



April 14, 2026

Peace River Nuclear Power Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3  
Telephone: 613-699-6778

**Re: Requirement to Reinstate the Pause on Phase 1 of the IAA 2019 Process – Peace River Nuclear Power Project**

To Whom It May Concern,

The Woodland Cree First Nation is formally advising the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada that the Nation **does not support** the resuming of Phase 1 of the federal impact assessment process for the proposed **Peace River Nuclear Power Project, date March 2, 2026**. The pause must remain in place. The proponent has not met the minimum requirements necessary to justify moving forward, and advancing the process now would undermine the integrity of the assessment and the Nation's ability to participate meaningfully.

The Project was Paused on August 20, 2025, and since that time **Energy Alberta has taken no meaningful steps** to address the issues that led to the pause in the first place. The Nation provided the proponent with the information required to establish a capacity funding agreement months ago. Despite this, Energy Alberta has not engaged, has not negotiated, and has not finalized any such agreement. This lack of engagement in and of itself prevents the Nation from being able to participate in the assessment in a meaningful way.

In addition, **no studies have been agreed to, scoped, or initiated**, and no substantive engagement has occurred on any aspect of the preparatory work required for the completion of Phase 1, let alone the start of Phase 2, of the IAA-defined process. There has been no progress on readiness and no indication that the proponent intends to meet its obligations to the Nation or to the process. Energy Alberta has simply not moved the process forward. Any attempt by the proponent to resume the federal IA process under these circumstances would be seen by the Nation as **an act of bad faith and poor planning, and a recipe for failure, not success**.

The Nation is also providing the Agency with a table attached to this letter, which indicates where the process is at from our perspective. This readiness evaluation tool outlines the current state of Project assessment preparation across multiple critical factors. We use this readiness evaluation tool to determine whether the Crown, the proponent, and the Nation are **ready** to proceed beyond

the Planning Phase. It is clear from the attached results that the Energy Alberta Project is not ready to move to the next phase. There is still a variety of preparatory work that remains incomplete or not started, including capacity funding, agreement on required studies, and the establishment of a functional and respectful engagement process. To resume Phase 1 without these foundational elements would place the impact assessment on unstable ground and compromise its legitimacy from the start.

For these reasons, the Woodland Cree First Nation reiterate its opposition to the premature restarting of the federal IA process and will be requesting that Energy Alberta reinstate its pause until it can demonstrate measurable progress on the outstanding readiness requirements. The Nation remains committed to a credible, respectful, and lawful assessment process, but that process cannot advance until the proponent fulfills its obligations.

Please contact Jenna Strachan, Director of Lands, Consultation and Government Relations at <contact information removed>

Respectfully,

<Original signed by>

Jenna Strachan  
Woodland Cree First Nation  
Director of Lands, Consultation and Government Relations

Cc: Chief and Council, Woodland Cree First Nation

**Attachment: Readiness Evaluation Tool**

Energy Alberta Project	Uncertain	Not Started	Started/ Partial	Complete	Complete & verified <sup>1</sup>
Engagement with Woodland Cree on Project			X		
Draft IPD (shared with Woodland Cree and comments from Woodland Cree properly dispositioned)			X		
Capacity funding agreement with Woodland Cree for life of assessment		X			
All alternative means assessments required and Woodland Cree's role in them determined and resourced		X			
Adequate scopes for all required baseline biophysical studies for all key valued components, with Woodland Cree role defined		X			
Initial effects pathways from Project on the environment and rights well defined		X			
Preliminary Table of issues and Concerns verified by Woodland Cree with paths forward identified			X		
List of committed to standard mitigation measures and any other committed-to measures	X				

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<sup>1</sup> Preference for verified by Indigenous groups and IAAC.

Energy Alberta Project	Uncertain	Not Started	Started/ Partial	Complete	Complete & verified <sup>1</sup>
Permitting plan (if pursuing parallel permitting)	X				
Agreement with Woodland Cree on timelines for IA		X			
Indigenous Knowledge Gathering and Integration Plan in place		X			
Nation readiness assessment complete ( <i>answering the question – is Woodland Cree in a capacity position to be meaningfully engaged</i> )		X			
Woodland Cree’s role in the IA well defined		X			
Draft TISG developed and reviewed by Woodland Cree, with all requested revisions/additions dispositioned				X	
Strong understanding of existing information base on physical, biophysical and human environmental <sup>2</sup> context – current conditions and cumulative effects		X			

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<sup>2</sup> Including Indigenous health, social and economic conditions and change over time.

NOTES:

1. Woodland Cree would expect that a prepared proponent and a prepared IA process would have all of these things complete prior to finishing Phase 1 of the federal impact assessment process. Many of them should have been completed PRIOR TO Energy Alberta entering into the formal IA process, but that was not the case.
2. Of the 15 items, none of them have been completed to date.
3. The majority of items, there has been no meaningful start, let alone completion, of the readiness step.