

What we heard summary

The following is a summary of feedback received at virtual and in-person public information sessions for the New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project held by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission on January 22 to 24, 27 and 29, 2026. This document summarizes the comments, views and opinions expressed by the public participants to inform the Summary of Issues.

Concerns about the project

Biophysical environment

- impacts on wildlife due to increased traffic and habitat loss for, but not limited to, turkeys, deer, coyotes, eagles, owls, rabbits, beavers, otters, and fish
- construction and operation impacts on wetlands and freshwater ecosystems, including Wesleyville Creek
- effects of cooling water on the lake, such as temperature and contamination

Safety of nuclear power

- concerns about the fuel waste management
- concerns about the risk of human-induced malevolent acts

Human health

- direct impacts from contamination
- indirect impacts on mental health due to stress about project's potential effects

Infrastructure and services

- increased pressure on local road infrastructure caused by increased traffic
- increased demand on housing, which is already very limited
- capacity concerns of municipal wastewater management systems
- additional stress on municipal planning resources

Culture, recreation, and land use

- concerns about reduced access to Lakeshore Road, a scenic route well-used by locals and tourists
- concerns about reduced access to Wesleyville Village
- continued inaccessibility of lakefront
- loss of recreational and agricultural land
- increased infrastructure development surrounding the project site, leading to land use changes

Effects of the Environment on the Project

- concerns that earthquakes could affect the project

Emergency management

- concerns about adequate potassium iodide (KI) pill distribution
- concerns about evacuating seniors in a rural context
- need for reliable communications infrastructure for emergencies

Potential impacts on near-site neighbours

- concerns about decreased property values
- visual impacts caused by the project
- impacts of blasting on nearby houses
- noise, pollution, and industrialization caused by construction and operation of the project

Alternatives assessment

- concerns about the necessity of the project
- concerns about site location being close to population centres
- suggestion to consider renewables and energy efficiency as alternatives
- suggestion to build on existing nuclear sites instead

Cumulative effects

- legacy impacts of nuclear activities in the community, such as the Port Hope Area Initiative
- health concerns from additional contamination

Elements potentially missing from current project description

- electrical switching station
- potential connection to future underwater transmission infrastructure

Potential benefits of the project

- cleaner than coal
- “better” for fish than building dams
- increased jobs and business opportunities
- increased baseload energy production
- potential for further investments in infrastructure and housing
- history of safe use of nuclear power in Canada

Feedback about the integrated assessment process

- requests for information on project and assessment timelines
- concerns regarding whether the project has already been approved
- clarification on IAAC’s involvement in later licensing stages
- need for a clear definition of “community” when identifying potentially affected parties

- request for detailed information on consultation of First Nations and other Indigenous communities
- clarification on Participant Funding Program eligibility for municipalities
- interest in process efficiencies to reduce timelines and ensure responsible use of taxpayer funds
- concerns regarding the project being named Wesleyville, when the project is in Port Hope
- concerns that concurrent assessment processes for other nuclear projects in the province may affect public capacity to meaningfully participate