



May 14, 2025

RE: Concerns with the Peace River Nuclear Power Project – Summary Initial Project Description – Planning Stage

On behalf of the Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement, our community has significant concerns regarding the proposed project's potential impacts on the Peace River ecosystem, which serves as a critical water source and cultural artery for our Settlement, and its anticipated effects on the health, well-being, and traditional harvesting practices of our members.

As outlined in the Initial Project Description, both site options are located directly within the Peace River Watershed, and water for reactor cooling is proposed to be drawn from the Peace River itself. This raises alarm about both the quantity and quality of water that may remain available to downstream communities such as Paddle Prairie. The Peace River is a primary tributary that sustains our environment, cultural activities, and harvesting practices—including fishing, trapping, and the gathering of medicinal plants—which are integral to the Métis way of life.

Furthermore, the project's potential for direct and indirect discharges of liquid effluents and surface runoff poses risks to the health of the watershed and its aquatic ecosystems. The documented presence of fish species of ecological and cultural importance, including Northern Pike, Walleye, and Whitefish, highlights the vital role this river plays in sustaining traditional Métis diets and ceremonies. Disruptions to this balance are unacceptable and threaten the very foundation of our community's food security and cultural identity.

We are also deeply concerned by the long-term nature of the project—spanning over 70 years of operations followed by decades of decommissioning and abandonment—which would impose generational risks. This is compounded by the proposed on-site storage of radioactive and hazardous waste and the yet undefined emergency planning zones, which introduce further uncertainty into our community's future land use and safety.

While we acknowledge Energy Alberta's intent to engage with Indigenous Nations and Communities, we respectfully submit that such engagement must go beyond procedural formality. Technical and environmental support is required to ensure that it reflects free, prior, and informed consent, particularly when a project of this scale threatens the lifeblood of a people whose connection to the land and river is ancestral, spiritual, and constitutionally protected.

PADDLE PRAIRIE METIS SETTLEMENT

WWW.PADDLEPRAIRIEMETIS.COM



We strongly encourage Energy Alberta to work on a collaborative process to move forward that is respecting our lands, culture and people.

Sincerely,
<Original signed by>

Justin Gaudet
Chief Administrative Officer
Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement