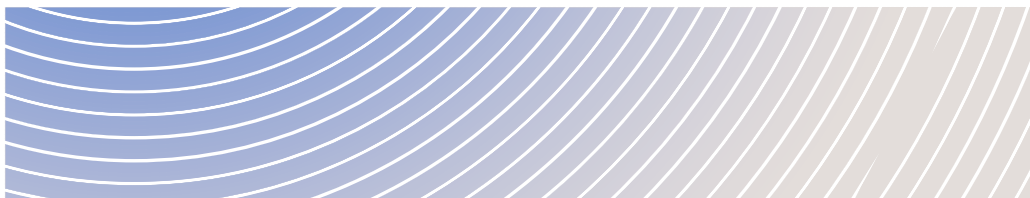


Planning Phase Engagement Report



BRUCE C NUCLEAR PROJECT

December 10, 2025



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Canada



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1. Introduction

On August 19, 2025, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), commenced an integrated impact assessment of the Bruce C Nuclear Project (the project) proposed by Bruce Power. During the Planning phase, IAAC, in collaboration with the CNSC, consulted Indigenous Nations and communities and engaged the public. This report explains how the input provided by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public was used by IAAC and the CNSC.

[Information on how IAAC and the CNSC engaged the public during the pre-planning phase](#) can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (the registry).

1.1 Project context

Bruce Power (the proponent) is proposing the site preparation, construction, operation and decommissioning of a new nuclear generating station within the existing Bruce Power nuclear power site, located in the Municipality of Kincardine, Ontario. As proposed, the Bruce C Nuclear Project would provide up to 4,800 megawatt-electric of new nuclear generating capacity in Ontario and operate for 60 to 100 years. Several nuclear reactor technologies will be considered for the project.

As part of the integrated impact assessment process, the proponent will be submitting the information necessary to make an impact assessment (IA) decision under the [Impact Assessment Act](#) (IAA) and to make a licence to prepare site (LTPS) decision under the [Nuclear Safety and Control Act](#) (NSCA). The proponent may pursue subsequent licences to construct, operate, decommission at later stages, should the project receive a positive impact assessment decision and an LTPS.



Figure 1: Location of Bruce Power



Source: Bruce Power, 2024

The [Planning phase](#) for the integrated impact assessment of the project started on August 12, 2024 and was completed on August 19, 2025. IAAC suspended the 180-day time limit twice during the Planning phase, at the requests of the proponent, for more time to conduct engagement, which provided an additional 192 days in total. The Planning phase was used to: identify key issues related to the project; decide whether an impact assessment is required; understand how Indigenous Peoples and the public would like to participate in the integrated impact assessment process; and plan the assessment.



1.2 Report content

This report provides information about comment periods and other consultation and engagement activities conducted by IAAC and the CNSC during the Planning phase. It explains how the input received from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public was used to help identify key issues and inform the process and associated documents.

Information on [next steps](#) in the integrated impact assessment process, as well as how participants can [stay informed](#) is also included in this report.

IAAC and the CNSC have a unique relationship with Indigenous Nations and communities involved in the integrated impact assessment process and seek to work with Indigenous Nations and communities in a way that: advances reconciliation; respects rights, culture and self-determination; and ensures consideration of Indigenous perspectives, concerns, expertise and knowledge.

This report includes information on Indigenous consultation, including how comments from Indigenous Nations and communities helped shape the assessment, but does not describe the full range nor depth of consultation activities or outcomes. Rather, IAAC and the CNSC maintain direct communication with Indigenous Nations and communities, including in relation to how their comments were considered and addressed.

2. Consultation and engagement during the Planning phase

During the Planning phase, IAAC, in collaboration with the CNSC, consulted Indigenous Nations and communities and engaged the public. This was done through virtual and in-person events throughout (see



Table 1). In addition, IAAC provided \$30,000 in [Participant Funding](#) to support Indigenous and public participation in the Planning phase. Written comments that were submitted to IAAC during the Planning phase were posted on the [project page on the registry](#), subject to exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality¹.

