

Provincial Authority Advice Record Form #1: Authority and Summary of Issues

Response requested by: August 12, 2024

Big Bear Camp Aerodrome Project – Big Bear Contracting Ltd.

CIAR No.: 88735

*The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) encourages comments to be submitted via the **Submit a Comment** feature available on the Project’s Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference #88735 at [Impact Assessment Agency of Canada \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](http://Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (iaac-aeic.gc.ca))). Letters and forms can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact IAAC using the information provided below for assistance.*

Ministry/Agency:	Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment		
Lead Contact Name:	Jeff Dereniwski	Telephone:	306-787-5971
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Please complete this form.

1. Would your ministry/agency participate in the federal impact assessment process for this Project? If so, provide the information of the main point of contact.

The Ministry of Environment (ministry) is the provincial regulatory body with oversight of the project. The ministry may coordinate the provincial environmental assessment process with a federal impact assessment (IA) if requested by the proponent. Coordination could include information sharing and alignment of process milestones. Contact same as above.

2. Will your jurisdiction be undertaking a review and analysis of the Project? Would your jurisdiction participate in a cooperative review of the project information?

The ministry’s Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch will conduct a screening under *The Environmental Assessment Act*. This will result in a Ministerial Determination on whether an environmental impact assessment (assessment) is required. An application for screening has not yet been submitted by the proponent. As described above, the ministry would consider coordination of provincial and federal process steps at the proponent’s request.

3. Does your ministry/agency have any advice on matters that should be included in the Summary of Issues or, if needed, addressed by the proponent in the Detailed Project Description?

For each issue discussed, provide a concise, plain-language summary that is appropriate for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

Additional information should be provided on:

- A cumulative effects assessment should be included.
- The project is located on provincially-owned land under administration of the ministry; however, the landowner has been identified in the Initial Project Description (IPD) as Clearwater River Dene Nation (CRDN).
- Engagement has been initiated for the project but is relatively limited. Further engagement with Indigenous communities as well as other interested stakeholders would be required as part of the technical proposal submission for the provincial environmental assessment screening.

The ministry does not have concerns related to impacts within federal jurisdiction that should be included in the Summary of Issues and addressed by the proponent in the Detailed Project Description. Project impacts will be managed through the provincial assessment process and subsequent approvals, including the requirement to conduct further engagement with Indigenous communities and interested stakeholders.

4. Does your ministry/agency have any advice on matters to consider for inclusion in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, should an impact assessment be required?

The ministry does not have advice on matters to consider for inclusion in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The proposed project does not appear likely to cause non-negligible adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or impact Indigenous peoples in a manner that may warrant a federal impact assessment. Potential impacts to species of conservation concern will be addressed through the provincial environmental assessment review and subsequent project approvals.

5. Do you have any comments about the Project in relation to effects within federal jurisdiction?

The project is unlikely to cause non-negligible adverse effects within federal jurisdiction. The project will not impact fish-bearing or transboundary waters or federal lands. With the mitigations proposed, it is unlikely there will be non-negligible adverse impacts to migratory birds or aquatic species at risk. The project would be sited on provincial Crown land where there is a right of access for the exercise of Treaty and Aboriginal rights and the traditional use of lands and resources (Rights). Provision of a surface lease for the

aerodrome could result in loss of access to approximately 23 hectares of Crown land. Potential impacts to Rights would be assessed in accordance with the province's [First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework, 2023](#) (CPF) including the development of appropriate mitigation and accommodation measures.

6. Please identify the contact information for your jurisdiction provided to the public for the proposed project. This could be a generic email box or specific to your jurisdiction's role in the project (e.g. permits, authorizations, guidance or funding within your jurisdiction's mandate.)

Environmental Assessment and Stewardship Branch: environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca

7. Based on the Initial Project Description, please confirm what project components and activities you would consider relevant in relation to permits, authorizations or guidance within your jurisdiction's mandate.

Construction

- Site preparation (stripping and stockpiling topsoil, tree clearing, grading, fencing, etc.)
- Building construction and equipment installation
- Construction of hazardous substances storage
- Aquatic habitat protection for activities near water
- Impacts to species of conservation concern
- Noise
- Weed management
- Impacts to heritage resources

Operation

- Air emissions
- Water use
- Handling and storage of hazardous substances
- Impacts to species of conservation concern
- Noise

Decommissioning and Reclamation

- Building and equipment removal and disposal
 - Site reclamation (grading, revegetation, etc.)
 - Post-reclamation monitoring
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8. Will your jurisdiction be issuing a permit, authorization or be involved in the aforementioned Project in a regulatory manner? If so, indicate below.

Ministry of Environment

- Environmental Assessment Review/Approval
- Permit to Construct and Operate a Hazardous Substances Storage Facility
- Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit
- Species Detection Permit
- Raptor Nest Removal Permit
- Crown Surface Lease
- Crown Work Authorization
- Forest Product Permit

Ministry of Government Relations

- Subdivision Approval

Saskatchewan Health Authority

- Private Sewage Works Permit

Ministry of Parks, Culture, and Sport

- Heritage Clearance
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9. For any permits or authorizations to be issued, please provide a short description of each with specific information on the location or component of the Project to which the permit or authorization would be applicable.

