

Staff Report to Council

Title: Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Bruce C Initial Project Description

Report Number: CAO General-2024-26

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, September 11, 2024

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the Municipality of Kincardine Submission to Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canadian Nuclear Society Commission (CNSC) on the Initial Project Description for the Bruce C New Nuclear Project; and

That Staff be directed to file the submission with the IAAC.

Executive Summary:

Bruce Power is proposing the construction of a new nuclear generating station, the Bruce C Nuclear Project, on its existing site in the Municipality of Kincardine, within SON Territory. This project, which aims to provide up to 4,800 megawatts of nuclear power for 60 to 100 years, is subject to an integrated assessment under both the Impact Assessment Act and the Nuclear Safety and Control Act. The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) are inviting Indigenous Peoples and the public to review and comment on the Initial Project Description by September 12, 2024. Comments can be submitted online, by mail, or through virtual information sessions, which were scheduled in August. This input will help prepare a summary of issues for the proponent. Participant funding is available, but not for municipalities.

Strategic Priorities:

A.1-Work with the nuclear sector (clean energy) to leverage current and future opportunities

Financial Considerations:

There are no direct costs associated with the report.

Policy:

N/A

Context and Background Information:

The Municipality of Kincardine is the host community of the Bruce Power site.

The Municipality of Kincardine received notice on August 12, 2024, regarding Bruce Power's submission of the Initial Project Description (IPD) for the Bruce C New Nuclear Project.

The plain language IPD description can be found here: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/158466?culture=en-CA>

To provide comments or to find additional information about the Bruce 'C' Project visit the link below: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88771?culture=en-CA>

Comments and input can also be submitted in writing via email by sending comments to Bruce@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

The deadline for submitting comments is 11:59PM September 12, 2024. All comments will be published online as part of the project file.

Additionally, a summary of the IPD has been prepared by Bruce Power staff as information from council (attached).

The Bruce C Project will evaluate the impact of adding up to 4,800 megawatts electric of nuclear capacity on the existing Bruce Power site. No technology has been chosen at this point in the process.

Strong provincial and federal support has been demonstrated for the purpose and need for the project. The IPD highlights that the "Minister of Energy directed the IESO to enter into a funding agreement with Bruce Power to recover costs incurred for undertaking the IA process. An agreement was formally executed between the IESO and Bruce Power in April 2024. Together, these actions signal a clear need for the Project from a provincial electricity system planning perspective."¹ The IPD also notes the federal need for new electricity infrastructure and how support is demonstrated through the 2023 federal budget and in the 2024 budget with respect to implementing Investment Tax Credits. The federal Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources also announced up to \$50 million in federal funding to support Bruce Power's assessment of new generation opportunities on the Bruce Site.²

IAAC Consultation Overview:

The *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) outlines the process for how Canada assesses the impacts of designated projects, including nuclear projects. The IAA requires consultation of provinces, territories, and Indigenous jurisdictions. The IAA does not reference the municipal level of government; however, the process supports consultation with municipal governments

¹ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p88771/158466E.pdf> page 25

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-50-million-for-ontarios-expansion-of-clean-reliable-and-affordable-nuclear-energy.html>

as they are identified as sources of community knowledge, which can relate to the assessment of the potential environmental, social, or economic effects of a proposed project.

IAAC recommends that proponents should actively seek out those with community knowledge as it can benefit the project's impact assessment by supplementing the information and studies with local or regional knowledge and data that may not be otherwise gathered through the assessment^{i.3}

IAAC and CNSC have sought participation and engagement from the community and municipal staff regarding Bruce C in the pre-planning and planning stage.

The Initial Project Description provides information about for the Bruce C Project, in Table 1 <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/documents/p88771/158466E.pdf> on pages 29-31, including activities, infrastructure, permanent or temporary structures and physical works associated with the various phases of the project.

IAAC held a virtual information session on the Bruce C project in English on August 20, 2024. County staff attended the session to learn about the Impact Assessment process and the proposed Bruce C presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached for Council's information. During the virtual information session, IAAC indicated it is important for the public, indigenous communities and municipalities to participate in the Impact Assessment Process as comments and concerns can guide and influence the integrated assessment process and inform the proponent and decision-makers. IAAC asked participants to consider several questions when reviewing and providing comments on the Initial Project Description including:

- Do you have any concerns about the Project?
- How could the Project affect you or your community, either positively or negatively?
- What is important to you or your community and why are they important?
- Do you have any specific knowledge relevant to the assessment of this Project?
- Are you aware of any other potential issues related to the assessment of this Project?
- Are there any economic, technical, linguistic or other challenges that might prevent you from participation?

Staff have considered the questions to help inform the draft submission related to the Bruce C Project IPD for Council's consideration.

Origin:

Bruce C Project Initial Project Description submission to IAAC

³ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/considering-community-knowledge-under-the-impact-assessment-act.html>

Implementation Considerations:

The current Bruce Power Refurbishment is the third largest infrastructure project in Canada.⁴ Bruce Power's presentation to council noted that the proposed Bruce C Project would be a larger infrastructure project than their refurbishment project.

Consideration of impacts to community will be helpful to planning and supporting this project.

Attachments: Executive Summary of Initial Project Description prepared by Bruce Power

Draft Municipality of Kincardine Submission to IAAC & CNSC on the Initial Project Description for the Bruce C New Nuclear Project

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Submitted by: Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier, CAO

⁴ <https://top100projects.ca/2024-ranking/>