In addition, IAAC and the CNSC worked together with Indigenous Nations and communities to prepare an [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) for the project.

¹ For additional information on which comments remain private and how IAAC protects individual privacy, please refer to IAAC's [Submission Policy](#) and [Privacy Notice](#).



Table 1: Overview of public comment periods during the Planning phase

First Public Comment Period on Summary of Initial Project Description	Second Public Comment Period on draft Integrated Guidelines and Public Participation Plan
<p>Dates: August 12 to October 28, 2024, included a 45-day time limit suspension to allow for additional engagement</p> <p>Link to Public Notice: https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/158989</p> <p>Number of written submissions received: 99</p> <p>Written comments received from: Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, non-governmental organizations, local businesses, industry organizations, local governments (municipalities and counties), labour unions, and federal and provincial authorities</p> <p>Information Sessions: August 20 and 21, 2024 (virtual)</p> <p>Participants in Information Sessions: members of the public, non-governmental organizations, local governments</p> <p>Additional Efforts: met with the Municipality of Kincardine, a representative from the local Mennonite community, and had a kiosk at the annual Pumpkinfest event in Port Elgin, ON, in October 2024, presented copies of key documents at viewing centres</p>	<p>Dates: June 12 to July 11, 2025</p> <p>Link to Public Notice: https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/161942</p> <p>Number of written submissions received: 80</p> <p>Written submissions received from: Indigenous Nations and communities, members of the public, non-governmental organizations, industry organizations, local governments, labour unions, and federal and provincial authorities.</p> <p>Information Sessions: June 25, 2025, at the Plex in Port Elgin, Ontario; June 26, 2025, at the Davidson Centre in Kincardine, Ontario; June 18 and July 8, 2025 (virtual)</p> <p>Participants in Information Sessions: members of the public, non-governmental organizations</p> <p>Additional Efforts: held engagement events at a retirement home in Port Elgin and developed and utilised a plain language version of the Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, presented copies of key documents at viewing centres</p>

3. How input was used

This section provides a summary of how input from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public informed how IAAC and the CNSC developed the Integrated Guidelines and the Public Participation Plan for the project. An in-depth summary of IAAC and the CNSC's response to the comments received during the Planning phase is provided in Appendix 1: Summary of IAAC and the CNSC's response to comments.

3.1 Identifying key issues and proponent response

IAAC identified key issues drawing from comments received from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public during the first public comment period, and through associated consultation and engagement activities. The following are examples of key issues identified by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public:

- changes to water quality (including thermal effects from cooling water discharge, release of contaminants and radionuclides) could affect fish and fish habitat and wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- location of physical work and placement of infrastructure could affect fish and fish habitat and riparian and wetland environments;
- construction and operation of cooling water intake and discharge may affect fish and fish habitat (e.g., impingement and entrainment);
- changes to the availability of workforce for nonnuclear companies in the region (e.g. construction industry) and lower wage jobs (e.g. hospitality, service, tourism, healthcare, childcare, manufacturing and agriculture);
- changes to demand on healthcare services, childcare services and education, as well as community, recreational and emergency services;
- potential impacts on county and municipal infrastructure due to increased road traffic;
- potential impacts from an influx of temporary workers including on the infrastructure and services required to support them (housing, transportation) and health and public safety risk;
- changes to the terrestrial and aquatic environment (i.e., the landscape) may adversely affect archaeologically significant ancestral landscape in Saugeen Ojibway Nation territory;
- changes to terrestrial and aquatic environments and associated environmental Valued Components may adversely affect Indigenous rights and interests, including ability to catch fish species for food, commerce, and ceremony by their preferred means;
- potential impacts on health inequalities between Indigenous Peoples and the general population;
- potential impacts on economic inequality for Indigenous Peoples;



- changes to the exercise of Indigenous rights due to the project; and
- consideration and integration of Indigenous rights including Indigenous decision-making, Indigenous Knowledge and values, including consideration of free, prior and informed consent, in this project-specific decision making.

