

Information Report

Title: Bruce C Nuclear Project –
Impact Assessment update

Report Number: Nuclear Strategy-2025-02

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Manager.

Meeting Date:

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Executive Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Impact Assessment (IA) process for the Bruce C Nuclear project. In recent months, several key documents have been posted on the [IAAC public registry for the Bruce C project](#) and work is rapidly advancing through the Planning Phase (step 1). In late 2024, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) confirmed that a full IA will be required for the project.

It is anticipated that additional draft plans, including the Public Participation Plan and the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines will soon be released for public review and comment on the IAAC public registry. Municipal staff will prepare comments during the next round of public consultation and bring this forward for Council endorsement. Once IAAC concludes this work, the project will then proceed into the Impact Statement (Phase 2) of the IA process.

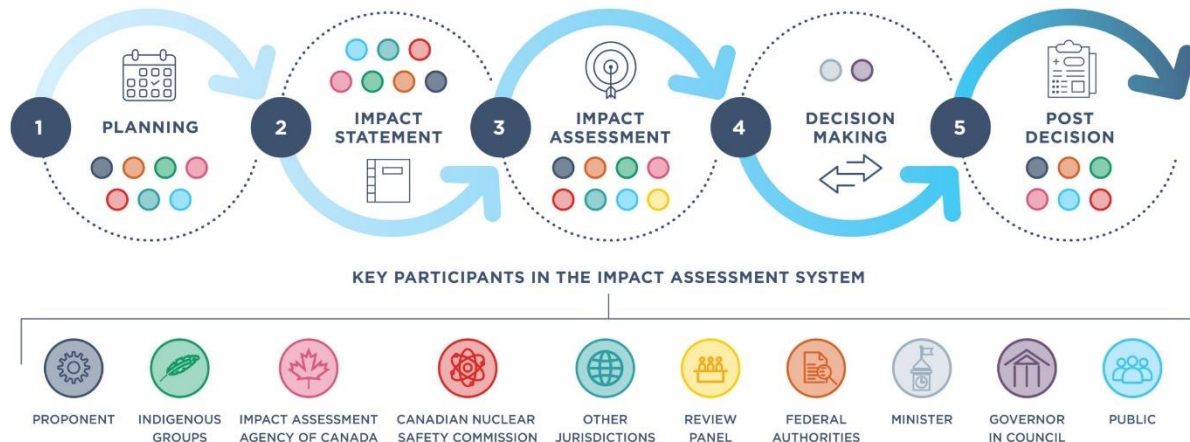
On Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) paused the 180-day time limit for the Planning Phase under the *Impact Assessment Act* for the Bruce C Nuclear Project following a request from Bruce Power allowing more time for input. On this same date, the Province also announced that [OPG is exploring new nuclear energy generation in Port Hope](#).

Context and Background Information:

Information about the Bruce C Nuclear project is available on the project website: [Bruce C Project | Engage Bruce Power](#) as well as through the IAAC public registry (linked above).

Council received a presentation from IAAC and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) staff in October 2024 to provide an overview of the full Impact Assessment process and which outlined what the Municipality may anticipate in the future. For reference purposes, some of the key information has been provided below, along with an update on each of the Planning Phase.

The below graphic illustrates all phases of the federal IA process.



As noted, the Bruce C project is currently in the Planning phase (step 1) which includes several activities for Bruce Power and/or IAAC to complete:

1. Share information from the Bruce C Project Initial Project Description and engage with Indigenous Nations and Communities, local municipalities and the public.
2. Continue to collect socio-economic and environmental data to establish a baseline of existing conditions in the areas surrounding the Bruce Power site.
3. IAAC shares the Summary of Issues and Bruce Power forms a response that outlines how Bruce Power intends to address the issues raised.
4. IAAC shares the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, which defines the studies and information required for Bruce Power to include in the Impact Statement (Phase 2).

In August 2024, Bruce Power submitted the Initial Project Description to IAAC, formally moving from the pre-planning phase to the Planning phase of the IA process. IAAC opened a public commenting period for the Initial Project Description and the [Municipality of Kincardine filed comments on the IPD](#) on September 12, 2024. In total, 166 comments have been submitted and filed to the IAAC public registry for the Bruce C project.

On November 6, 2024, IAAC released the 'Summary of Issues' document (see attachment to this report) pertaining to the Bruce C project and on December 6, 2024, Bruce Power provided a 'Response to the Summary of Issues' (see attachment to this report).

Based on the Response to the Summary of Issues, the IAAC issued a 'Notice of Impact Assessment' decision on December 20, 2024 (see attachment to this report), which confirmed that a full impact assessment is required. The project was also referred to an independent review panel, as is required for nuclear regulated projects.

The next round of public engagement opportunity on the Bruce C project is anticipated to open in mid-January to late February 2025, as IAAC is seeking comments on several plans including the draft Public Participation Plan and the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Guidelines will provide scope of the factors that are considered as part of the assessment and will inform upcoming work and studies. Municipal staff will prepare draft comments for Council's endorsement at a future Council meeting. Should Council have specific comments they would like to see included in a future submission, Councillors are encouraged to pass these along to the CAO.

To assist the Municipality in having capacity to support timely and active engagement on the project, Bruce Power is funding a 2-year contract municipal position (2025-2027) for a Planning Coordinator Nuclear Strategy. Key activities that will be supported include:

- Co-developing and implementing a municipal engagement plan with Bruce Power for each phase of the Impact Assessment.
- Providing input and comments on the documents related to the IA, prepare and submit comments during engagement periods through the Impact Assessment process.
- Support municipal socio-economic work related to the Bruce C project.
- Advancing municipal staff and Council's knowledge of the project and the IA process.

The Municipality is also working with Bruce Power, the County and Saugeen Shores to consider allocation for additional resources for the socio-economic impact review and/or additional studies that may be required.

Consultation Overview:

Bruce Power and IAAC staff are conducting public engagement activities including online engagement platforms, community open houses, table talks and pop-ups at community events. The municipal Project Coordinator Nuclear Strategy is reviewing online comments and attending events to listen and hear what comments local residents, businesses and organizations are making about the project.

Origin:

The Bruce C Nuclear project proposes to add 4800 MW of new nuclear generating capacity to the existing Bruce Power site, located in the Municipality of Kincardine. On October 30, 2023, Bruce Power issued the notice of intent to submit an application for a licence to prepare site and commence the Impact Assessment process. The IA is being conducted by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

The Impact Assessment is a planning and decision-making tool to assess the potential environmental, health, social and economic effects of a project and minimize the significant negative effects within federal responsibility.

Attachments:

- IAAC Summary of Issues – Bruce C Nuclear Project
- Bruce Power Response to the Summary of Issues
- IAAC Notice of Impact Assessment Decision
- Notice of Referral to the Review Plan

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