

Staff Report

Presented By: Alex Thompson, Strategic Initiatives Officer

Meeting Date: March 24, 2025

Subject: Bruce C Nuclear Project - Impact Assessment Status Update

Attachment(s): IAAC "Notice of Impact Assessment" Decision, January 6, 2025
IAAC to Bruce Power re. Saugeen Ojibway Nation Concerns December 2024

Recommendation

That Council receive the Bruce C Nuclear Project – Impact Assessment Status Update report for information.

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Impact Assessment (IA) process for the Bruce C Nuclear project, including next steps.

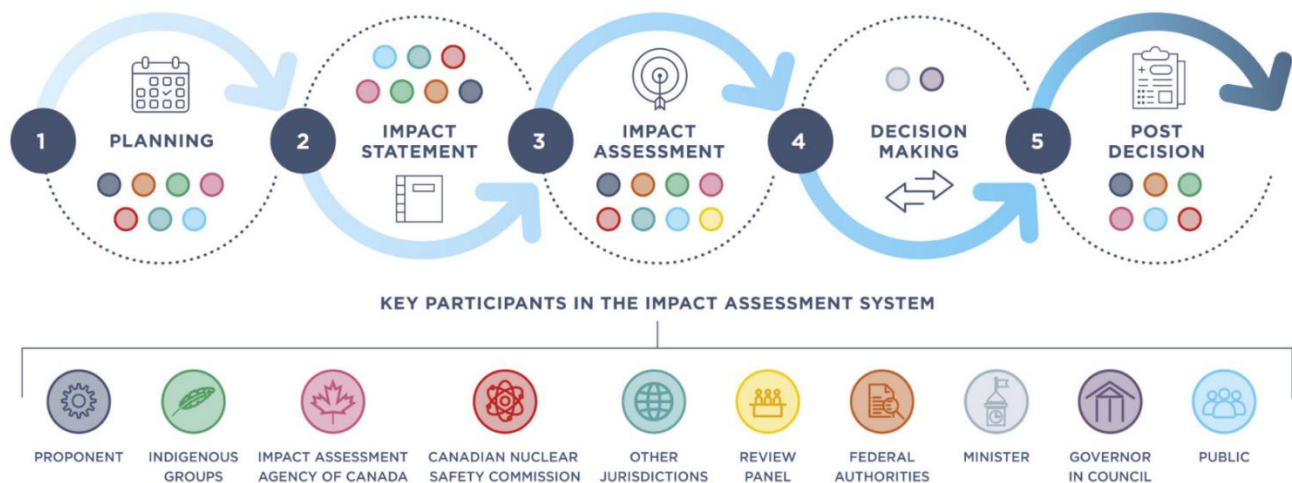
Background/Analysis

In August 2024, Bruce Power submitted the Initial Project Description to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC), formally moving from the Pre-Planning Phase to the Planning Phase of the IA process. IAAC opened a public commenting period for the Initial Project Description. In September 2024, comments were filed with IAAC on the [Initial Project Description by the Town of Saugeen Shores](#).

In early November, IAAC issued the Summary of Issues for the Bruce C project. Bruce Power filed their response to the Summary of Issues with IAAC on December 6th. IAAC issued a 'Notice of Impact Assessment' decision on December 20, 2024 (attached), which confirmed that a full impact assessment is required. The project was also referred to an independent review panel, as is required for nuclear regulated projects.

On January 15, 2025, at the request of Bruce Power, the IAAC suspended the timeline for the impact assessment for the Bruce C Nuclear Project. The purpose of this time limit suspension was to allow for additional engagement activities with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON), based upon the concerns communicated by IAAC to Bruce Power (attached), and through direct discussions between Bruce Power and SON.

It is expected that once the timeline has resumed, IAAC will soon publish draft plans, including the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines – a document outlining the information and studies required in the Proponent's Impact Statement - and the Public Participation Plan – a document outlining how the public will be engaged throughout the impact assessment process and preferred engagement tools and strategies - for public review and comment. Comments will be prepared during the upcoming public consultation period and presented to Council for endorsement.



The planning phase of the project includes several activities that the Bruce C team will complete:

1. Share information from the Bruce C Project Initial Project Description and engage with Indigenous Nations and Communities, local municipalities and the public.
2. Continue to collect socio-economic and environmental data to establish a baseline of existing conditions in the areas surrounding the Bruce Power site.
3. Receive the Summary of Issues from the IAAC and form a response that outlines how Bruce Power intends to address the issues raised.
4. Receive the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines from the IAAC, which defines the studies and information required for Bruce Power to include in the Impact Statement.

