July 20, 2026

Peace River First Nations
c/o Cheryl Meredith, Negotiations Support Specialist
JFK Law LLP
816-1175 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2E1

Sent Via Email

Re: Peace River First Nations Request for Pause in the Impact Statement Phase and Comments on Preliminary Work Plan for the Peace River Nuclear Power Project

Thank you for your letter dated July 16, 2026, submitted on behalf of Duncan's First Nation, Beaver First Nation, Dene Tha' First Nation, Little Red River Cree Nation and Tallcree Tribal Government (collectively, the "Peace River First Nations" or "PRFNs"). We appreciate the time taken to review Energy Alberta's preliminary Impact Statement Work Plan and to provide your perspectives regarding the Impact Statement Phase of the Peace River Nuclear Power Project ("the Project"). Energy Alberta recognizes the regulatory uncertainty arising from the legislative, regulatory and policy reforms currently being considered by the Government of Canada. We also acknowledge the broader concerns raised by the PRFNs regarding the assessment process, Project definition, cumulative effects, Indigenous Knowledge and the potential effects of the Project on the PRFNs' rights, interests, cultures and ways of life.

Having considered the matters raised in your letter, Energy Alberta does not believe that a formal extension to the Impact Statement Phase is required at this time. The preliminary Work Plan expressly recognizes the current regulatory uncertainty and provides additional time for that uncertainty to be clarified and appropriately addressed. In particular, it defers the anticipated submission of the Impact Statement by 12 months from the timeline originally contemplated.

Energy Alberta believes that this revised schedule provides additional flexibility to respond to changes in the regulatory framework and to support continued engagement, technical review and Indigenous-led work. We recognize that the adequacy of the schedule will need to be assessed as additional information becomes available.

With respect to PRFNs comments on the use of a Plant Parameter Envelope (PPE) approach creating significant uncertainty and diminishing PRFNs ability to meaningfully assess potential impacts of the Project, Energy Alberta wishes to clarify that PPEs are typically uses for the assessment of nuclear projects in Canada. Rather than focusing on a single technology, this method looks at ranges for key features such as cooling water needs, building size and land area that cover what different reactor types could require. Energy Alberta will base this information on two potential reactors, CANDU and Westinghouse. This approach helps ensure that the assessment considers a wider set of possibilities from the outset, so that both options are carefully and fully evaluated.

We also appreciate the PRFNs' comments concerning the level of detail contained in the preliminary Workplan and their desire for greater clarity regarding engagement, studies, decisions and deliverables during the Impact Statement Phase.

To clarify, the preliminary Impact Statement Work Plan is a high-level planning document prepared in response to the expectations established in the final Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. Its purpose is to assist the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and other participants in planning their workloads and allocating resources. It is not intended to provide the detailed, Nation-specific engagement and study plans described in your letter.

Energy Alberta expects that this more detailed information will be set out in the individual workplans that we are working to develop collaboratively with PRFN and other Indigenous Nations and Communities. These workplans will necessarily differ among Nations and Communities to reflect their respective priorities, interests, knowledge, capacity needs and preferred approaches to participation. They can address matters such as the scope and timing of engagement, Indigenous-led studies and reviews, the incorporation and protection of Indigenous Knowledge, information requirements, technical review processes and opportunities for input into Project planning and mitigation. Once finalized, these Nation-specific workplans may be used to refine portions of the overall Project workplan.

The high-level nature of the preliminary Impact Statement Work Plan should therefore not be interpreted as limiting the scope of Energy Alberta's ongoing engagement with the PRFNs or as excluding the issues identified in your letter from further consideration. We remain committed to working with the PRFNs to develop workplans that provide the additional clarity and actionable detail they are seeking. This engagement will occur early enough to enable input into relevant study methods, alternatives, and mitigations.

Energy Alberta values its relationship with the PRFNs and remains committed to respectful and meaningful engagement throughout the Impact Statement Phase. We welcome the opportunity to meet with the PRFNs to discuss the matters raised in their letter and the process for advancing the individual workplans.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by Brenda Walton>

Lead, Indigenous Engagement
Energy Alberta