

**ATTACHMENT:** June 30, 2021

**Provincial Advice Record: Designation Request under IAA**

**Response requested by July 20, 2021**

Lake Diefenbaker Irrigation Expansion Projects

Department/Agency	HEALTH CANADA – SANTE CANADA
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1. Has your department or agency considered whether it has an interest in the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action (including provision of financial assistance) that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Specify as appropriate.

N/A

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2. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify that power, duty or function and its legislative source.

N/A

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3. If your department or agency will exercise a power or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project, will it involve public and Indigenous consultation?

Specify as appropriate.

N/A

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4. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to any potential adverse effects within federal jurisdiction caused by the Project or adverse direct or incidental effects stemming from the Project?

Specify as appropriate.

As a federal authority, Health Canada will provide specialist or expert information and knowledge in the Department's possession (expertise) to support assessing impacts on human health from projects considered individually or cumulatively under the Impact Assessment Act (IAA). It should also be noted that expertise related to assessing human health relevant to impact

assessment (IA) may be held by other federal, provincial, and municipal partners, reflecting the shared jurisdiction for environmental and human health within Canada. For example, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has expertise in the social determinants of health approach and health equity. It may provide that expertise through Health Canada upon request from the reviewing body(ies). How the expertise provided by Health Canada and PHAC will be used in the IA process will ultimately be determined by the reviewing body(ies).

Health Canada can provide human health expertise in the following areas:

- Air quality health effects;
  - Contamination of country foods (e.g. fish, wild game, garden produce, berries, etc.);
  - Drinking and recreational water quality;
  - Radiological effects;
  - Electric and magnetic fields;
  - Noise impacts;
  - Methodological expertise in human health risk assessment;
  - Methodological expertise in conducting Health Impact Assessment (HIA); and
  - Public health emergency management of toxic exposure events.
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5. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other parties in relation to the Project?

Provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

No

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6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, does the Project have the potential to cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects as described in section 2 of IAA? Could any of those effects be managed through legislative or regulatory mechanisms administered by your department or agency? If a licence, permit, authorization or approval may be issued, could it include conditions in relation to those effects?

Specify as appropriate.

Health Canada is not a regulatory body and does not issue any approvals or make any regulatory decisions concerning development projects.

The information provided is not sufficient to confirm whether there exists a potential for adverse effects on human health within federal jurisdiction.

The publically available information does not mention any information on specific health concerns raised by Indigenous groups or areas of Indigenous importance within the proposed project areas. As such, it remains unclear how or if the Project may impact human health.

Documents from the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) highlighted issues with the consultation process that did not provide an opportunity for formal feedback on the proposed Project. The FSIN also raised concerns with impacts to soil, water and food security, and are areas where Health Canada has identified expertise that may be relevant to this assessment and the Agency's review.

At this time, Health Canada does have the knowledge to advise on the potential for human health-related adverse direct or incidental effects as described in Section 2 of the IAA.

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7. Does your department or agency have a program or additional authority that may be relevant and could be considered as a potential solution to concerns expressed about the Project? In particular, the following issues have been raised by the requestor:
- a. Potential effects on Inherent and Treaty Rights in Saskatchewan
  - b. Potential impacts to sacred sites and other cultural and heritage-sensitive areas
  - c. Potential effects to food and water security including climate change impacts
  - d. Potential long-term cumulative impacts of water withdrawals and agrochemical inputs to the Saskatchewan River and the Saskatchewan River Delta that flow into Manitoba
  - e. Effects to the following:
    - i. fish and fish habitat
    - ii. migratory birds

- iii. wildlife and wildlife habitat including federally listed species at risk
- iv. contaminants from agricultural inputs

If yes, please specify the program or authority.

In Canada, the responsibility for the safety and quality of drinking and recreational waters is shared between federal and provincial/territorial levels of government. The primary responsibility, including regulations, generally rests with the provinces and territories. Health Canada provides scientific leadership by developing the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality (GCDWQ) and the Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality (GCRWQ) in partnership with the provinces and territories. These guidelines are used as the basis for provincial/territorial drinking and recreational water quality requirements. For the most recent listing of these guidelines, refer to Health Canada's publication at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/environmental-workplace-health/reports-publications/water-quality.html>

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8. If your department has guidance material that would be helpful to the proponent or the Agency, please include these as attachments or hyperlinks in your response.

Health Canada has published the following guidance documents for evaluating human health impacts:  
Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Impacts in Environmental Assessment:

- Human Health Risk Assessment
- Air Quality
- Water Quality
- Country Foods
- Noise
- Radiological Impacts

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/health/publications/healthy-living.html#a2.5>

Guidance prepared by Health Canada on the management of crude oil incidents is available as a PDF and in HTML format through the following link:

- Guidance for the environmental public health management of crude oil incidents: a guide intended for public health and emergency management practitioners:  
<https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.849592/publication.html>

Paul Partridge

Name of departmental / agency responder

A/Regional Manager

Title of responder

2021-07-20

Date