Municipal Participation and Resourcing

The Town of Saugeen Shores is a central part of the Clean Energy Frontier and has maintained a long-standing relationship with Ontario's energy sector, due to our strategic location just 25 kilometers from Bruce Power.

This proximity has created a natural partnership that extends beyond geography, the Town is home to approximately 30% of Bruce Power's workforce, more than any other municipality in the region. This makes Saugeen Shores not just a neighboring community, but an integral partner in the success of the Bruce C Project as the Town knows both the environmental and economic importance of the energy sector in the daily lives of Ontarians.

In November 2024, Bruce Power and the Town signed an Impact Assessment Capacity Agreement providing the Town with funding to hire dedicated staff resources. Additionally, this agreement reiterated Bruce Power's commitment to working with Saugeen Shores on a long-term relationship agreement that would describe how Bruce Power and Saugeen Shores will work together on all stages of the proposed Bruce C Project. The Town recognizes the importance of this funding from Bruce Power, which has enabled the municipality to hire a full-time Strategic Initiatives Officer for 2025 and 2026.

The Challenge the Town Faces

The Town of Saugeen Shores is a lower-tier municipal government responsible for delivering infrastructure and services including roads and bridges; sewer and water services; waste management and landfill; cemetery; fire rescue; emergency preparedness and management; land use planning; economic development; building and by-law services; community services (including parks, recreation, arenas and pool); strategic and government relations; as well as core services such as finance, human resources and information technology.

As provided in the Town's September 9, 2024, submission on the Initial Project Description, the Municipal Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report, completed by Bruce Power to characterize community, social, economic and human health conditions, in addition to non-traditional land and resource use, which could experience effects as the result of the Project, should be considered draft. While the Town participated in interviews to inform this work, it is important to continue to develop this work to ensure it accurately reflects current conditions within the municipality. Financial resources to enable the Town's participation in this process are necessary to conduct a thorough review of these services, developing an accurate baseline service conditions and provide timely feedback into the impact assessment process.

The Town of Saugeen Shores needs to prepare their communities for growth, infrastructure investment and demand for services that will also come forward as this Project advances. The Town will be required to make investments to support Bruce Power as an employer, their employees, and the broader community. Understanding the impact to infrastructure and demand for services tied to a potential Bruce C Project is critical for Saugeen Shores to ensure the Project has a positive socio-economic impact. To achieve this understanding, the Town must be resourced to identify, participate in, comment on and develop projected service impact studies.

The Town's Vision for Collaborative Planning

To overcome the above noted challenges, the Town is seeking funding to conduct the required study work that best takes into consideration the Town's services that may be impacted by a potential Bruce C investment. This work is not intended to duplicate efforts but rather enable the Town to conduct complementary studies that feed into and align with the Bruce C Project and its timeline.

This collaborative approach will:

1. Support well-informed growth management, ensuring appropriate population allocation and sufficient residential, commercial and industrial land supply.
2. Identify infrastructure gaps before they become barriers to progress.

3. Develop service delivery models that accommodate increased demands.
4. Create alignment between project needs and community readiness.

The Town's proximity to Bruce Power means there have always been deep connections to Ontario's energy sector. Saugeen Shores recognizes the responsibility to make strategic investments that support Bruce Power, its employees, and the broader community.

However, the Town cannot fulfill this responsibility without adequate resources to thoroughly understand our existing service delivery or the project's anticipated impacts. Funding for these impact studies represents not merely municipal self-interest, but an investment in the overall success of this vital energy infrastructure project.

By supporting Saugeen Shores in this effort now, all partners will benefit from better alignment, more efficient planning, and ultimately a stronger partnership in service of Ontario's energy future.

Project Overview

The Bruce C project proposes to add 4800 MW of new nuclear generating capacity by adding four new reactors to the existing Bruce Power site and operate for 60-100 years. Bruce Power has not selected reactor technology at this time.

The goal of an Impact Assessment is to help identify and assess the possible impacts of the project prior to any decision to build new nuclear and considers a wide range of factors including protecting the environment, ensuring respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and proposing measures to mitigate a project's anticipated adverse effects.

The project assessment is being conducted by the IAAC in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC).

Additional information about the Bruce C project and the activities of the Bruce C team is available on the project website: [Bruce C Project | Engage Bruce Power](#)

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 IA will also include an application for a CNSC Licence to Prepare Site.

Project Phase	Anticipated Schedule (Start – Finish)	Notes
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.

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.

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