



April 20, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

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

Attention: Claudette Bois, Crown Consultation Coordinator

Dear Claudette,

Re: Response to letter dated April 14, 2026 from Woodland Cree First Nation

Energy Alberta remains committed to building meaningful, mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous Nations and Communities, guided by respect, integrity and a shared commitment to advancing reconciliation. It is a corporate value of Energy Alberta and a vital component of the project development process.

Energy Alberta is providing the following response to the letter dated April 14, 2026 (the “April 14 Letter”) as submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) by Woodland Cree First Nation (WCFN). Energy Alberta is aware that WCFN has submitted to IAAC a subsequent letter dated April 15, 2026. Energy Alberta will respond to the April 15th letter separately.

In the April 14 Letter, WCFN indicated that it does not support resuming Phase 1 of the Federal Impact Assessment process for the proposed Peace River Nuclear Power Project (the Project). WCFN further indicated that Energy Alberta had not taken meaningful steps to address the issues that led to the time-line suspension. Energy Alberta did not receive a copy of the April 14 Letter directly from WCFN and was surprised when it received a notification from IAAC that it had received the April 14 Letter. This is especially the case since Energy Alberta and WCFN met on the afternoon of April 15, 2026 to discuss work planning and capacity funding, and WCFN did not reference the April 14 Letter. Energy Alberta believes it has taken meaningful steps with WCFN and that the timeline for the Impact Assessment should remain in effect so that Energy Alberta can proceed with its essential project work.

Regulatory Timeline Suspension:

On August 18, 2025, Energy Alberta advised WCFN (and all engaged communities) that it had requested a Regulatory Timeline Suspension (the “Suspension”) for the Project’s Impact Assessment process. Energy Alberta informed WCFN that the one-time suspension would allow it to engage with WCFN more fully and to continue to build mutually beneficial relationships, guided by respect, integrity, and a commitment to advancing reconciliation. Energy Alberta indicated that

its Engagement Team would continue to seek opportunities to meet with WCFN to seek a clear understanding of its specific interests and concerns related to the Project. Energy Alberta also informed WCFN that its Project Team would continue to progress its essential Project planning work including summer fieldwork, water intake siting, and an ongoing review and refinement of technology consistent with our goal of building a world class nuclear facility.

During the Suspension, Energy Alberta's engagement and communication efforts with WCFN (as with all communities) were ongoing and considerable. On March 31, 2026, Energy Alberta submitted to IAAC its [Engagement and Communications Report for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025](#), and the record specific to WCFN can be found on page 358 of 434 of that document.

During the Suspension, Energy Alberta:

- Made multiple unsuccessful requests to meet with WCFN.
- Responded to a letter from Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom, WCFN and affirmed its commitment to engagement, capacity funding, and next steps to establish a mutually respectful relationship.
- Continued to seek input on siting options.
- Offered WCFN an opportunity join Energy Alberta on a water tour to share its use of the river and areas that were important to the community. Energy Alberta provided three dates, but WCFN did not join Energy Alberta on its water tour.
- Offered WCFN two opportunity join Energy Alberta in wildlife camera data retrievals.
- Invited WCFN to participate in a Siting Workshop for Indigenous Nations and Communities that was held on September 24, 2025. WCFN did not participate in the workshop.
- Meet with WCFN on November 18, 2026 to discuss Project timelines, engagement opportunities, and regulatory phases.
- Invited WCFN to a half-day workshop on the Fundamentals of Nuclear Energy, led by prominent Indigenous figure in the nuclear sector and aimed at enhancing community awareness and education about nuclear energy. WCFN did not attend this workshop.

On February 2, 2026, Energy Alberta advised WCFN that it was considering submitting a request to IAAC to resume the regulatory timeline. To facilitate that request, Energy Alberta provided an Engagement and Communications Record that had been prepared specific to WCFN that documented Energy Alberta's efforts to both engage and share timely information with WCFN. Energy Alberta requested that WCFN review the record to ensure Energy Alberta had not missed anything and that the record accurately reflected WCFN's perspectives. Energy Alberta requested comments and edits from WCFN by February 16, 2026. WCFN did not provide any feedback to Energy Alberta by the requested deadline, nor as of the date of WCFN's April 14th letter.