Issues raised by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public from the first public comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description helped inform IAAC's development of a [Summary of Issues](#). IAAC provided the [Summary of Issues for the project](#) to the proponent and directed it to set out how it intends to address the issues identified within. On December 12, 2024, the proponent submitted its [Response to the Summary of Issues](#). Notably, the proponent committed to addressing the various key issues through the Impact Statement, amongst other commitments, which include:

- consulting Indigenous Nations and communities and engage the public throughout the development of the Impact Statement to address key issues;
- providing more information on the types, quantities, handling, transportation, and interim storage locations of low-, intermediate-, and high-level waste;
- developing mitigation measures and robust monitoring programs for species at risk, and to sharing these plans with Indigenous Nations and communities for review;
- documenting Indigenous interests, including consultation, integration of Indigenous Knowledge, and assessment of impacts on rights and well-being; and
- evaluating impacts on Indigenous rights, including governance and fishing practices, and will engage with Indigenous Nations and communities throughout the process.

3.2 Informing the decision of whether to require an impact assessment

On December 20, 2024, IAAC decided that an [impact assessment of the project was required](#). In making this decision, IAAC decided that the carrying out of the project may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct or incidental adverse effects. IAAC took into account the factors from subsection 16(2) of the IAA, including the comments it received from Indigenous Nations and communities and the public. The concerns raised by Indigenous Nations and communities and the public relevant to the factors from subsection 16(2) of the IAA are presented in the Summary of Issues for the project.

3.3 Informing preparation of the Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines



The Integrated Guidelines provide the proponent with directions and requirements for the preparation of an [Impact Statement](#) and application for a Licence to Prepare a Site. Input from Indigenous Nations and communities, and the public informed IAAC's preparation of [Integrated Guidelines for the project](#), including flagging the following valued components as issues:

- Fish and fish habitat;
- Species at risk and their habitat listed under the *Species at Risk Act*;
- Vegetation, riparian, and wetland environment;
- Terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- Health, social, and economic conditions;
- Indigenous physical and cultural heritage, and structures, sites or things of significance;
- Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by Indigenous Peoples, including fishing and harvesting, and the use and enjoyment of the environment;
- Health, social and economic conditions of Indigenous Peoples; and
- Indigenous rights.

In addition, the following modifications to the guidelines were informed by comments from Indigenous Nations and communities and/or the public on a draft version of the document:

- requirements for the proponent to provide information on:
 - project components and activities, including the use of plant parameter envelope;
 - alternative means of carrying out the project;
 - cumulative effects assessments;
 - potential impacts of the project on water quality, including from waste storage areas such as irradiated fuel bays;
 - potential impacts on fish and fish habitat due to impingement and entrainment;
 - potential social and economic impacts of the project, including displacement of vulnerable populations, increased demand on municipal services, and land use planning; and
 - consulting and considering Indigenous Knowledge in the assessment and assessing potential impacts on rights;
- clarifications to requirements related to:
 - engaging municipal governments;
 - considerations for emergency response planning; and
 - information requirements for fish and fish habitat.

Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) submitted general comments during the Planning phase and detailed comments following the Planning phase. This was captured in section 6 of the Integrated Guidelines which outlines that the proponent is expected to address comments from SON related to effects of the project and impacts on their rights and interests in the development of the Impact Statement.



The following modifications were also made to the guidelines based on comments from the proponent and other stakeholders on the draft version of the document:

- proponent's main power output infrastructure is incidental to the project;
- additional information on geographic scope of the traffic study location was added; and
- rail traffic was determined not to be incidental to the project and was removed.

Consideration of Indigenous Knowledge

Indigenous Knowledge and perspectives provided to IAAC and the CNSC during the Planning phase was instrumental in helping prepare the Integrated Guidelines. For example, Indigenous Knowledge holders identified potential effects related to fish and fish habitat and identified species of importance, both culturally and those that are indicative of healthy and resilient local ecosystems.

3.4 Informing preparation of the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

An [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#) describes opportunities and methods for meaningful engagement and consultation with potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities throughout an impact assessment process. IAAC and the CNSC worked collaboratively with Indigenous Nations and communities to prepare the [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the project](#).

