

## Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)

**FAAR Response must be submitted by October 6, 2025**

Riverside Generating Station Project – Atura Power

Registry File #89801

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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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,

- 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
- Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines
- 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<sup>1</sup>
- Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will not be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the project as it is not located on reserve lands.

2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate<sup>2</sup> 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:

- Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
- Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
- Explain why it's a key issue based on:
  - biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
  - concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
  - the issue being material<sup>3</sup> to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act*
- Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment
- Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

Norah Kielland, Indigenous Services Canada

Name and title of Departmental /  
Agency Responder

October 6, 2025

Date

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Refer to the [Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC](#).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**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
<p><i>Identify comments by organization and comment number.</i></p> <p><i>e.g.: IAAC-01</i></p>	<p><i>Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).</i></p>	<p><i>Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.</i></p> <p><i>Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.</i></p>	<p><i>Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).</i></p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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).</i></p>	<p><i>Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;</i></li> <li>○ <i>presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);</i></li> <li>○ <i>novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;</i></li> <li>○ <i>high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</i></li> <li>○ <i>unknown or unproven mitigation; or</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>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 reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;</i></li> <li>• <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;</i></li> <li>• <i>Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or</i></li> <li>• <i>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.</i></p>
<p>ISC – 01</p>	<p>The impacts of cumulative effects, including transboundary pollution and existing industrial activities, on reserve lands and the health of Indigenous Peoples.</p>	<p>The operation of the project is directly linked to the issue of cumulative effects in the Sarnia-Lambton area. Given the area's existing concentration of industry, the addition of a new source of emissions has the potential to exacerbate local environmental and health concerns.</p>	<p>The operation of the project will result in the release of atmospheric pollutants. These emissions will enter the air, which is already impacted by transboundary pollution from the United States and existing industrial activities in the Sarnia area. This introduces a biophysical effect pathway through air emissions, including pollutants and odours, that may lead to adverse environmental</p>	<p>ISC has a broad mandate to promote the improvement of health, social, and economic conditions of Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>With respect to health, promotes the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>ISC also offers programs and services to support environmental protection on reserve</p>	<p>First Nations communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental risks due to historical injustices, the geographic location of reserves, and a deep connection to the land for sustenance and cultural practices. Environmental risks are a concern that falls within federal jurisdiction due to its implications for Indigenous rights, health, social and economic conditions. Instances of these disparities have been well documented in communities such as the Aamjiwnaang First Nation, which is surrounded by petroleum refineries and has experienced poor air quality.</p> <p>The proposed project, while individually regulated and potentially within air quality limits, will contribute emissions to a heavily industrialized region. Therefore, when all industrial activities in the region are considered, the regulated air</p>	<p>As mentioned in the IPD, the proponent should work collaboratively with First Nations communities to consider and understand the cumulative effects from the perspective of "the spirit of the land" to Anishinaabe people. The proponent could make commitments to collaborate with affected First Nations in environmental management practices to improve information sharing and inclusion.</p> <p>This could include support for community-led environmental management practices (including monitoring) as well as community-led studies on cumulative effects.</p>	<p>While the proposal includes a commitment to share project-related information with Indigenous communities, the proponent could include additional measures on environmental management practices. This could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community-led environmental monitoring activities</li> <li>- cumulative effects studies in First Nations communities located in proximity to the project</li> </ul>

			and health impacts for First Nations communities located in the project area.	lands, such environmental management, land management, and contamination on reserve lands, etc.	quality limits may be exceeded. In addition, the region is impacted by transboundary pollution from the United States. When a regional lens is applied, the cumulative impacts could cause adverse environmental impacts and health impacts to Indigenous peoples. The overall regional impact needs to be considered for air quality and odours.  The federal government has recognized the importance of addressing this issue and has supported the <i>National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act</i> , which call for, among other things, greater participation of those affects by affected communities in environmental decision making.		
ISC -02	Indigenous health concerns, including mental health, related to emissions of benzene and other contaminants of potential concern (COPC) due to historical impacts on First Nations communities.	Operation of the facility, including combustion and maintenance that may release benzene and other COPCs. Potential accident and/or malfunction scenarios that may release harmful emissions into the air.	The inhalation of and odours from emissions of chemicals such as benzene and other COPCs can lead to long-term and short-term health impacts (e.g., cancer, blood disorders, psychological impacts, effects on the nervous system). High emissions of these chemicals can also lead to potential evacuations or displacement of Indigenous Peoples.	First Nations communities in the Sarina area have experienced historical impacts from industrial pollution, including repeated evacuations due to elevated benzene levels (e.g., Aamjiwnaang First Nation in October 2024 and June 2025). This is directly aligned with ISC's mandate to promote Indigenous health and wellbeing.	The Sarnia-Lambton area is home to a concentration of petrochemical and petroleum industries, which are near residential areas, including First Nations communities.  Historically, Indigenous Peoples within this area have experienced adverse effects from industrial pollution, including elevated benzene levels that have led to community evacuations. These events have disrupted access to essential services, such as temporary closure of daycare facilities, which affects families' ability to maintain regular routines and access childcare. These disruptions can influence broader social determinants of health such as employment stability and stress levels. Living near a dense cluster of industrial facilities can also contribute to mental health impacts from concerns about air quality and persistent odours.  The proposed project has the potential to exacerbate existing air quality concerns. It has the potential to cause adverse health effects within federal jurisdiction, including mental health impacts to Indigenous Peoples.	The IPD refers to the Sarnia Area Environmental Health Project and acknowledges that benzene has been detected at potentially harmful levels and requires continued monitoring and mitigation efforts. However, the IPD lacks details regarding specific mitigation efforts to address benzene and other COPC emissions from regular operation and accident or malfunction scenarios which could adversely affect Indigenous Peoples health. The proponent must evaluate all potential health impacts, including mental health impacts (e.g., air quality concerns, odours from emissions, etc.), the project could have on First Nations communities.  In light of the SAEHP and the existing air quality monitoring programs in the area the proponent should engage in discussions with nearby First Nations communities on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Location of additional air quality sensors</li> <li>• Expansion of air quality monitoring alert system to include any additional sensors and/or data gathered through the proposed project</li> <li>• Alert system used for notification of exceedances in the ambient air quality in an accident or malfunction event</li> <li>• The need for indoor air quality monitors in key community buildings (e.g., daycares, schools, Elders centre, etc.).</li> <li>• The potential need for a shelter in place location for vulnerable</li> </ul>	The proponent must consider the potential effects of emissions from regular operations AND accident and malfunction scenarios on the health of Indigenous Peoples. This must include mental health impacts.  The proponent should consider providing First Nations communities within proximity to the project with outdoor and indoor air quality monitors and appropriately equipped specialised air purifiers as a proactive mitigation measure.  VOCs (such as benzene), PAHs, and metals should be included in the Air Quality Assessment due to the location and historical impacts of industry on Indigenous Peoples in the area.

