Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)
FAAR Response must be submitted by September 2, 2025
Greenlight Electricity Centre Project – Greenlight Electricity Centre Limited Partnership.
Registry File: 89790

Department/Agency	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Lead Contact	Leah Dirk, A/EA Officer
Full Address	11 Innovation Blvd, Saskatoon, SK S7N 3H%
Email	Leah.Dirk@ec.gc.ca
Telephone	(306) 514- 2363
Alternate Contact	Stephinie.Mallon@ec.gc.ca EASouthPNR@ec.gc.ca

1. Will your department or agency exercise a **power, perform a duty or function**, or provide **financial assistance**, related to the project to enable it to be carried out in whole or in part?

   As relevant,

   a) Specify the power, duty or function, or financial assistance, and the likelihood that it will be required to construct the project, based on the Initial Project Description, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required

   ECCC does not expect that it will be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed. Once the scope of the Project and of the assessment are established by the Agency, this may change as additional activities or project components could come into scope.

   Please note the following requirements that may apply to the Project:
   - *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) permits – potential/unlikely
   - *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) permits – potential/unlikely

   b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines

   ECCC does not expect to exercise any powers or perform a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project that will involve public and Indigenous Consultation.

   In the event that a SARA permit is required, ECCC would evaluate and determine consultation requirements, if any.

   ECCC-led Indigenous consultations related to the issuance of SARA permits will be coordinated with consultation during the impact assessment where possible.

   If applicable, ECCC encourages proponents to submit clear and complete permit applications at least 4 – 6 months prior to the anticipated start of project activities that require a SARA permit. During the analysis and before the regulatory decision, ECCC may undertake additional Indigenous consultations, as required under s.73(4) and (5) of SARA.

   c) Describe any associated information requirements (e.g., alternative means assessment, habitat offsetting), and specify those that may be coordinated with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required[1]

   If the Proponent has identified that a SARA permit is required, they can apply for the permit concurrent to the impact assessment process. Note, that a SARA permit cannot be issued prior to an impact assessment decision, under *IAA.*

[1] The Government of Canada has set a target of five years or less to complete federal impact assessments and related permitting processes for federally designated projects and a three-year target for nuclear project reviews.

- Guidelines for permitting under Section 73 of *Species at Risk Act*, and *Permits Authorizing an Activity Affecting Listed Wildlife Species Regulations*.

d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide.

Based on the information provided, ECCC does not have any project-specific guidance or issues that the Proponent should be aware. However, the Proponent should be aware of the general information related to SARA permits and MBCA permits.

Species at Risk Act permits

For species listed in Schedule 1 of SARA as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened, a permit may be required from ECCC (section 73 of SARA) for activities that affect a listed terrestrial wildlife species, any part of its critical habitat, or the residences of its individuals, where those prohibitions are in place.

Prohibitions are in place for individuals and residences on federal lands in a province, reserve or any other lands under the *Indian Act*, or lands under the authority of the Minister of the Environment, and for birds listed under the MBCA wherever they occur regardless of land tenure.

Species that are both a migratory bird protected under the MBCA and listed on Schedule 1 of SARA as Endangered, Threatened, or Extirpated, receive protections under the MBCA and SARA. For some migratory bird species listed under SARA, the residence prohibition (section 33) will protect nest and/or roost sites that are not active, for example when a species reuses these sites in subsequent years. Please note that the protection afforded may differ between the two pieces of legislation, though both pieces of legislation/protection apply.

Refer to the Species at Risk Registry for more information on migratory bird residence and protection requirements: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/residence-descriptions.html

Furthermore, prohibitions may be in force on land other than federal land pursuant to other orders or regulations under SARA. It is possible that additional prohibitions may come into force in the future through orders made by the Governor in Council for individuals, residences and critical habitat on non-federal lands and/or for critical habitat on federal lands. It is also possible that, over the course of the assessment or after the assessment, additional species could be listed under SARA; permits may be required for project activities that affect these additional species. Proponents are advised to monitor for such developments on the SARA Registry https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry.html.

