



Staff Report to Council - for Direction

Title: Response to Invitation for Comments on the Bruce C Initial Project Description

From: Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Date: September 5, 2024

Report Number: CDO-2024-016

Staff Recommendation:

That the attached comments on the Bruce C Initial Project Description be endorsed; and
That Council direct staff to submit the County's Comments to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Report Summary:

The County 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 proposed by 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 on the Bruce C Project. 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 Impact Assessment process, identifies information about the Bruce C Project and provides comments for Council's consideration to submit in response to the Initial Project Description to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada.

Background/Analysis:

The County 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. 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 12, they started the 180-day Planning Phase of the integrated impact assessment. The IPD has been posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Site for the Bruce C project:

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/88771>

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.

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
- Types of waste and emissions generated by the project

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

Table 1 Bruce C Project Initial Project Description Phases and Timeline

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. Bruce Power indicated the process. The 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.

The Initial Project Description is an extensive document. A plain language and full initial project description are both available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry site.

Bruce Power also prepared an executive summary of the Initial Project Description that focuses on key information for municipalities. This document was shared with each local municipality in Bruce County and is attached to this report.

IAAC held a virtual information session on the Bruce C project in English on August 20, 2024. County staff attended the session to learn about the Impact Assessment process and the proposed Bruce C presentation. A copy of the presentation is attached for Council's information.

During the virtual information session, IAAC indicated it is important for the public, indigenous communities and municipalities to participate in the Impact Assessment Process as comments and concerns can guide and influence the integrated assessment process and inform the proponent and decision-makers.

IAAC asked participants to consider several questions when reviewing and providing comments on the Initial Project Description including:

- Do you have any concerns about the Project?
- How could the Project affect you or your community, either positively or negatively?
- What is important to you or your community and why are they important?
- Do you have any specific knowledge relevant to the assessment of this Project?
- Are you aware of any other potential issues related to the assessment of this Project?
- Are there any economic, technical, linguistic or other challenges that might prevent you from participation?

Staff have used these questions to prepare comments on the Initial Project Description that are attached for Council's consideration.

Next Steps

The 30-day public comment period on the Initial Project Description ends on September 12, 2024. IAAC will prepare a Summary of Issues based on comments received during the public comment period. The proponent will prepare a response to the summary of issues and if necessary, prepare a detailed project description.

It is anticipated that IAAC will determine an impact assessment is required for the Bruce C Project. Once that occurs, the federal Minister refers the assessment to an integrated review panel. IAAC will then prepare a draft tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans for the project. These guidelines will be released for public comment. IAAC anticipates the next comment period will be in November 2024.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial/staffing/legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Internal consultation occurred with the Office of the CAO and Government Relations.

External consultation occurred with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Bruce Power and the municipalities of Kincardine and Saugeen Shores in the preparation of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Build a strong and inclusive community

Growth and Innovation - Promote responsible growth

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

N/A

Report Author:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

- Draft Bruce County Submission on Bruce C Initial Project Description
- Executive summary of the Initial Project Description for the Bruce C project
- Bruce C Information Session Presentation - August 20, 2024