

# Comments of Louis Bull Tribe in respect of Heartland Power Generation LP’s Initial Project Description Summary for the Beacon AI Centers – Heartland Power Generation Facility Project

## 1. Introduction

### a. The Project

Heartland Power Generation LP (“**Heartland**”) has proposed to construct, operate and, eventually, decommission a natural gas-fired power plant in Sturgeon County, Alberta (the “**Project**”), which would provide electricity to an artificial intelligence data center project located at the same site.

The Project is proposed to be a new fossil fuel-fired power generating facility with a production capacity greater than 200 MW, an activity included under paragraph 30 of the schedule to the *Physical Activities Regulations*, SOR/2019-285. Heartland has therefore submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the “**IAAC**”) an Initial Project Description for the Project on December 14, 2025 (the “**IPD**”), as well as a summary of the IPD on December 28, 2025 (the “**IPD Summary**”).

### b. The IPD Summary Comment Process

On January 6, 2026, the IAAC established a comment process in respect of the IPD Summary so that the public and Indigenous peoples can help inform the IAAC’s preparation of its summary of issues in respect of the Project.

### c. Louis Bull Tribe

Louis Bull Tribe (“**LBT**”) is a sovereign First Nation and a signatory of Treaty No. 6. LBT members hold inherent Indigenous rights, including the right to self-governance, as well as Aboriginal and treaty rights which are recognized and affirmed by Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

LBT members exercise their rights throughout and beyond Treaty No. 6 territory. However, LBT members’ ability to exercise their rights within Treaty No. 6 territory and beyond is limited by the cumulative effects of industrial development. As a result LBT members must now travel further and further away from their traditional territory, and even outside of Treaty No. 6 territory, in order to exercise their rights.

## 2. Consideration of Cumulative Effects of the Project

### a. Background

At Section 7.1, the IPD Summary states that the Project will produce up to 920 MWe of electricity. Section 9.2 of the IPD Summary states, additionally, that this electricity will be produced using natural gas which will be supplied by the Nova Gas Transmission Ltd. system through a dedicated lateral from that system.

At Section 21.1, the IPD Summary states that, “Given land status, zoning, and existing industrial disturbance, no significant adverse effects to current use of lands and resources for Indigenous purposes are anticipated.”

b. LBT Comments

LBT is concerned that the Project’s broader contribution to cumulative effects will create further impacts to LBT members’ ability to exercise their rights. As noted above, LBT members’ ability to exercise their rights is already curtailed by the cumulative effects of development in LBT territory which have led to a land base that is increasingly fragmented and unsuitable for traditional practices. LBT’s position is that cumulative effects must be assessed regionally and wholistically, including consideration of the connections between impacts created through the development of different industries and different projects.

The IPD Summary’s assessment of the Project’s impacts on Indigenous land use seems to be based on a limited assessment of the Project’s local, direct impacts. However, the addition of a natural gas-fired power plant capable of producing up to 960 MWe will help to create further demand for the construction and operation of further facilities to produce and transport natural gas. LBT therefore submits that an assessment of the Project’s impacts on Indigenous peoples’ traditional land use must include the broader, cumulative effects of the Project caused by increased demand for natural gas production as well as natural gas transportation capacity.

**3. Assessment of Project’s proximity to land used for traditional purposes**

a. Background

The IPD Summary states, at Section 13.5 Proximity to Land Use for Traditional Purposes, that “The Project is located within Treaty 6 territory. The site itself is privately owned and zoned for industrial use and is not used for Indigenous harvesting or other traditional land-use activities. Indigenous groups located within the broader region are identified in Figure 4.1.1 using federal and provincial tools (GOA 2024; IAAC 2024).”

The IPD, at Section 13.5 Proximity to Land Used for Traditional Purposes, also includes a further table summarizing the distance between each First Nation reserve and Métis settlement within 150 km of the Project and the Project location. That section adds the following “Special Note”:

As the Project is located on private land and within an area zoned for industrial development, the Project area is not used for Indigenous harvesting or other traditional practices.

b. LBT Comments

As stated above, LBT members exercise their inherent Indigenous rights and constitutionally recognized and affirmed Aboriginal and treaty rights throughout and beyond Treaty No. 6 territory. LBT’s land use for traditional purposes should not be assessed by a formula considering the Project area’s zoned use as well as its proximity to LBT’s reserve, but rather informed by a LBT-led traditional land and resource use study. LBT submits that Heartland must seek and provide the

IAAC with further, more specific information regarding the Project's proximity to LBT land used for traditional purposes.