Examples of activities that could require a SARA permit include:

- Species surveys that would affect individuals or residences;
- Site preparation (clearing, grubbing, site access, staging, blasting);
- Construction and operation of temporary and permanent works and infrastructure;
- Creation of new roads, rail lines, or power lines;
- Infilling of wetlands or watercourses;
- Any monitoring that requires capture/release of individuals; and
- Sensory disturbance effects (artificial lighting, noise, vibration, human activity, vehicular traffic).

ECCC will require detailed information on the potential effects of the Project, including locations and/or occurrences of species at risk, their use of habitat and critical habitat

within the project area, and specific effects on federal land, before ECCC can determine whether a SARA permit is required.

Links to publicly available documents:

- Guidelines for permitting under Section 73 of Species at Risk Act https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/policies-guidelines/permitting-under-section-73.html
- Species at Risk Permitting Policy https://species-registry.canada.ca/index-en.html#/consultations/2983

If not fully described in the Initial Project Description, the Proponent should provide any anticipated need for species at risk permits during all phases of the Project, in the Responses to Summary of Issues and/or Detailed Project Description if possible. The Proponent is encouraged to collect and submit the information necessary to determine if a SARA permit is required during the impact assessment process, and to submit their application well in advance of the proposed activities to avoid delays.

Further information regarding species at risk permits will be provided in the Permitting Plan.

Migratory Birds Convention Act permits

The *Migratory Birds Regulations*, 2022 (MBR 2022) protect migratory birds, their eggs and their nests, by prohibiting activities that may harm them. Unless a person has a permit or the regulations authorize it, it is prohibited to engage in the following activities:

- Capturing, killing, taking, injuring or harassing a migratory bird or attempting to do so;
- Destroying, taking or disturbing an egg; and
- Damaging, destroying, removing or disturbing a nest, nest shelter, eider duck shelter or duck nesting box, unless the following exceptions apply:
    - The nest does not contain a live migratory bird or a viable egg; and,
    - The nest was not built by a species listed in Schedule 1.

Modernization of the MBCA in 2022 has additionally identified 18 species of birds whose nests are protected year round (Schedule 1 of MBR 2022). The nests of species listed in Schedule 1 are protected at all times, unless the following conditions are met:

- Notification of the unoccupied nest has been submitted/received through the Registry for Abandoned Nests; and,
- The waiting time designated in the regulations has passed, during which time the nest has not been occupied by a migratory bird.

In some situations, it may be possible to obtain a permit to move or destroy an unoccupied nest of a Schedule 1 species. If it is not possible to wait the prescribed period before destroying or relocating the nest of a species listed in Schedule 1, or if there is a need to destroy or relocate the nest of another species of migratory bird where the nest contains a live bird or viable egg and appropriate mitigation measures have been taken, a permit may be available. The MBR 2022 authorize the issuance of permits for damage or danger, as well as scientific permits, which may apply in certain limited situations. For more information, please visit: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds.html

2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate[2] and the information in your possession, including the Initial Project Description, any exchanges with the proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects of the project. For each key issue:

    a) Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
    b) Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
    c) Explain why it's a key issue based on:

[2] Refer to the Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC.

i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
ii. concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
iii. the issue being material[3] to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act*

d) Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment
e) Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

Additional information that can assist the Proponent in their assessment and development of mitigation measures for a variety of key issues is available through the Open Science Data Platform (OSDP).

The Open Science Data Platform (OSDP) provides information relevant to cumulative effects and development activities across Canada and is publicly available at the following website: https://osdp-psdo.canada.ca/dp/en. More specifically, the platform provides a single window to access data and scientific knowledge relevant to understanding cumulative effects from existing federal, provincial, and territorial on-line databases and registries, including publications from the federal government and its scientists. It provides an interactive geospatial mapping tool to enable mapping of multiple datasets from multiple sources. It offers various features, including keyword-based searching, interactive data visualization on maps, and educational resources covering key topics such as cumulative effects, water, air, climate, biodiversity, land, economy and industry, health, and society and culture.

OSDP information may be of value to persons preparing and reviewing projects assessments, including cumulative effects assessments. The following are some examples of ECCC information available on the OSDP.

Water – quality and quantity

- National long-term water quality monitoring data
- Real-time hydrometric data
- Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN)
- National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)
  - Facilities that reported releases to water
- Find additional water-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Biodiversity (e.g., birds, species at risk, wetlands)

- Critical habitat for species at risk (terrestrial)
- Range map extents – Species at risk
- Canadian wetlands
- Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database (CPCAD)
- Canadian Breeding Bird Census plots
- Priority places for species at risk
- Find additional biodiversity-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Air Quality

- National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI), including:
  - Facilities that reported release of criteria air contaminants
- Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators (CESI), including
  - Average ambient fine particulate matter concentrations

[3] An issue is material to decision making if its analysis is anticipated to affect the conclusions on (1) whether adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct and incidental adverse effects (collectively adverse federal effects) are likely not significant, or of low, medium or high significance; (2) appropriate mitigation measures for significant adverse federal effects; or (3) justification in the public interest.

    - Peak ambient ozone concentrations
    - Ambient volatile organic compound concentrations
    - Average ambient sulphur dioxide concentrations
    - Peak ambient nitrogen dioxide concentrations
- Find additional air-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Climate, including climate change

- Hourly and daily climate observations
- Monthly climate observation summaries
- Climate normals, averages and extremes 1981-2020
- Climate data: homogenized surface air temperature data
- Homogenized Precipitation
- Find additional climate-related resources (including publications, datasets and monitoring stations) from ECCC on the OSDP here.

Beyond ECCC's mandate, the OSDP also contains resources on topics led by departments and other levels of government (e.g., human health, economy and industry). The OSDP also provides access to regulatory registries that list government authorizations of other developments (e.g. *Fisheries Act* Registry, which can be useful in understanding the cumulative pressures on an area).

Jody Small, Regional Director EPOD, PNR

Name and title of Departmental / Agency Responder

Sept 4, 2025

Date

Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process

This table should outline key issues to inform the impact assessment process, including whether an impact assessment is required and, if so, the scope of the assessment and tailoring of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

Key issues are the major concerns directly related to a project component or activity, the analysis of which is anticipated to be material to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Federal authorities' advice should be guided by the identification and resolution of key issues. If an impact assessment is required, it will be focused on key issues.

Comment ID	a) Key issue	b) Project component or activity	c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s)	c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate	c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making	d) Means for issue resolution	e) Additional information from the proponent

Identify comments by organization and comment number.
 	
e.g.: IAAC-01
	Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).	*Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.*
		
		Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.
			Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).	*Describe why it's a key issue within the mandate of your department or agency, including in terms of priorities of the federal government and in terms of anticipated likelihood, severity or uncertainty of effects.*
				
				Identify if the key issue is common for projects of this nature or in this sector, or whether it's unique to this project due to its complexity, size or novelty; a sensitive or rare receiving environment; and/or proximity of sensitive environmental or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples).
					Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:
					
					• *an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:*
					  • *federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;*
					  • *presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);*
					  • *novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;*
					  • *high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;*
					  • *unknown or unproven mitigation; or*
					• *a factor for the justification in the public interest anticipated to be material to decision-making such as a likely positive effect contributing to sustainability, to Canada's environmental obligations or climate change commitments or in supporting governmental priorities, such as*
						Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:
						• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;*
						• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;*
						• *Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or*
						• *Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).*
							Describe information the proponent can provide, or commitments the proponent can make, in their Response to the Summary of Issues that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means.
							
							Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.

					reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.		
ECCC-01	Air quality due to contaminants such as nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10 and PM).	The construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project can result in adverse effects on air quality. Projects that involve on-road vehicles and mobile off-road machines for construction, operation and decommissioning, or that lead to an increase in road traffic have the potential to adversely affect air quality. Activities such as the construction and operation of facilities, and activities associated with combustion can result in the emission of air contaminants such as NOx, and PM2.5, PM10 and PM. The bulk of emissions typically occurs during operations from sources such as stationary combustion. Activities that cause a physical disturbance to land and ore, such as earth moving, land clearing, blasting, crushing, and transportation, can introduce particulate matter (e.g. dust and soot) to the surrounding region. Air contaminants could include PM2.5 and PM10 and PM, NOx, and other air contaminants.	ECCC provides expertise on the fate of air emissions to help support Health Canada's assessment of potential impacts on nearby Indigenous Communities. These emissions can result in local or regional degradation of ambient air quality. Furthermore, emissions of air contaminants as a result of this Project may add cumulatively to the emissions from other activities, contributing to degradation of air quality in the region. When contaminants settle out of the air in the surrounding environment, their deposition may result in adverse impacts to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.	Air Quality – a project of this type and size has the potential to lead to a non-negligible adverse change, including to the health, social or economic conditions of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.	Air Quality impacts may present an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction that may be significant due to: • the presence of sensitive human receptors, including Indigenous Peoples; • the large magnitude of NOx and PM2.5 emissions; • The ambient air quality of the airshed into which additional emissions will be added; the Heartland Ambient Monitoring Partnership report shows moderate risk to the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) for over 12% of the time and high risk AQHI for over 3% of the time, once wildfires and inversion events have been factored out.	This key issue could be resolved or addressed by common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathways. For example, by the employment of best practices during construction including minimizing idling, keeping equipment well maintained, and by the use of construction equipment equipped with engines meeting Tier 4 emission standards.	Relevant information that the Proponent could provide includes air dispersion modelling using a model such as CALPUFF with input from high-resolution 3-dimensional gridded meteorological fields and detailed characterization of emission sources. The model should be run over an annual cycle that captures meteorological regimes conducive to impaired dispersion of contaminants (e.g., surface-based temperature inversions).
ECCC-02	Water Quality and Quantity	The activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project could have adverse effects on the quality of groundwater and surface water, as well as affect the hydrological regime within nearby wetlands,	Surface water and groundwater quality may be impacted if water crossings are required during the construction of the Project. Water crossings may result in increased sediment concentrations from re-suspension of sediments during work near water.	Impacts to Water Quality and Quantity affecting fish and fish habitat are within the mandate of Environment and Climate Change Canada.	Changes to Water Quality and Quantity can result in adverse impacts to fish and fish habitat, which are effects within federal jurisdiction.	The Proponent has stated that if any waterbody crossings are required for the Project that they would utilize clear-span bridges, or ice bridges and snow fill during frozen conditions. ECCC recommends additional measures are considered to prevent impacts to surface waters during any waterbody crossings.	The Proponent can provide: • rationale on the selection of the design storm event (including peak discharge and runoff depth); • a stormwater management plan including designs for hydraulic structures (drainage ditches, effluent

		watercourses and channel morphology through site recontouring, changes in land cover, stormwater and surface water management structures (i.e. ponds, ditches, and water treatment facilities).	Likewise, undersized water conveyance structures such as stormwater ponds, stormwater ditches and effluent channels may overflow during extreme flood events also resulting in the potential release of contaminants to the receiving environment through runoff, erosion, infiltration into groundwater, and sedimentation processes. Project activities may produce airborne particulate matter, which could also be a source of surface water contamination upon deposition. Surface water quality may be degraded by interactions between groundwater and surface waters in the project area. The use and storage of water by the Project presents the potential for contaminants to enter groundwater through seepage from process water impoundments. These contaminants could then be transported to aquatic receiving environments, resulting in possible adverse effects to water quality.			The Proponent has stated that all stormwater discharges would meet *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (EPEA) water quality guidelines before being released and that the release would follow existing drainage patterns. ECCC recommends that additional measures are considered to ensure that all waters discharged from the site do not cause impacts to aquatic life. The Proponent can apply best practices to mitigate for erosion and stormwater, such as: • selecting a design storm that provides adequate erosion protection and accommodation of extreme runoff events; • protecting easily erodible surfaces until local vegetation re-establishes; • retaining surface water runoff generated from the proposed works in stormwater ponds; • grading the ground surface so that runoff quickly drains to channels, through culverts, and into stormwater ponds, rather than pooling; and • regularly inspecting the project area, repairing and protecting surfaces that have begun to erode. The Proponent should consider effects to the groundwater-surface water interaction regime. This could include an assessment of potential groundwater impacts, including hydrogeological investigations, monitoring well networks, and contingency measures in the event of contaminant migration.	channels, stormwater ponds, etc.); • detailed erosion and sediment control measures proposed during construction and operation; and • a groundwater monitoring and management plan to avoid seepage of contaminants into the groundwater system. Should the Project be subject to an assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), ECCC recommends that the Impact Statement describe all potential effects, including direct and indirect effects, of project components or activities, including changes to surface water and groundwater quality and quantity at a suitable spatial and temporal scale. This should include a detailed characterization of the hydrogeology and of the receiving environment, both under baseline conditions as well as project-affected conditions through each phase of the Project for all watercourses, wetlands, and groundwater adjacent to the project site and potentially affected by the Project. In addition, project effects should take into consideration the hydrological impacts caused by climate change. The Impact Statement should also describe mitigation strategies and assess applicability and functionality of these strategies to the Project and propose a contingency plan to mitigate potential effects that may result from the overflow of stormwater and surface water management structures during extreme flood events.
ECCC-03	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions and Climate Change	The construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed Project may result in GHG emissions	NA	Although unlikely to be a key issue material to the decision-making for this Project and although it is not an effect within federal jurisdiction, the assessment of GHG emissions	GHG information associated with the Project would assist in determining if the Project will contribute to Canada's ability to meet its environmental	The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC) was published in 2020 and works in conjunction with the IAA to provide guidance on how to consider climate change throughout federal impact assessments.	The Project's GHG emissions and climate change impacts should be assessed and mitigated consistent with guidance in the SACC.

		or impacts to carbon sinks.		and carbon sinks from this Project would be relevant in considering the extent to which the effects of the designated Project hinder or contribute to the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments in respect of climate change (IAA s.22(i) factor to be considered).	obligations and its commitments in respect to climate change.	Proponents may find the technical guidance of the SACC helpful in assessing the impacts to climate change and in ensuring consistent, predictable, efficient and transparent consideration of impacts to climate change. Information typically requested for the project description is outlined in the SACC (including section 4.1) and the draft Technical Guide (including sections 2.4, 3.3, and 4.2).	Technical guidance on the SACC can be found at: https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca/24391/widgets/98155/documents/62220
ECCC-04	Climate Change Resilience	Climate over the lifetime of the Project is likely to be different from past and current climate in the project area. For example, project components and activities for which climate change resilience could be important for this Project include those related to surface water management.	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g. through accidents or malfunctions). Climate changes in the project area, such as possible changes in mean and extreme precipitation and temperature and related environmental conditions, may alter baseline conditions, with implications for climate sensitive aspects of project design and associated effects within federal jurisdiction.	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g. through accidents or malfunctions).	There is potential for climate change to affect the Project which, in turn, may have impacts on the surrounding environment (e.g. through accidents or malfunctions).	The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC) was published in 2020 and works in conjunction with the *Impact Assessment Act* to provide guidance on how to consider climate change throughout federal impact assessments.	Relevant information is provided in the "Draft technical guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Assessing climate change resilience" published in March 2022. Links: "Strategic Assessment of Climate Change" https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca "Draft technical guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Assessing climate change resilience" https://www.strategicassessmentclimatechange.ca/28896/widgets/117114/documents/77106
ECCC-05	Species at risk: killing, harming or harassing species, habitat disturbance or destruction, disturbing or destroying residences.	The activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project and associated infrastructure could adversely affect species at risk (e.g. amphibians, arthropods, birds, lichens, terrestrial mammals, mosses, reptiles, and vascular plants) listed on the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), and their habitat (e.g. wetlands) and critical habitat.	During construction, loss or disturbance of habitat for species at risk or their residences could occur. Habitat destruction may also lead to increased mortality risk. For example, drainage and filling of wetlands may kill, harm or harass Northern Leopard Frog and Western Tiger Salamander species at risk. Little Brown Myotis rely on summer and fall roosts that may be disturbed or removed during construction (i.e., tree roosts), potentially harming or killing the bats. They may also roost in anthropogenic structures, where during operations the bats can be disturbed. Vegetation clearing during the bird nesting season may kill, harm or harass bird	Species at risk and their habitat, are within the mandate of Environment and Climate Change Canada under the SARA.	Regulatory authorities have obligations under s.79 of SARA to ensure that measures are taken to lessen or avoid impacts and monitor effects to listed species at risk in a manner that is consistent with existing recovery strategies or action plans.	Mitigation measures would typically be required to resolve the issue, which would be determined based on the specifics of both the identified species at risk and project activities. Relevant mitigation measures would vary depending on project specifics. Standard mitigation measures that may be applicable include the following examples: • applying activity restriction guidelines for sensitive wildlife; • limiting and orienting lighting to minimize light pollution; • placement of deterrents for stormwater ponds; • giving wildlife the right of way and adjusting speed limits; and	The Proponent should identify all species at risk listed on Schedule 1 of SARA, and any critical habitat, that is likely to be affected by the Project and describe how they may be adversely affected by the Project. They should describe what measures will be taken to avoid or lessen the effects of each project activity and stage, and how these measures will be implemented, and effects be monitored to ensure they are avoided, minimized or whether adaptive management may be required. Additionally, there is always the possibility that species assessed by COSEWIC may be added to Schedule 1 of SARA with potential critical habitat identified.

