

Staff Report

Presented By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer

Meeting Date: September 9, 2024

Subject: Bruce C Impact Assessment Submission and Comments

Attachment(s): Executive Summary of Bruce C Initial Project Description Prepared for Municipalities
Saugeen Shores Submission to IAAC and CNSC on the Initial Project Description for the Bruce C New Nuclear Project

Recommendation

That Council endorse the attached Bruce C Initial Project Description Comment Submission on behalf of the Town of Saugeen Shores; and

That Council direct staff to submit the Town's comments to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Report Summary

The Town received notice on August 12, 2024, from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) that it received an Initial Project Description (IPD) for the Bruce C Nuclear Project from Bruce Power. The public commenting period on the summary of the IPD is from August 12 to September 12, 2024. Comments received during this period will be used to prepare a Summary of Issues by IAAC. The summary of issues will help shape the guidelines that will direct the matters that need to be addressed by Bruce Power through the Impact Assessment process. This report outlines the details of the commenting period and presents a Comment Submission for Council to consider on behalf of the Town of Saugeen Shores.

Background/Analysis

The Town received notice on August 12, 2024, from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) that it received an Initial Project Description (IPD) for the Bruce C Nuclear Project from Bruce Power. The IAAC, with input from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC), determined that the IPD met the requirements of the Information and Management of Time Limits Regulation. As such, on August 12th, they started the 180-day Planning Phase of the integrated impact assessment. The IPD can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Site: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88771>.

Printed copies of the IPD are also available locally at the Port Elgin Public Library, 708 Goderich St, Port Elgin, Ontario.

IAAC, with input from the CNSC, also confirmed that the Project includes activities that are regulated by the CNSC and, as such, could be subject to an integrated impact assessment process under the Impact Assessment Act (IAA). The public commenting period on the summary of the IPD is from August 12 to September 12, 2024. Comments received during this period will be used to prepare a Summary of Issues by IAAC.

Project Overview

The Bruce C Project aims to expand nuclear capacity at the Bruce Power site by up to 4,800 MWe, supporting Ontario's energy needs and carbon emissions goals. The Independent Electricity System Operator's (IESO) 2022 Pathways to Decarbonization Report highlighted the need for 69,000 MWe of non-emitting supply by 2050, including 17,800 MWe of nuclear capacity. In response, Powering Ontario's Growth report emphasized developing long-lead assets like nuclear. Bruce Power's Impact Assessment was identified as an important option for the province, complemented by a provincial request for the IESO to work with Bruce Power on a cost-recovery framework for completing pre-development work, which was formally executed between the IESO and Bruce Power in April 2024.

Bruce Power has released [The Bruce C Project: Planning for the Next Generation \(brucepower.com\)](https://www.brucepower.com), a document that summarizes the Initial Project Description for the public. Page 8 of the document includes a description of the municipal socio-economic support study and a commitment to funding municipal capacity for Bruce County (representing all local municipalities), Kincardine and Saugeen Shores. It also includes the commitment that this work will be integrated into the Impact Statement for the Project.

Overview of the Bruce C Initial Project Description (IPD)

The Initial Project Description is a document prepared by Bruce Power that provides preliminary information about a designated project and includes the prescribed information set out in the Impact Assessment Act and Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations. An Executive Summary is attached for more information.

The Initial Project Description provides information about for the Bruce C project, including:

- project description
- summary of early engagement with municipal government;
- summary of early engagement with first nations and communities;
- studies relevant to the project;
- project information, including need, project activities and timeline;
- description of physical and biological environment of the project location;
- health, social and economic context;
- federal, provincial, territorial, indigenous and municipal involvement;
- potential effects of the project;
- potential impacts to indigenous peoples;
- estimate of greenhouse gas emissions; and
- types of waste and emissions generated by the project.

Bruce C Initial Project Description Comment Submission

Attached to this report is the proposed Town of Saugeen Shores Bruce C Initial Project Description Comment Submission for Council consideration. The comments outline the project proposal and the Town’s interest in the Bruce C project, highlighting the following:

- Challenges to Participation in the Impact Assessment Process – currently the IAAC does not provide municipal capacity funding;
- Cumulative Impacts – potential impact of scale of energy investment happening in the region;
- Financial Impacts – outlining the limitation of the tax base and development charges and debt financing structure to support a build of this scale.
- Socio-Economic Impacts – outline demand and investment needed in municipal infrastructure and services;
- Economic Development Impacts – outline of economic stability created by the project, contribution to economic growth, investment and workforce retention while recognizing the need for economic support in order to meet the increased demand; and
- Environmental Impacts – need to review environmental and human health.

Municipal Capacity Funding

The Town of Saugeen Shores has been working closely with the Municipality of Kincardine and County of Bruce since 2023 to advocate for Municipal Capacity Funding to adequately participate in the Bruce C Impact Assessment process.

IAAC provided notice on August 16, 2024, that funding is available by IAAC to help Indigenous Peoples and the public with participation in the impact assessment process. Municipalities are not eligible for this Participant Funding. While IAAC does not provide Participant Funding for municipal capacity to participate in this process, positive conversations are occurring with Bruce Power to support municipal participation. Bruce Power in its letter dated August 12, 2024, recognized and thanked the Town of Saugeen Shores municipal staff for sharing insights and comments on local municipal socio-economic existing conditions and an early draft of the IPD.

Discussions are on-going with Bruce Power to ensure that Saugeen Shores as well as other municipalities in the Clean Energy Frontier region, are adequately resourced to participate in a project of this scope and scale and of national and provincial significance.

Timeline

The Initial Project Description includes a proposed timeline of activities related to the potential Bruce C project:

Project Phase	Anticipated Schedule (Start – Finish)	Notes
Impact Assessment	Approximately 3 - 4 years (2024 – 2027/2028)	The 2024 Federal Budget set a three-year target for nuclear project reviews, but Bruce Power believes the IA process could take up to four years due to necessary engagement. The

Project Phase	Anticipated Schedule (Start – Finish)	Notes
		IA will also include an application for a CNSC Licence to Prepare Site.
Site Preparation	Approximately 3 years (2028 – 2031)	Requires integrated approval for IA and Licence to Prepare Site.
Construction & Commissioning	Approximately 14 years (2031 –2045)	Requires CNSC Licence to Construct. Assumes one year between subsequent unit deployments.
Active Operation	Approximately 60 - 100 years	Requires CNSC Licence to Operate. Assumes 60 - 100 year operational lifespan dependent on the technology selected.
Safe Storage Operation	Approximately 30 years	Application under CNSC Licence to Operate.
Decommissioning	Approximately 10 years	Requires Detailed Decommissioning Plan.
Abandonment	Thereafter	Application under CNSC Licence to Abandon.

Summary

If the Government of Canada, through the Impact Assessment process determines that the project is of public interest, a licence to prepare the site will be issued as part of the integrated assessment process. Should the Province of Ontario and Bruce Power choose to proceed with a new build on Bruce Power’s existing site, additional permitting and licensing activities would be required.

The Town of Saugeen Shores appreciates the opportunity to be engaged and provide comments on the Initial Project Description through the formal Impact Assessment process. The Town looks forward to actively engaging in a meaningful way through Municipal Capacity Funding, with Bruce Power, IAAC and CNSC throughout the Impact Assessment process for the potential Bruce C project.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 1: Meeting the Needs of a Growing Community
- Business Plan Alignment: CAO Major Initiative

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

No costs or revenue is associated with this report.

Reviewed By: Management Team

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer