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).</p> <p>Identify if the key issue is common for projects of this nature or in this sector, or whether it's unique to this project due to its 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 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>Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;</li> <li>presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);</li> <li>novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;</li> <li>high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</li> <li>unknown or unproven mitigation; or</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;</li> <li>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;</li> <li>Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or</li> <li>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</li> </ul>	<p>Describe information the proponent can provide, or commitments the proponent can make, in their Response to the Summary of Issues that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means.</p> <p>Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.</p>
ISC-01	Errata: Health, Social and Economic Context in the Region	N/A	N/A	Potential impacts to the social or economic conditions of the Indigenous peoples of Canada.	<p>Table 15.1.1 Population Characteristics, 2021 breaks down population data in the Project Area into total population and Indigenous population. Based on the table headers, Table 15.1.2 Population Characteristics, 2021 is supposed to show information on labour force and employment. However, Table 15.1.2 has the same data in its six columns as the first six columns of Table 15.1.1.</p> <p>There is difficulty understanding employment data as compared to Indigenous demographics which is necessary to understand the potential opportunities for Indigenous economic participation in the project.</p>	N/A	The Proponent should fix Tables 15.1.1 and 15.1.2 so that the data presented is accurate for review and assessment.
ISC-02	Potential for <b>social inequities</b> and marginalization, along with risks of social tensions between	Construction and operation - The IPD states that the proponent will create employment, contracts and economic participation	The project will generate employment opportunities and the proponent will have key decisions to make regarding how its hiring and workplace practices and policies	Potential impacts to Indigenous employees and their well-being are directly linked to the mandate of ISC. ISC is responsible for supporting the health, safety, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples.	The potential for social inequities, marginalization, and social tensions between Indigenous and non-Indigenous workforces is material to decision-making as a direct adverse effect on Indigenous Peoples, whom ISC has a mandate to support and protect. Based on federal experts' experience with past project assessments, such effects can significantly impact community health, safety, social	The proponent should consider its practices and policies within the context of ongoing social inequities and marginalization, related to a history of colonization and racism, and actively address how these could influence the interactions between non-Indigenous and	The proponent could provide more tangible information on the workforce during development and operation, including the percentage of employees targeted to be Indigenous

	Indigenous and non-Indigenous workforce.	opportunities for Indigenous people.	<p>affect local communities. The manner in which the proponent conducts these aspects of the project can affect whether Indigenous people apply to positions, are hired for positions, and feel safe in the work place and retain positions.</p> <p>Inadequate attention to these matters may create situations where Indigenous employees may encounter racism in the workplace, limiting their ability to benefit from employment opportunities.</p>		<p>cohesion, and access to services, particularly where pre-existing inequities and capacity constraints exist and where mitigation effectiveness is uncertain. This issue is directly aligned with ISC's mandate to support the health, safety, and well-being of Indigenous Peoples and is therefore material to assessing both adverse effects and the public interest, including reconciliation objectives. This aligns with the <a href="#">Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 92</a>:</p> <p><i>Provide education for management and staff on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal–Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.</i></p> <p>Ensuring that employees on the project have Indigenous cultural safety and awareness training can help to reduce social inequities in employment. Additionally, the proponent could consider a community integration program to build trust between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employees.</p>	<p>Indigenous workers and effect the wellbeing and social conditions of Indigenous people.</p> <p>Standard mitigation measures typically include strategies to promote cultural awareness and sensitivity, as well as accommodation measures that reflect Indigenous traditions. In addition, meaningful engagement with the impacted Indigenous Nations listed in the IPD can help the proponent to plan locally appropriate and applicable strategies/training for employees.</p>	and training plans for non-Indigenous employees.

Please insert additional rows as necessary.