

**Ministry of Environment**  
Environmental Assessment and Stewardship  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 3211 Albert Street  
Regina, Canada S4S 5W6

Phone: 306-787-6132

September 1, 2022

Jennifer Dallaire  
Project Manager, Prairie & Northern Region  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
Canada Place, Suite 1145, 9700 Jasper Avenue  
EDMONTON AB T5J 4C3

Dear Jennifer Dallaire:

**RE: Request for Provincial Input Regarding a Designation Request for the Proposed Patterson Lake South Project under the *Impact Assessment Act***

Thank you for your letter dated August 17, 2022, seeking provincial input regarding a designation request for the Fission Uranium Corp. (Fission) Patterson Lake South Project (the project), under Section 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The following information and attachments are provided in response to your request.

**Federal *Impact Assessment Act***

On August 28, 2019, the federal IAA came into force, and with it the *Physical Activities Regulations* (regulations), which designate a physical activity, or class of physical activities, and specify which physical activity, or class of physical activities may be designated by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada. The regulations include a threshold for the construction, operation and decommissioning of a new uranium mine with an ore production capacity of 2,500 tonnes/day or more, and a new uranium mill with an ore input capacity of 2,500 tonnes/day or more that fall outside the licensed boundaries of an existing uranium facility.

The project would produce approximately 1,000 tonnes/day of ore, well below the threshold defined in the regulations. The project is also subject to licensing and environmental review pursuant to the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*.

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## **Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment**

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment (ministry) Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch received an application on December 2, 2021, requesting approval under section 15 of *The Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Fission self-declared the project a “development” and is therefore required to conduct an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and submit findings in an environmental impact statement (EIS). Public notice of the EIA was provided in February 2022, pursuant to section 10 of the Act.

The project has potential adverse impacts on the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights to hunt, fish, and trap for food, and carry out traditional uses, therefore triggers the duty to consult and accommodate. The Government of Saskatchewan *First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework* establishes the province’s policy on consultation with First Nations and Métis communities.

Fission has been assigned procedural aspects of consultation as part of the EIA, including:

- Informing communities about the project;
- Arranging meetings;
- Collecting information to understand the communities’ use of the land and the specific potential adverse impacts of the project on the communities’ ability to exercise Treaty and Aboriginal rights; and
- Working with the communities to determine appropriate accommodation to mitigate impacts to rights.

An EIS has not been submitted for review to date. Once submitted, it will undergo technical review by subject matter experts from across the Government of Saskatchewan. Any deficiencies noted by reviewers will be addressed prior to its acceptance. After the EIS is accepted as final, the document and a summary of the technical review comments received will be released for a 30 – 60-day public review. Concurrent with the public review, First Nations and Métis communities will also be provided an opportunity to review the EIS and provide comments to the ministry. The EIS, technical review and public, First Nations and Métis community comments received will be considered by the Minister of Environment when deciding to approve or refuse the project.

Impacts of the project can be effectively assessed, and appropriately managed under existing provincial legislation. Saskatchewan has a long successful history of overseeing uranium mining in the province. In addition to the EIA process in Saskatchewan, there is an extensive provincial regulatory framework that would provide oversight through all phases of the project, further details of which are included in the attachments.

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Predictability and certainty of regulatory requirements and timing is critical for resource development projects in Saskatchewan. As the project is subject to ongoing provincial review and falls well below the defined threshold for uranium mines to be captured by IAA, designation of the project under IAA is not warranted.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Brady Pollock  
Executive Director

Attachments:

1. Provincial Advice Record - ENV
2. Provincial Advice Record - Water Security Agency
3. Provincial Advice Record – Energy and Resources
4. Provincial Advice Record - Health

cc: Wes Kotyk, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment  
Brianna England, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment  
Jeff Dereniwski, Environmental Assessment and Stewardship, Ministry of Environment

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