			species at risk. The timing of habitat destruction and disturbance is important in understanding risk of mortality for species at risk. In addition, species at risk could be affected by sensory disturbances during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project. Some examples of potential sources of sensory disturbance include noise from various Project activities, lights, vibrations from grading and compaction, the operation of machinery, and the presence of workers. The duration, frequency, and timing of noise are important to understand potential effects. Sensory disturbance may make adjacent habitats unsuitable for use by species at risk and cause avoidance effects in many species. The pathway through which potential effects are conveyed will depend on the land, air, and water constituents associated with the site along with the behavioural adaptability, presence and interaction with the species' limiting factors (e.g. habitat supporting staging, nesting, roosting or foraging) and population resilience.			applying exclusion techniques to prevent access to project infrastructure. SARA permits are discussed in Question 1 of the FAAR and are considered possible but unlikely for the Project.	As best practice it is recommended to also consider species assessed by COSEWIC to implement measures to lessen or avoid impacts and to monitor them.
ECCC-06	Migratory birds, including Schedule 1 Migratory Birds: killing, harming or harassing migratory birds, including Disturbing or destroying active nests.	The activities linked to the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project and associated infrastructure could result in individual mortality and the destruction of nests and eggs.	Vegetation clearing, wetland drainage, noise, vibrations, artificial lighting/flaring and disturbances from construction, operation and decommissioning activities may result in injury, mortality, sensory disturbance and change in habitat use. Attraction to lights at night or in poor visibility conditions may cause birds to collide with lit structures or their vertical support structures, resulting in injury or death. Accidental release of harmful substances to the onsite stormwater ponds	Migratory birds are within the mandate of Environment and Climate Change Canada under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (MBCA) and the *Migratory Bird Regulations, 2022* (MBR).	Migratory birds are a key issue as potential impacts to migratory birds would be an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction.	Well-understood mitigation measures would typically be required to resolve the issue. Typical mitigation measures recommended by ECCC include but are not limited to: • undertaking vegetation and habitat clearing activities outside of the migratory bird nesting season (Nesting Zone B4) to prevent the destruction of migratory birds and their eggs and nests in order to be compliant with the MBCA and MBR;	The main sensitive period to consider is the breeding season. With respect to disturbance or harm to nesting birds, the principal risk factors are location and time of year. ECCC publishes a web site: (https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/avoiding-harm-migratory-birds/reduce-risk-migratory-birds.html) to aid in the planning of activities in order to reduce the risk of detrimental effects to migratory birds, their