						<p>populations that cannot easily evacuate and the use of air purifiers/air scrubbers capable to absorb gases and VOCs in this location for their health and safety.</p> <p>VOCs (such as benzene), PAHs, and metals were not included in the Air Quality Assessment due to the low emissions of the compounds from natural gas combustion. Due to the location and historical impacts of industry on Indigenous Peoples, they should be included in the air quality assessment. See comment ISC-01 for more on cumulative effects.</p> <p>In the context of the project, ISC's Impact Assessment and Health Service does not have expertise to assess the potential effects of biophysical components on First Nations health (e.g., air quality, noise, light pollution). Federally, Health Canada is the expert and can provide technical analysis.</p>	
ISC- 03	Absence of emergency management plans in the IPD, particularly for First Nations communities.	Project planning and risk management related to the operation of the project.	Potential accidents or malfunctions can release hazardous emissions into the air which can lead to the exposure of nearby First Nations communities. There is a potential for health impacts and need for emergency response plans to be in place.	As mentioned in ISC - 02 First Nations communities have previously experienced evacuations due to benzene exposure. The lack of emergency planning is a gap in addressing community safety and preparedness.	The proponent does not describe any emergency management plans, including communications plans or public health awareness campaigns. Emergency preparedness such as plans for rapid communication in the event of an accident or malfunction scenario, is a key factor in protecting the health and safety of Indigenous Peoples.	The proponent should proactively develop emergency management plans in collaboration with First Nations communities, including effective communication strategies for accidents and malfunctions. Rapid communication is crucial and there must be immediate notices for accidental releases, especially if evacuation is required. Potential concerns related to indoor and outdoor air quality should be considered when creating emergency management plans.	The proponent should commit to co-developing emergency management plans with First Nations communities, outline communication protocols, and describe how these plans will be integrated into project operations.
ISC - 04	The potential effects to Indigenous Peoples resulting from changes to health, social or economic conditions	Section 22.1.3 Cultural and Environmental Health focuses on the physical impacts (i.e., anticipated effects to water quality, fish or fish habitat) and provides no information on the cultural impacts	The continued loss and industrial damage of the area could have adverse spiritual impacts on the Indigenous communities affected by the proposed project.	ISC has a mandate to promote the cultural well-being of Indigenous communities.	Indigenous people have a distinctive spiritual relationship with the land. Their worldview, values and culture are intricately connected to the lands and resources that sustain them. Industrial development can have adverse effects on the spiritual connection to land as well as impact the social fabric of the community.	<p>The proponent should include cultural and spiritual impacts as part of its engagement activities with affected communities.</p> <p>If deemed appropriate by the communities, the proponent could support community-led cultural impact studies.</p>	The proponent could specify specific measures to address the cultural impacts of the proposed project, such as a community-led cultural impact assessments.
ISC - 05	The potential effects to water quality and drinking water sources for Indigenous communities	Section 22.1.3 notes that there are no anticipated effects to water quality. However, it is unclear whether	While Section 14.2.5 indicate that there are no watercourses located within the project, there are	As part of its mandate, to help promote access to clean water ISC provides funding for water systems on First	Access to safe drinking water is a long standing issue for many First Nations communities, who face ongoing water advisories and challenges with water infrastructure. Issues associated with storm water discharge can effect water quality	The proponent should include information that identifies water sources for affected First Nations communities, and clearly state whether there are any	The proponent could include the potential effects to First Nations in further ground water studies to ensure that

		the proponent has considered effects to drinking water sources, including recreational water sources.	surface water features on the periphery of the project boundary. Any potential contaminants introduced to the water system upstream of the intake for reserve water sources has the potential to put pressures on the water treatment system.	Nations reserves, as well as monitoring programs for drinking water quality.	and is a particular concern for many communities.	anticipated effects on First Nations water sources.	there are not adverse effects for communities.
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*Please insert additional rows as necessary.*