

Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

The FAAR must be submitted to the Registry by January 28, 2024.

Marguerite Lake Compressed Air Energy Storage Project – Federation Group Inc.

Department/Agency	Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC)
Lead Contact	Sarah Strapps - Director of Policy Integration and Special Projects (PISP) Skills and Employment Branch (SEB)
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1. a) 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 the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

ESDC does not exercise powers, nor perform specific duties or functions related to the Project to enable it to proceed.

The ESDC Minister’s powers, duties and functions extend to and include all matters relating to human resources and skills development in Canada or the social development of Canada over which Parliament has jurisdiction, and which are not by law assigned to any other Minister, department, board or agency of the Government of Canada.

- b) Please describe any Indigenous or public consultation that will be undertaken in relation to the exercise of that power, duty or function, including when it would take place.

While ESDC is not engaging with Indigenous groups regarding specific projects, it can provide the IAAC with information about relevant programming to assist in responses to Indigenous nations and members of the public.

ESDC also offers a suite of programming to promote an efficient and inclusive labour market that includes the following:

Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program

- The ISET Program provides funding to Indigenous service delivery organizations across Canada that design and deliver job training services to First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban/non-affiliated Indigenous people in their communities.*
- The ISET service delivery organizations work closely with employers to identify Labour Market needs. Organizations link training needs to the job market by providing skills and training required to find a job such as: a suite of skills development and job training, from essential skills such as literacy and numeracy to more advanced training for in-demand jobs.*

- They also offer a range of wrap-around services (such as help with childcare supports and transportation) during training in order for individuals to achieve long-term career goals. Service delivery organizations are responsible for retaining client information such as: number of skilled workers, training history, and education (Certificates/Diplomas) and Apprenticeships.

Skills and Partnership Fund

- The Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF) is a demand-driven, project-based program that encourages stakeholders, such as training institutions, community organizations, local business and industry, to partner with Indigenous organizations to support skills development, job training and employment supports for Indigenous people. These partnerships are intended to better meet local labour market demands.
- Under SPF, Indigenous service providers design and implement projects to meet their partners' specific employment goals, with the objective of employment and increased integration in the labour market. This includes the testing of innovative approaches to providing labour market training and improving employment outcomes for Indigenous people.

Other ESDC programs and services can be found [here](#).

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge in one of your fields of expertise that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

Specify the specialist or expert information or knowledge.

As a federal authority, ESDC provides advice on: social development; learning, skills development, employment, unemployment, underrepresented groups, and; working conditions and workplace relations, including relevant programming with respect to Indigenous Peoples.

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3. Has your department or agency 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 that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

Please specify if applicable.

No

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4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project (for example: an enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the Project)?

Please provide an overview of the information or advice exchanged.

No

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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge about the project not specified above, including information about its geographic, environmental, economic or social context (for example, location of protected or sensitive areas, history between local communities and proponent or similar projects, local or regional social or economic concerns)?

Please specify if applicable.

No

6. From the standpoint of your department's mandate and expertise, what are the main issues concerning the project?

For each key issue, please:

- describe the effect or the nature of the issue, including any relevant context;
- provide the rationale and/or evidence for why it is a key issue;
- briefly provide solutions to the issue, including information or studies that, if applicable, should be requested to the proponent in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, potential mitigation measures, or regulatory requirements relevant to the issues;
- provide a concise, plain-language summary of the issue for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

The information provided will be taken into consideration by the Agency to formulate an opinion on whether an impact assessment is required and, if applicable, will be taken into account in developing project-specific Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines in the next steps of the impact assessment process.

Please use Table 1 to answer this question.

*****Please see below response in lieu of table 1*****

Below are some examples of subject areas that ESDC would focus on in its review of the Project (to be developed at subsequent stages of the Project documentation):

Community profiles with the following socio-economic information relevant to ESDC's mandate:

- *The current socio-demographic characteristics of the economic sector workforce of the project;*
- *The labour force characteristics by age group and sex (if possible) of all impacted communities including the availability of skilled and unskilled workers, existing working conditions, wages and/or average salary range, full-time and part-time employment and training; inclusion of a hiring strategy and any efforts made towards promoting an inclusive labour market;*
- *The anticipated number of jobs created, how they will be added over the project's lifespan, jobs created in Canada vs. other countries, the type of skills and knowledge that could be required to support the completion of the project; how the project's budget will be spent in the local region and the province and how it would benefit the local area;*
- *The main economic activities in the study area;*
- *Accessibility to programming similar to the following: Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET), and Skills and Partnership Fund (SPF);*
- *Employment barriers to participation for local under-represented groups such as visible minorities, indigenous person, people from a lower socioeconomic status, persons with disabilities;*
- *Availability, affordability and appropriateness of child care as part of the measurement of the change in infrastructure in services; and*
- *Baseline conditions and projected impacts, for example, as outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) template.*

Information regarding both local and other relevant labour markets. This includes initial labour market conditions and the anticipated impacts of the Project on the labour market, including:

- *training and hiring strategies, including the intent to support diversity and inclusion throughout them;*
- *effects to employment and how any adverse effects to employment would be managed, or mitigated;*
- *applying a gender-based analysis plus (GBA Plus) lens in considering the effects to employment (e.g. consideration of underrepresented groups).*
- *inform the decision as to whether an impact assessment is required; or*
- *aid in tailoring the Impact Statement Guidelines, if an impact assessment is required.*

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7. If applicable, specify any additional information the proponent could provide in the Detailed Project Description or in its response to the Summary of Issues that:

- would make it possible to verify whether certain minor issues could be addressed and managed by clear measures, existing guidelines, other regulatory processes or other existing tools;
- help the Agency to provide an opinion if an impact assessment is required, or
- would support the tailoring of the Impact Statement Guidelines if the Agency is of the opinion that an impact assessment is required.

These clarifications and additional information will be included as specific questions/issues in the Summary of Issues provided to the proponent.

Please use Table 2 to answer this question.

- *It is recommended that engagement take place with the existing ESDC programming, for example, ISET service delivery network, occur to ensure that the existing federal training network is utilized.*
- *It is encouraged for the proponent to make a clear and early attempt at applying GBA Plus throughout their analysis. In situations where it may not be feasible to provide all the necessary information, particularly in the initial stages of the project, we request that the proponent clarifies their intentions to implement GBA Plus. This can be achieved by specifying the information they intend to include in the future, aiming to minimize the volume of comments due to missing details.*

Sarah Strapps

Name of department or agency involved

Director of Policy Integration and Special
Projects (PISP), Skills and Employment
Branch (SEB), ESDC

Speaker title

Date

Table 1: Key issues to inform the impact assessment process

The Agency asks that federal authorities guide expert advice on the Agency's approach to project specific tailoring, if the Agency is in the opinion that an impact assessment is required. This approach aims to focus the assessment on the Project's key issues, with an emphasis on the prevention of adverse environmental effects in areas of federal jurisdiction. In determining key issues, federal authorities should be mindful of the Project's context (size, scope, location), Indigenous knowledge and perspectives, and public concerns.

Potential effects that are considered minor, or that can be mitigated through clear measures, existing guidance or other regulatory processes, may be subject to simplified information requests or be disregarded. Advice from federal authorities on key issues and solutions - and on the scope and detail of the studies and information requested - will enable the Agency to focus the analysis on those issues that are important for the impact assessment process.

Comment ID	Relevant section of the initial project description	Valued Component or Factor to Consider	Description of key issue (context and rationale)	Advice	Plain-language summary for inclusion in Summary of Issues
<p><i>Please present comments by organization and comment number</i> e.g.: IAAC-01</p>	<p><i>If the comment relates to a specific section of the initial project description, please provide the reference.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify valued component(s) or factor to consider—within the mandate of your department or agency—to which the potential effect or issue applies.</i></p>	<p><i>Please provide a brief description of the issue and rationale for being a key issue.</i></p> <p><i>Include, where relevant:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the sequence of potential effects;</i> • <i>the relevant context that specifies why this is a key issue;</i> • <i>key uncertainties that should be addressed in the impact assessment;</i> • <i>Indigenous or public concerns or perspective;</i> • <i>scientific data or traditional knowledge, including from previous projects, that justifies the inclusion of the key issue in the project assessment.</i> 	<p><i>If applicable, please provide brief solutions/advice to address the issue or potential effect, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>studies or information relevant to describing and characterizing the potential effect, including any guidance for data collection or analysis or existing data sources to inform the assessment;</i> • <i>any powers your department or agency has that may mitigate, manage or set conditions related to the issue;</i> • <i>advice or policies to frame and mitigate the potential effect;</i> • <i>standardized mitigation or monitoring measures that could manage potential effects, including follow-up on monitoring activities;</i> • <i>Commitments the proponent could make to respond to the issue.</i> 	<p><i>For issues to be included in the Summary of Issues, provide a concise, plain language synopsis of the key issue and any questions or directions for the proponent, if applicable.</i></p>

Please insert additional lines if necessary.

Table 2. Details or additional information the proponent could include in the Detailed Project Description or in the response to Summary of Issues

Comment ID	Relevant section of the Initial Project Description	Description of the Issue, Concern or Uncertainty	Clarifications or additional information	Plain-language summary for inclusion in Summary of Issues
<p><i>Please identify comments by organization and comment number.</i></p> <p><i>e.g. AEIC-01</i></p>	<p><i>If the comment is related to a specific section of the Initial Project Description, please provide a reference.</i></p> <p><i>You may also choose to copy the relevant text here.</i></p>	<p><i>Provide a description of the issue, concern or uncertainty that the proponent could include in its Detailed Project Description, which could be framed and managed by clear measures, existing guidelines, regulatory processes or other existing tools, and thus be the subject of a simplified information request in the guidelines, or simply be disregarded.</i></p>	<p><i>Specify what additional information the proponent could provide in the Detailed Project Description to address the issue, concern or uncertainty, for example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Clarifications to elements of Project Description (e.g. components, activities, locations or alternatives);</i> <i>• Proposals on Project design changes that could avoid effects;</i> <i>• Evidence that could demonstrate that the effects will be negligible;</i> <i>• Evidence that standard mitigation measures will reduce or eliminate potential effects;</i> <i>• Commitments the proponent could make to respond to the question/issue, including the implementation of federal operational policies or guidance documents.</i> 	<p><i>For issues to be included in the Summary of Issues, provide a concise, plain-language synopsis of the issue and any questions or instructions for the proponent, if applicable.</i></p>

Please insert additional lines if necessary.