During the Planning phase, some Indigenous Nations and communities identified values and objectives for Indigenous consultation related to the project, which were summarized in the [Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the project](#). For example, IAAC was advised that consultation should be ongoing throughout the integrated impact assessment process and must meaningfully address concerns raised by Indigenous communities. Consultation should also respect existing consultation protocols established by Indigenous Nations and communities. Regarding Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous Nations and communities advised that the sharing and use must be guided by, and adhere to, established processes and protocols developed by the communities.

Some Indigenous Nations and communities requested work plans be developed to describe their specific objectives for consultation or to support the collaborative assessment of impacts. Certain Indigenous Nations and communities requested opportunities to lead the assessment of project impacts on their communities. Indigenous Nations and communities also advised that they should be provided with opportunities to verify procedural records of consultation throughout the integrated impact assessment process.



Comments provided by Indigenous Nations and communities helped refine IAAC and the CNSC's understanding of which Nations and communities may be impacted by the project and the potential nature of these impacts.

IAAC and the CNSC modified the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan to reflect the above comments, as well as others provided by Indigenous Nations and communities during the Planning phase.

3.5 Informing preparation of the Public Participation Plan

A [Public Participation Plan](#) describes the plan for engaging the public throughout an impact assessment process. Comments from the public were used by IAAC and the CNSC to inform its preparation of the [Public Participation Plan](#) for the project.

Public comments identified a range of participation preferences in the integrated impact assessment process. For example, certain participants requested additional clarity around how the public can comment on activities relevant to the future review panel and there was a request for IAAC and the CNSC to engage the public through existing community events. IAAC ensured the relevant clarifications were made in the Public Participation Plan.

4. Next steps

On August 19, 2025, IAAC issued the [Notice of Commencement of an Impact Assessment](#) for the project and provided the proponent with the final [Integrated Guidelines](#) and [plans](#). The integrated impact assessment of the project then entered the [Impact Statement phase](#). During this phase, the proponent collects information and conducts studies as described in the Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines to prepare an [Impact Statement](#) to be submitted to IAAC and the CNSC. The [project charter](#) outlines the estimated timelines for process milestones, including the submission of the Impact Statement, as agreed upon between IAAC, the CNSC, and the proponent,

IAAC, in collaboration with the CNSC, will continue to consult Indigenous Nations and communities and engage the public during the Impact Statement phase of the process. As part of future consultation and engagement, Indigenous Nations and communities and the public will be invited to provide their views on the proponent's summary of the Impact Statement and the draft Terms of Reference for the review panel.

Once established, the review panel will engage Indigenous Nations and communities and the public throughout the Impact Assessment phase, including when it holds a public hearing. The review panel will submit its report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.



5. Stay informed

5.1 Stay informed about the integrated impact assessment of the Bruce C Nuclear Project

- To find out the latest on the status of the integrated impact assessment of the Bruce C Nuclear Project, including information about future opportunities to provide comments, consult the project page on the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#).
- Participants can also request to be added to the email distribution list for the Bruce C Nuclear Project by sending an email to Bruce@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.



5.2 Stay informed about the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and other assessments

- For general information about IAAC and the impact assessment process, including how to get involved, refer to [IAAC's website](#).
- For information about other assessments, including impact assessments of other projects and regional and strategic assessments, refer to the [Canadian Impact Assessment Registry](#). The Canadian Impact Assessment Registry is Canada's national database about federal assessments.
- Participants can also subscribe to the Canadian [Impact Assessment Registry notification service](#) to receive a personalized email when new content is posted.
- To receive news and alerts issued by IAAC delivered directly to a Really Simply Syndication (RSS) reader, participants can subscribe to IAAC's [RSS Feed](#).



Appendix 1: Summary of IAAC and the CNSC's response to comments

During the Planning phase, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (the CNSC), consulted Indigenous Nations and communities and engaged the public. This appendix presents a summary of concerns how there were addressed.

1. Project Need, Alternatives, and Technology Selection

What We Heard:

- Participants requested a clear demonstration of project need and a robust comparison with renewable energy, conservation, and other alternatives.
- There were concerns about the lack of a selected reactor technology and the use of the Plant Parameter Envelope (PPE) approach.

