

Clarington

May 7, 2026

New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

RE: Municipality of Clarington Comments – New Nuclear at Wesleyville in Port Hope, Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Draft Public Participation Plan (Project Ref. No.: 89802)

Dear Impact Assessment Agency of Canada and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (Impact Guidelines) and the Draft Public Participation Plan (PPP), released by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) on April 7, 2026, for the New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project (Project). The Municipality of Clarington appreciates IAAC's and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission's (CNSC) commitment to early and ongoing engagement with jurisdictions and the public to identify key issues and inform the Proponent's Impact Statement. Given the Municipality's close proximity to the proposed Project site (approximately 1 km), we are committed to participating in the nuclear regulatory and Impact Assessment (IA) processes to the extent practicable in order to help safeguard the interests of our community.

At the same time, **the Municipality notes that meaningful participation is challenging due to limited municipal capacity, the absence of capacity funding to support timely review, and the short duration of the current comment period.** As a result, the comments provided herein are necessarily focused and not exhaustive. Consistent with the issues raised in our February 11, 2026 letter commenting on the *Initial Project Description* prepared by Ontario Power Generation (OPG), our comments are primarily directed at ensuring that the scope of the assessment fully captures municipal-level impacts, both positive and negative, potentially effecting the Municipality of Clarington and Durham Region, in addition to the host community.

Geographic Scope Uncertainty

The Municipality understands that the Impact Guidelines are intended to provide direction to OPG regarding the requirements for identifying and assessing Project effects, including how various people and communities may be affected and how those effects are to be mitigated.

Clarington has concerns regarding ambiguity within the draft Impact Guidelines, particularly with respect to the definition of study areas and the terminology used to describe affected communities. The Impact Guidelines do not define the Local Study Area (LSA) or Regional Study Area (RSA), nor do they provide clarity around

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several terms used throughout the document, including but not limited to “community level,” “local communities,” “local,” “project area,” “study area,” and “local peoples.” The absence of clear and consistent definitions creates uncertainty regarding the geographic scope of the assessment and makes it difficult to determine whether potential impacts to Clarington will be appropriately identified, evaluated, and addressed, where appropriate.

These concerns are reinforced by the fact that the Municipality is not included in the list of municipalities identified in Section 6 of the Impact Guidelines with whom the Proponent is expected to work with in considering the health, social or economic conditions and consequences of the Project. Further, OPG’s *New Nuclear in Wesleyville at Port Hope Response to Summary of Issues*, issued on March 27, 2026, does not indicate that engagement with Clarington or Durham Region is contemplated, referencing only collaboration with the host community. While Clarington is not the host community, the Project’s proximity and requirements are expected to give rise to spillover effects within Clarington that will require direct municipal involvement. These effects may include the need for infrastructure improvements, enhanced emergency and protective services, land use and transportation planning, expanded community services, and business supports.

The Municipality of Clarington respectfully requests that IAAC and the CNSC provide greater clarity and precision in the definition of study areas and terminology within the Impact Guidelines, and explicitly confirm how municipal-level impacts that extend beyond the host community will be included in the scope of the IA. Greater clarity would help reduce the risk that potential effects extending into Clarington may not be fully identified or assessed until later stages of the process, when opportunities for effective mitigation and municipal planning are more limited.

Municipal Role, Capacity, and Engagement

The Municipality is already experiencing significant capacity and funding pressures related to intervening in nuclear regulatory processes, a dynamic regulatory environment, and rapid population growth. Where municipal services are required to support the Project, these additional pressures could affect both municipal operations and the advancement of the Project itself. Accordingly, **the Municipality is concerned that the draft Impact Guidelines do not adequately acknowledge the importance of municipal capacity and resources and submits that community readiness should be identified as a Valued Component within the assessment.**

We further note that as currently structured, the federal IA process does not clearly distinguish municipalities from the broader public participation framework. While public participation is a critical component of the process, this approach does not adequately reflect the distinct role that host and adjacent municipalities play in projects of this scale and complexity. A more targeted and appropriately resourced approach to municipal engagement is warranted.

In this context, the Municipality notes that, while there has been some interaction with OPG at the operational level, the Municipality has not yet been directly engaged by OPG regarding the broader Project or its municipal implications. Following this comment

period, the Municipality intends to contact OPG to request a meeting to better understand the Project and how the impacts we anticipate experiencing as a neighbouring municipality, such as pressure on housing, infrastructure, emergency services, and community services and facilities, will be assessed, planned for, and mitigated, and how the Municipality could potentially support the Project. This would include a request to discuss the provision of capacity funding to enable the Municipality to participate effectively in the Project. With appropriate resourcing, Clarington is well positioned to offer constructive input informed by its experience with nuclear projects and long-term community impacts.

The Municipality also notes that municipal elections will occur in Ontario in fall 2026, resulting in a newly constituted Council in Clarington. In this context, the Municipality intends to request that OPG provide a presentation to the new Council early in its term. In addition, the Municipality respectfully requests that IAAC, in coordination with the CNSC, consider providing a presentation to the new Council regarding the integrated impact assessment and regulatory process, including opportunities for municipal and public participation and how local input informs project review and decision-making.

In closing

At this point in the process the Municipality does not yet have a clear understanding if, or the extent to which, the Municipality will be expected to support the safe implementation and operation of the Project over its full life cycle, or if the associated potential impacts to the Municipality will be fully assessed or mitigated. The Municipality respectfully requests that the Impact Guidelines and PPP explicitly require meaningful engagement with Clarington and the identification and assessment of impacts to Clarington and Durham Region, including cumulative effects arising from the Project in combination with other nuclear operations in the Greater Toronto East area. The Municipality has long supported the nuclear industry within Clarington and the Durham Region and is willing to continue engaging in the IA process, to the best of its capacity, to support a fulsome and credible assessment.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments; should you have any questions, please contact Amy Burke, Supervisor, Strategic Projects, at 905-623-3379 ext. 2423 or aburke@clarington.net.

Sincerely,



Mary-Anne Dempster
Chief Administrative Officer

Cc: Mayor and Council Members
Executive Leadership Team