In the April 14 Letter, WCFN provided a readiness evaluation tool that provides its perspective on whether the Crown, the proponent, or the Nation were ready to proceed beyond the Planning Phase. This evaluation tool had not previously been presented to or discussed with Energy Alberta. Energy Alberta wishes to clarify some matters associated with the table and WCFN's assessment of readiness.

Engagement

WCFN has not articulated to Energy Alberta what Phase 1 engagement (per the readiness evaluation tool) should entail in order to be deemed complete. However, Energy Alberta believes engagement with WCFN should not be assessed as complete at the end of Phase 1 but rather should extend for the lifetime of the Project.

Our [Engagement and Communications Report](#) for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 includes a record specific to WCFN that shows Energy Alberta commenced its outreach by requesting a meeting on its proposed Project with WCFN on March 17, 2024. Our engagement and communication record specific to WCFN demonstrates that our efforts have been considerable.

Draft Initial Project Description (IPD)

On December 13, 2024, Energy Alberta provided WCFN with a copy of its draft IPD. Energy Alberta made multiple unsuccessful requests to meet with and gather WCFN's input on the IPD, as noted in the engagement and communication record specific to WCFN. On January 16, 2025, Energy Alberta provided WCFN with a revised copy of the draft IPD with corrections to Section 2.3.2. and requested an opportunity to meet.

On February 13, 2025, Energy Alberta met with WCFN and gathered input on the draft IPD. Topics of discussion included wildlife, water use and riverbank stability, hunting, trapping, seismicity of the area, safety, Treaty days, ongoing and future engagement, Agreements, fieldwork, and participation. WCFN input from this meeting was incorporated into the IPD.

On April 11, 2025 Energy Alberta submitted its IPD to IAAC, and on May 14, 2025, WCFN submitted its comments on the IPD to IAAC.

On March 2, 2026, Energy Alberta submitted to IAAC an update to the IPD. On April 14, 2026, WCFN inquired if the updated IPD included comments WCFN had submitted via the IAAC registry. Energy Alberta explained that the purpose of the IPD update was limited to incorporate a potential alternate reactor technology option. However, WCFN comments provided in January 2025 were included in the original IPD filed in April 2025. Energy Alberta is considering all feedback received, including feedback from WCFN, and will address it as Project development proceeds.



Agreement

In WCFN's Readiness Evaluation Tool, this item is noted as Not Started. Energy Alberta disagrees and believes it has made considerable efforts to move this forward in a positive manner with WCFN.

On April 7, 2025, Energy Alberta provided WCFN with a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Multiple attempts were made by Energy Alberta to meet and discuss both the MOU and next steps to advance the relationship and engagement with WCFN. On June 2, 2025, WCFN advised that it would pause their response to the MOU as it had a team working on a revised approach which would include more terms around the relationship and process.

On August 8, 2025, WCFN provided its draft Process Agreement to Energy Alberta and on October 28, 2025, Energy Alberta provided WCFN with its edits to the document. On November 3, 2025, Scott Henuset, Energy Alberta's President and CEO communicated to Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom, WCFN, its desire to discuss and review Energy Alberta's proposed edits to the Process Agreement, with a goal of formalizing it before year end. To date, WCFN has not responded to Energy Alberta's edits to the draft Process Agreement.

Capacity Funding

In WCFN's Readiness Evaluation Tool, this item is noted as *Not Started*. Energy Alberta disagrees and believes it has made considerable efforts to move this forward in a positive manner with WCFN.

On May 13, 2025 Energy Alberta provided WCFN with an initial offer of capacity funding to support their review of the IPD. Energy Alberta followed up multiple times regarding its initial offer of capacity funding. On June 2, 2025, WCFN indicated it would pause its capacity funding application.

On July 1, 2025, following a phone conversation on June 30, 2025 with WCFN, Energy Alberta provided written confirmation that acceptance of the initial capacity funding would not preclude ongoing conversations including an Agreement and potential funding related to the Project, and on July 30, 2025 Energy Alberta reiterated this message.

On November 3, 2025, Scott Henuset, Energy Alberta's President and CEO communicated to Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom, WCFN, its desire to begin development of a workplan and capacity funding budget that clearly defined WCFN's participation in the detailed impact assessment studies, which were anticipated to commence in early 2026. On November 18, 2025, Energy Alberta met with WCFN to discuss among other things, the development of a workplan and capacity funding budget.

On February 19, 2026, WCFN provided Energy Alberta with an estimate of costs for its participation in the Project over an approximate two-year period. On February 26, 2026, Energy Alberta phoned

WCFN to discuss its need to further understand the budget and break it down into smaller, manageable pieces with a clear work plan for each phase of the Project. Both agreed that a meeting involving technical support staff would be best. That meeting was held on April 15, 2026, and both parties have action items to be completed.

On March 13, 2026 Energy Alberta also offered WCFN an interim funding option to support its consultation team dedicated to the Project, and until a more fulsome workplan and budget could be developed.

It is Energy Alberta's hope that in addition to the signing of the Agreement noted above, an agreed upon capacity funding budget can also be finalized by the end of May 2026.

Alternative Means Assessments

In WCFN's Readiness Evaluation Tool, this item is noted as *Not Started*. It is unclear to Energy Alberta what would be required for WCFN to deem this complete; however, we assume it could mean either site option selection or possibly technology selection. With respect to technology, the selection of an appropriate technology for the Project does not impact the scope of the Impact Assessment. The Impact Assessment will use a Plant Parameter Envelope (PPE) approach, that allows for the consideration of the potential impacts of the Project regardless of technology selection. A PPE approach will allow Energy Alberta to describe the most impactful aspects, or parameters, of each reactor option. The PPE is considered bounding as none of the individual reactors would have a greater impact than what is defined in the PPE.

With respect to site option selection, on August 28, 2025, Energy Alberta invited WCFN consultation staff to a Siting Workshop for Indigenous Nations and Communities that was held on September 24, 2025, and followed up with a reminder on September 12, 2025. Energy Alberta indicated to WCFN that its intent for the workshop was to share information about the rigorous process that had been undertaken to ensure any proposed site would meet the technical, safety and social criteria outlined by national and international regulatory standards. During the workshop Energy Alberta provided an overview of the criteria that would be used to select a preferred site from the two options currently under consideration and sought feedback on additional criteria to be considered. Energy Alberta explained to WCFN its hope that WCFN consultation team members could then provide feedback on how Energy Alberta might best gather input on the siting criteria from the Nation. WCFN did not attend the workshop, but in conversations has indicated an interest in sharing certain confidential information with Energy Alberta that should inform siting. To date, WCFN has not shared any confidential information related to siting with Energy Alberta.

If WCFN is referencing something broader than either technology selection or site option selection, Energy Alberta emphasizes that given the early stages of the Project impact assessment, there is ample time to consider additional relevant matters as part of the next phase in the Impact Assessment process and related work plan.



Phase 1 – Planning compared to Phase 2 – Impact Statement

Energy Alberta also wishes to clarify that some of the items listed on WCFN’s Readiness Evaluation Tool should not be considered as a readiness assessment for completion of Phase 1 – Planning, of the Impact Assessment Process. Instead, Energy Alberta believes this work would be completed in Phase 2 – Impact Statement and therefore should not inform an assessment of completeness related to Phase 1. These include:

- **Scoping of Baseline Biophysical Studies** - In the meeting held on April 15, 2026, Energy Alberta discussed its upcoming plans to gather feedback from WCFN on the scope, methodology and criteria of baseline biophysical studies, based on the draft TISGs. Energy Alberta discussed how this work should also be considered in WCFN’s capacity funding request. The final TISGs are required prior to finalizing this item.
- **Effects Pathways on the Environment and Rights** - These cannot be identified and addressed until baseline assessment studies have been completed, in Phase 2 – Impact Statement.
- **Mitigation Measures** - These cannot be considered until baseline and effects assessment studies have been completed, in Phase 2 – Impact Statement.
- **Permitting Plan** – This plan will be developed in Phase 2, the Impact Statement. Energy Alberta will include this in work planning discussions and will engage with Indigenous Nations and Communities on permitting.
- **Physical, Biophysical and Human Environmental Context** (current conditions and cumulative effects) – this will be completed during baseline data collection, in Phase 2 – Impact Statement

We trust the forgoing clarifies the matters raised in WCFN’s April 14 Letter. Energy Alberta remains committed to engaging with WCFN to move forward in a positive way and believes that the steps Energy Alberta has taken thus far provide a foundation to do so.

Yours sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Scott Henuset, President
Energy Alberta

cc: Chief Isaac Laboucane-Avirom, Woodland Cree First Nation
Jenna Strachan, Director of Lands, Consultation and Government Relations, Woodland Cree First Nation
Joe Ronzio, Review Panel Manager, Review Panels Division, IAAC