

January 21, 2026

Mihta Askiy Data Center Project  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
1145 9700 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4C3  
Email: [Mihta-Askiy@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:Mihta-Askiy@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Re: Mihta Askiy Data Center Project – Initial Project Description (IPD) Comments**

On behalf of Northern Sunrise County Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Initial Project Description (IPD) submitted by Cree Ative Datacenter Corp GP for the Mihta Askiy Data Center Project. As the project is located within our municipality, we acknowledge its potential effects on the County and surrounding communities. We are confident that the proponent will undertake the necessary due diligence as the project advances.

Northern Sunrise County is encouraged by the project and the economic benefits and diversification it may bring to the Peace Region. While this is an early stage in the regulatory process, we appreciate the thoughtful work reflected in the IPD, including the attention to stakeholder engagement with Indigenous communities, and the assessment of environmental and limited socioeconomic impacts. We also appreciate that IAAC's process allows the public to review and respond to the IPD.

We would like to offer the following specific feedback on key areas important to the project's success:

#### **Permits and Approvals**

We acknowledge that the site was previously permitted, approved, and partially developed under the Shell Canada Ltd. Carmon Creek Project, and that some infrastructure exists. Table 1 provides an overview of current permits; however, we request confirmation that all required permits will be reissued to reflect the parameters of the new project. As the approving authority for aspects of the development, the County must ensure full compliance with applicable legislation and regulatory requirements.

#### **Socioeconomic Assessment**

We request that Cree Ative prepare a detailed socioeconomic report to help the County and neighboring municipalities understand the project's potential social and economic impacts. This report should include comprehensive information on housing needs for all phases of the project—site preparation, construction, operations, and eventual decommissioning.



## Employment and Workforce Planning

We anticipate both opportunities and challenges related to workforce recruitment. Our region's economy relies heavily on oil and gas, forestry, and agriculture, and the creation of new jobs is welcomed. To prepare effectively, we need a clear understanding of workforce requirements throughout the project's lifecycle. Additionally, the potential need for expanded post-secondary programming—both for construction and long-term operations—should be explored to support the development of skilled labor.

## Emergency Management

Northern Sunrise County will provide emergency fire response for the site. It is essential that our emergency management staff be fully engaged and kept informed of the site's Emergency Response Program throughout construction and operations.

## Public Engagement

The IPD outlines meaningful engagement with Indigenous groups, which we fully support. Looking ahead, we encourage the proponent to expand its public engagement efforts. Data centers are new to the region and dedicated public information sessions would help residents better understand the project. We also request ongoing updates to the County throughout the project's lifecycle.

## Water Supply and Intake Infrastructure

The IPD notes a requirement for a *Water Act* licence and references the potential use of Shell's previously approved licence(s). It also describes design work for additional pumpage and modifications to the river intake structure—work that was never installed by the local water utility. As the administrative body for NEW water Ltd., the County is not aware of any proposed changes to the intake, which is owned and operated by CNRL. The proponent must confirm whether they have engaged CNRL regarding water supply capacity and clarify what infrastructure upgrades may be necessary to ensure existing supply to both CNRL and NEW water Ltd. is not compromised.

Northern Sunrise County views the Mihta Askiy Data Center Project as an important and timely investment in our region. We believe it will create opportunities for current and future generations. We look forward to working with Cree Ative, Indigenous communities, and provincial and federal partners to advance this project while remaining committed to environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,



Claude Rodrigue, Reeve  
Northern Sunrise County