			could also have adverse effects on migratory birds that frequent the ponds. There is a higher risk that these effects would be more severe for migratory birds that are also species at risk and species where habitat is sensitive to disturbance (e.g., wetlands) or where there is already a high degree of cumulative effects to habitat or individuals, such as in this geographic area (i.e., Industrial Heartland region). Pileated Woodpecker, a Schedule 1 migratory bird, has the potential to occur in the Project area. Destruction and/or disturbance of habitat can have increased impacts on species at risk individuals, residences and their critical habitat, which can lead to changes in prey and predator dynamics, loss of food resources, loss of breeding areas, and changes in migration or movement. In some cases, construction can create features that are attractive for species and increase their mortality risk. For example, certain migratory bird species at risk (e.g. Bank Swallow, Common Nighthawk) may nest in large piles of soil or open graveled areas left unattended/unvegetated during the most critical period of the breeding season, making them vulnerable to construction activities.			• management of lighting required for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Project to minimize attraction of birds to reduce collision risk; • deleterious substance mitigation measures, including deterrents if stormwater and process ponds contain substances harmful to migratory birds; and MCBA permits are discussed in Question 1 of the FAAR and are considered possible but unlikely for the Project.	nest and eggs, in accordance with the purpose of the MBCA.
ECCC-07	Environmental Emergencies	The proposed Project involves the construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning of a natural-gas fired combined cycle gas turbine power generation facility. The facility will consist of four generating units, generating an output of 1,864 MW of electrical output. Other works associated with the	Adverse effects to air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, or changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada could result from the accidental release of hazardous substances to the land, air, or water.	Accident and malfunction scenarios that could occur during construction, operations, and decommissioning are not unique to this Project in complexity, size, or novelty, and they can likely be sufficiently prepared for and mitigated with the implementation of industry standard best practices, plans, and mitigation measures.	During construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, accident and malfunction scenarios could result in the release of hazardous substances to the environment, with potential adverse effects to air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, and changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada.	Optimized spill prevention, preparedness, and response measures and systems will be important during all activities associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Project, given the risk of release of hazardous substances to the environment. This includes: • implementation of effective mitigation measures, for example use of secondary containment for storage tanks containing hazardous	The Proponent is encouraged to adopt all relevant industry best-practices regarding prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in the context of spills resulting from accidents and malfunctions.

		Project include support buildings, a fuel gas yard, heat exchange and condensing equipment, storage tanks, and an access road. Site preparation and construction of the facility will involve use of diesel- and gasoline-powered heavy equipment. Operation of the facility will use natural gas delivered via pipeline. Other substances may be stored and used as part of project operations including amine, phosphate, ammonia, diesel, and oils. Given the hazardous nature of several of the substances handled, stored, and used as part of the Project, there is potential for adverse effects within federal jurisdiction if accidents and malfunctions result in their release to the land, air, or water.		There is potential for accidents and malfunctions of the Project to lead to adverse effects on environmental components under federal jurisdiction. ECCC provides environmental emergency management planning advice and guidance related to potential accidents and malfunctions involving unplanned or uncontrolled releases or spills of hazardous substances into the environment, including scenarios where such releases could result in non-negligeable adverse environmental effects within ECCC's mandate. These effects include impacts to air quality, water quality, species at risk, fish and fish habitat, migratory birds, or changes to the environment resulting in non-negligible adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples of Canada. Additionally, ECCC coordinates expert review of atmospheric transport and dispersion modelling of airborne contaminants, the fate and behaviour of contaminants, and hydrologic trajectory modelling of contaminants in water.	The implementation of effective mitigation measures (e.g., secondary containment for tanks storing hazardous substances, spill kits) and plans (e.g., spill contingency plan, emergency response plan, waste management plan) will be critical to mitigate the potential for spills and mitigate their impacts. Assessing the risk of accidents and malfunctions and the effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures and plans is an important component of understanding the overall potential adverse effects of the Project on areas under federal jurisdiction.	substances, and the presence of appropriately stocked spill kits, which will help to reduce the risk of hazardous substances being released to the environment; and • development of comprehensive plans, including a spill response plan, emergency response plan, and waste management plan, which will help to reduce the risk of accidents and malfunctions from occurring, and equip responders with knowledge necessary to rapidly and effectively respond should spills occur. Part 8 of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA) on environmental emergencies (sections 193 to 205) addresses the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from environmental emergencies caused by uncontrolled, unplanned, or accidental releases. It also addresses the reduction of any foreseeable likelihood of releases of toxic or other hazardous substances listed in Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019*. This act may apply if Schedule 1 substances onsite meet or exceed the threshold to be regulated under CEPA. Technical Guidelines for the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2019* may be found at: https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-emergencies-program/regulations/technical-guidelines.html	

Please insert additional rows as necessary.