Response:

- The Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Integrated Guidelines) require Bruce Power to provide a clear rationale for the project.
- The Integrated Guidelines provide details on the information required by Bruce Power when using the PPE, and a plain language summary of the PPE for public engagement.

2. Radioactive Waste Management and Transportation

What We Heard:

- There was significant concern about the lack of a permanent solution for nuclear waste, the risks of transporting radioactive materials, and the cumulative effects of waste from multiple projects.

Response:

- The Integrated Guidelines require estimated quantities and plans for storage, handling, and management of nuclear waste (of all levels) over the project's lifecycle.
- The Integrated Guidelines require cumulative effects from existing nuclear projects in the region to be considered.

3. Indigenous Rights, Consultation, and Knowledge

What We Heard:

- There was strong emphasis on the need for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), meaningful consultation, and the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge.
- Requests were made for Indigenous-led studies, recognition of legacy issues, and cumulative impacts on rights and interests.

Response:



- The Integrated Guidelines require meaningful engagement by the proponent with Indigenous Nations and communities, including the Saugeen Ojibway Nation
- The Integrated Guidelines require that legacy issues and cumulative impacts on Indigenous rights and interests must be described, with a focus on pre-treaty or pre-development baselines where appropriate.
- The process supports Indigenous-led health baseline studies and the Integrated Guidelines require the proponent to include Indigenous Knowledge and worldviews, where provided, and document and respond to concerns raised by different demographics within Indigenous communities.

4. Environmental and Health Impacts

What We Heard:

- Concerns were raised about water quality, fish habitat, air quality, and human health.
- There were requests for robust baseline studies, monitoring, and cumulative effects assessment.

Response:

- The Integrated Guidelines require comprehensive baseline studies for water, air, soil, wildlife, and health, including cumulative effects.
- Specific requirements were added in the Integrated Guidelines for monitoring fish impingement, entrainment, and cumulative effects.
- The Integrated Guidelines require air quality management and dust control plans.
- Health impact assessments must include both biophysical and social determinants, with special attention to vulnerable groups and Indigenous communities, in order to meet the requirements of the Integrated Guidelines.

5. Socio-Economic, Housing, and Infrastructure Impacts

What We Heard:

- Concerns were raised about housing shortages, rising costs of living, and strain on local services due to influx of temporary workers.
- Concerns were raised about equitable distribution of economic benefits.

Response:

- The Integrated Guidelines require assessment of impacts on housing, affordability, and community services, including the need for workforce housing and mitigation of displacement of vulnerable populations.
- The Integrated Guidelines require economic benefits and risks to be described, with attention to local, regional, and Indigenous communities.

6. Cumulative Effects and Baseline Conditions

What We Heard:



- There were requests for a comprehensive cumulative effects assessment, considering all regional projects and historical impacts.

Response:

- The Integrated Guidelines require cumulative effects to be assessed for all past, present, and foreseeable projects in the region, including Bruce A/B, Major Component Replacement, projects by Ontario Power Generation, and others.
- Baseline data must be robust, up-to-date, and, where appropriate, reflect pre-treaty or pre-development conditions.

7. Emergency Preparedness and Accidents

What We Heard:

- There was a desire for clear plans for worst-case accidents, including impacts on the Great Lakes and transboundary effects.
- Some participants expressed the need for coordinated emergency response involving all governments and communities was emphasized.

Response:

- The Integrated Guidelines require detailed information on accident and emergency response planning, including coordination with municipalities, Indigenous Nations, and provincial authorities.
- The Integrated Guidelines require emergency communication plans to consider various factors, including culturally relevant standards and providing contact information for long-term monitoring.

8. Public Participation and Process

What We Heard:

- Concerns were raised about lack of funding for municipalities and transparency in participating in activities related to the future review panel.

Response:

- Municipalities and the public are encouraged to participate, and their input is recognized as valuable community knowledge.
- The Public Participation Plan further clarifies how the public can be involved in activities related to the future review panel.