



GICHI OZHIBI'IGE OGAAMIC
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Via Email

June 23, 2026

Mr. Terence Hubbard
President, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
22nd Floor, Place Bell
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Mr. Pierre Tremblay
President, Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission
280 Slater Street
P.O. Box 1046, Stn B
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9

Re: The Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3's Follow-up on NWMO Assessment

Dear Mssrs. Hubbard and Tremblay:

I am writing to you both to follow up on the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's ("**Agency**") lack of response to the Government of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 (the "**Nation**" or "**GCT3**") regarding our February 24, 2026 and subsequent letters. Despite GCT3 providing the Agency (and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization ("**NWMO**")) multiple opportunities to engage GCT3 during the Planning Phase, a lot of work remains outstanding on how to apply the Nation's existing Manito Aki Inaakonigewin ("**MAI**") regime, and work together in a collaborative, cooperative, and coordinated manner on the required impact assessment.

GCT3's May 10th letter was our third letter to the Agency this year regarding the nuclear fuel waste facility proposed by NWMO in the Territory of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 ("**Treaty #3 Territory**"). NWMO proposed this facility to manage all Canada's existing high-level used nuclear fuel for the duration of its toxicity, estimated to be 1 million years, all of which is produced entirely outside of Treaty #3 Territory (the "**Project**"). On February 4th,¹ the Nation provided detailed comments on the 1,233-page Initial Project Description ("**IPD**") released by the Agency on January 5, 2026. On February 24, 2026, GCT3 wrote to the Agency regarding its February 23rd posting of its "Summary of Issues" (the "**SOI**") on its electronic registry.²

These letters have reminded the Agency of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the "**UN Declaration**") and Article 29(2) which reads, in full, as follows, "States shall take effective measures to ensure that **no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.**"

These letters have also reminded the Agency of the years of Nation-to-Nation negotiations on the

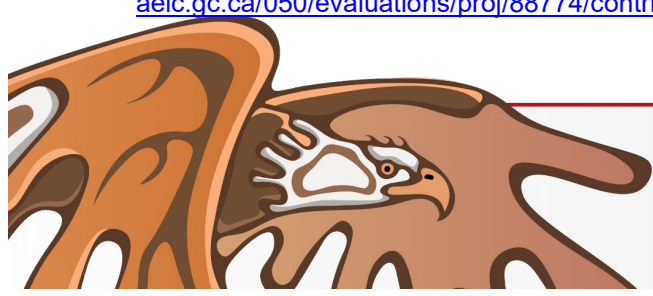
¹ GCT3 (4 February 2026), "GCT3 Comments on NWMO IPD" <<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88774/contributions/id/65836>>

² GCT3 (24 February 2026), "GCT3 Response to IAAC Summary of Issues" <<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88774/contributions/id/66032>>

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harmonization of Federal and Anishinaabe impact assessment (i.e., MAI) regimes to assess any nuclear fuel waste site in Treaty #3 Territory. As noted on February 4, 2026, IAAC has reneged on its January 21, 2021 commitment to develop an agreement with GCT3 for the Project. That is not honourable. And it is not reconciliation.

To date, the Agency has determined that impact assessment is required but has not issued a notice of commencement of the impact assessment for the Project. Nor has the Minister referred this Project to a review panel. There thus appears to be time for the Agency and/or Minister to allow it to consult and cooperate with the Nation under section 12 of the Impact Assessment Act ("**IAA**").

GCT3's May 10th letter referenced sections 43 and 44 of the IAA. These require the Minister to refer the required impact assessment to a review panel and work with the President of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission ("**CNSC**") to establish terms of reference for the panel and appoint its members. The May 10th letter also reminded the Agency that as a "jurisdiction" under section 21 of the IAA, the IAA makes provision for the Nation to have a role in the panel's terms of reference and appointments.

To date, the Nation has met every regulatory deadline that has been imposed on it. Its multiple submissions have raised fundamental issues with this NWMO Project and the site selection process. GCT3 has done this while NWMO has refused to provide any capacity funding for the Planning Phase or Impact Assessment.

GCT3 was and remains ready to continue engaging the Agency and CNSC on this uniquely challenging Project. As such, GCT3 would be agreeable to the Agency suspending the 180-day Planning Phase timeline pursuant to section 18(5) of the IAA to provide the Agency, NWMO, Treaty #3 First Nations and the Nation additional time for meaningful engagement. GCT3 notes that the Agency has previously suspending its 180-day timeline to allow additional time to review and comment on Planning Phase documents, as well as to allow more time for Indigenous engagement. Should it be necessary to advance meaningful engagement, GCT3 hereby requests an extension pursuant to 18(3) of the IAA for up to 90 days.

The Nation looks forward to hearing from the Agency of this letter.

Sincerely,



Lucas King

Chief Executive Officer
Grand Council Treaty #3

cc: Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, GCT3
Gaakinawataagizod Cheyenne Vandermeer, GCT3
Chief Terry Allen, Chair, GCT3 Environmental Chiefs Committee
Treaty #3 Chiefs
Mr. Chris Herc, Director, Territorial Planning Unit, GCT3
Mssrs. Gary Allen & Dan Morrieseau, Political Office, GCT3
Ian Ketcheson, Vice President, Indigenous Relations Sector