The Environmental Assessment Act

Environmental Assessment Review

The screening will determine whether the project meets the definition of a development. A project is a development if it is like to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Have an effect on any unique, rare or endangered feature of the environment;
 - Substantially use any provincial resource and in so doing pre-empt the use, or potential use, of that resource for any other purpose;
 - Cause the emission of any pollutants or create by-products, residual or waste products which require handling and disposal in a manner that is not regulated by any other Act or regulation;
 - Cause widespread public concern because of potential environmental changes;
 - Involve a new technology that is concerned with resource use and that may induce significant environmental change; or
 - Have a significant impact on the environment or necessitate a further development which is likely to have a significant impact on the development.
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The screening occurs upstream of permitting and approvals and assesses the project as a whole. If the project is a development, an environmental assessment is required and the project must receive Ministerial Approval before proceeding.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010

Permit to Construct and Operate a Hazardous Substances Storage Facility

A permit is required for hazardous substance storage meeting the storage thresholds in *The Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Regulations*. Storing hazardous materials and waste dangerous goods must be done in a manner that avoids environmental impacts or risk to human health. To minimize these risks, regulations ensure storage facilities are constructed, operated and decommissioned properly. The Ministry of Environment must approve the construction, alteration or expansion of a facility to handle hazardous substances or waste dangerous goods.

Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit

This permit is required for project components that are near wetlands or waterbodies to ensure aquatic habitat is protected from impacts that may arise from development in or near water. The program preserves and maintains aquatic habitat at the productive level which existed prior to the development activities by preventing:

- temporary and permanent habitat alteration;
- increased soil erosion and sedimentation;
- impacts of construction timing and development on aquatic organisms and species at risk; and
- discharge of chemicals, oil, gasoline and other contaminants into water.

This program also protects vegetation and habitat in the water and on the banks.

The Wildlife Act, 1998

Species Detection Permit

Species detection permits fall under the ministry's Conservation Standards Program. A Species Detection Permit is required to conduct academic research and to detect or observe plants or wildlife for commercial purposes, such as a pre-screening baseline surveys.

Raptor Nest Removal Permits/Special Permit

Permits may be issued by the ministry's Fish and Wildlife Branch for removal of raptor nests and nests of other provincially protected species, as required.

The Provincial Lands Act, 2016

Crown Work Authorization

A Crown Work Authorization may be issued by the ministry's Lands Branch to support work in advance of a surface lease being finalized. The authorization would outline and set conditions and could address issues such as erosion,

deposition of deleterious substances, sedimentation, sanitation, impacts to wild species, secondary containment, in addition to terms and conditions for occupation of the land.

Surface Lease

The surface lease provides the legal tenure to occupy the Crown resource land and contains terms and conditions associated with the approval, including community planning requirements. Typically, the term length would be 33 years and may be tied to the commercial/industrial disposition.

Forest Product Permit

A forest product permit, if required, will be issued by Lands Branch (not Ministry of Agriculture as identified in the submission). This would be issued for the disturbance of forest products within the Provincial Forest prior to construction activities.

The Heritage Property Act

Heritage Clearance

The proponent will be required to complete a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment and receive clearance for the project prior to construction. The purpose of the clearance is to ensure heritage resources are protected.

The Planning and Development Act, 2007

Subdivision Approval

Any development which includes the lease of land for a period exceeding 10 years (including any renewal terms) requires subdivision approval. Subdividing instruments, such as surface leases, must comply with requirements contained in *The Subdivision Regulations, 2014*.

The Public Health Act, 1994

Permit under *The Private Sewage Works Regulations*

If the airport terminal will have wastewater holding tank(s), a permit from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) will be required. The SHA may have additional requirements depending on the proponent's plans for potable water supply at the terminal.

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10. Will there be opportunities for engagement with the public or Indigenous groups as part of the regulatory or review process by your jurisdiction? If so, when is this likely to occur?

Prior to submitting a technical proposal for screening under *The Environmental Assessment Act*, the proponent is required to conduct public engagement and include the results of engagement activities in the application. Engagement activities could include local public

meetings and/or open houses, meetings with community associations, First Nations and Métis communities, and/or special interest groups, etc.

Should the project be required to complete an environmental assessment, the province's duty to consult obligations would be assessed. Based on the current understanding of the project area, the province's duty to consult would be triggered and consultation would follow the province's CPF. Notification letters would be sent out by the province to potentially impacted Indigenous communities and the proponent would be directed to carry out consultation activities on behalf of the province. During the assessment, the proponent would also be expected to continue public engagement activities and actively solicit stakeholder and Indigenous feedback regarding potential issues, interests and concerns. This information would be included in the environmental impact statement (statement).

The Environmental Assessment Act requires a 30 to 60 day public comment period on the statement prior to the Minister making a decision on the acceptability of a development. The public is invited to submit written comments for consideration during this period. If the duty to consult was triggered, Indigenous communities will be provided the opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the consultation record. This information will be utilized to inform the ministry's assessment on the adequacy of consultation and accommodation measures for the project.

If the screening determines that the project does not require an assessment, the proponent may proceed to obtain all other necessary permitting and licensing requirements (e.g., subdivision approval). The province's duty to consult would be assessed during these subsequent permitting activities according to the province's CPF.

11. Will your jurisdiction be providing any participant funding?

Funding is available through the *First Nations and Métis Consultation Participation Fund* for projects that trigger the duty to consult. As this project has not yet initiated a provincial environmental assessment screening, the duty to consult has not been assessed and no funding is available for this project.

The Ministry of Environment does not have financial assistance programs available to support engagement activities during the development and construction of private facilities.

Jeff Dereniwski

August 12, 2024

Name of responder

Date

If you have any difficulties, you may contact IAAC via email at BigBear@iaac-aeic.gc.ca