



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Bruce C Nuclear Project Status Update

From: Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Date: June 19, 2025

Report Number: CDO-2025-015

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Bruce C Nuclear Project, including recent progress and next steps in the federal Impact Assessment (IA) process. It outlines related initiatives supporting the County's involvement in the IA process and highlights upcoming opportunities for Council engagement. It also provides a summary of the activities undertaken by the County related to the Bruce C Project through Q1 and Q2 2025.

Background/Analysis:

BRUCE C PROJECT AND THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The Bruce C Project proposes to add 4,800 MW of new nuclear generating capacity by adding four new reactors to the existing Bruce Power site and operate for the next 60-100 years. Bruce Power has not yet selected a reactor technology.

The Bruce C Project is the first nuclear project to go through the new federal Integrated Impact Assessment process. The Integrated Impact Assessment (IA) process is led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) in collaboration with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC). The IA is designed to identify and assess a range of factors including protecting the environment, ensuring respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, socio-economic and health conditions, and proposing measures to mitigate a project's anticipated adverse effects prior to any decision to build. A key component of the process includes engagement with Indigenous Nations and the public.

Municipalities are considered in the same way as the public for the purpose of commenting and participating in the IA process. There is no specific recognition of a host community through the IA process.

Detailed information about the Bruce C Project is available on the project website: [Bruce C Project | Engage Bruce Power](#) and the IAAC public registry: [Bruce C Nuclear Project](#).

IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS TIMELINE

Work to advance the project is continuing to be driven by Bruce Power, and specifically the Bruce C team. The below graphic illustrates the phases of the federal Impact Assessment process for the Bruce C project.



THE KEY PARTICIPANTS IN THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM ARE



KEY ACTIVITIES IN PHASE 1: PLANNING

The Bruce C Project is currently in Phase 1, the Planning Phase. The table below identifies the key milestones during this phase, along with high-level descriptions and associated dates.

Table 1: Key Activities in Planning Phase

Date	Milestone	Description
August 2024	Planning Phase Begins	Bruce Power submitted Initial Project Description (IPD) and engagement with the public and Indigenous Nations and Communities began.
September 2024	Public Comment Submissions	Bruce County submitted endorsed comments to IAAC on the IPD.

December 2024	Response to Summary of Issues	Bruce Power responded to IAAC's Summary of Issues, based on comments on how they intended to address the issues raised.
December 2024	Notice of Impact Assessment Decision	IAAC confirmed Impact Assessment is needed and refers project to an Independent Review Panel.
January 15, 2025	IA Suspended	The IA process time limit was suspended at Bruce Power's request to enable further engagement with Saugeen Ojibway Nation.
TBD	Resume IA	Bruce Power will notify IAAC that they would like to resume the IA process.
TBD	Release of Draft Guidelines and Participation Plans	IAAC will release the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG), and other key plans that will be used to build the Impact Statement.
TBD	Council Review and Endorsement	Staff will seek Council endorsement of County comments on the TISG and other plans.
TBD	Deadline for Public Comment	Final date to submit comments on the draft guidelines and plans to IAAC (30 days for public review).
TBD	Final TISG is Posted and Planning Phase Ends	After reviewing all public comments, IAAC will finalize the TISG and related plans indicating the start of the Impact Statement (Phase 2) of the IA process.

For additional context, the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG), identifies the information and studies Bruce Power must provide in their Impact Statement submission, including community and environmental impacts, to IAAC. Supplementary plans such as Public Participation Plan, IA Cooperation Plan, Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, and the Permitting Plan will be released for review and comment. All above referenced documents can be viewed on the IAAC Registry: [Bruce C Nuclear Project](#).

Staff will review these plans, along with the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) and bring forward comments for Council's endorsement to submit during the public comment phase, once the Impact Assessment process resumes for the Bruce C project.

MUNICIPAL INVOLVEMENT AND RESOURCES

As the Bruce C Project progresses, local municipalities will prepare for significant long-term changes, including increased population, greater demand for infrastructure and services, and potential workforce pressures.

Bruce Power has provided capacity funding to Bruce County, the Municipality of Kincardine, and the Town of Saugeen Shores to support municipal involvement in the IA process.

Bruce County has hired a dedicated project coordinator to support the Bruce C project.

The project coordinator is responsible for:

- Reviewing technical IA documents
- Flagging municipal service and infrastructure considerations early in the process
- Coordinating and representing municipal interests in the federal IA process
- Working with Bruce Power and local municipalities to provide information and lead peer reviews/joint studies to undertaken through the IA process

The Commissioner of Community Development provides strategic oversight for the work on the Bruce C Project.

BRUCE C RELATED WORK: JANUARY - JUNE 2025

The County has undertaken several actions to be able to provide input into the IA process and to consider ways to prepare community to address the impact of a potential Bruce C project.

Between January and June 2025 these initiatives include:

- Ongoing collaboration and working session between the Bruce C Team and the Project Coordinators (Kincardine, Saugeen Shores & Bruce County) to align work and share updates.
- Development of a joint municipal submission for the County to lead an integrated review of the workforce study and undertake a growth management study.
- Reviewed and contributed to the baseline socio-economic study in collaboration with the Bruce C Team and their consultants.
- Attended the Canadian Nuclear Association (CNA) Annual Conference in April 2025.
- Participated as a member of the Canadian Association for Nuclear Host Communities (CANHC)
- Engaged MTE Consulting to prepare a detailed review of County revenue from Electrical Infrastructure: Collaborated with the Municipality of Kincardine on a case study, “Decline of Local Revenues from Ontario’s Electricity Infrastructure”, highlighting shifts in electricity property tax assessment to other tax properties. See the Tax Case Study report on the June 19, 2025, County Council agenda (CDO-2025-014).
- Participated with the Municipality of Kincardine to engage a GHD Consultants to develop the “Federal Integrated Assessment Roadmap”: This document outlines a framework for municipal involvement in the IA process and while ensuring concerns are adequately considered through the IA process. Refer to the CANHC report (CDO-2025-014) on the June 19, 2025, County Council agenda.
- NII Community Readiness Research Advisory Board (RAB) Infrastructure Case Study: Sit as a member of the RAB to provide a municipal lens on research being undertaken by NII to develop best practices for community readiness to support large-scale industrial infrastructure projects.

NEXT STEPS

Once the Impact Assessment process resumes, staff will return to Council with draft comments for Council's consideration in response to IAAC's draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and relevant plans.

County staff will notify local municipalities when the IA resumes and the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) are available for review and comment. Information about proposed engagement sessions by Bruce Power or IAAC will also be shared by the County with local municipalities once it is available.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial or staffing impacts directly related to this report. The project coordinator role is fully funded by Bruce Power. Studies undertaken through Q1 and Q2, 2025 have been undertaken through funding obtained in partnership with Kincardine from IAAC and CNSC through CANHC to assist with participating in the Impact Assessment process.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Consultation has occurred with the Office of the CAO, Corporate Services, and Government Relations.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Growth and Innovation - Promote responsible growth

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Advancing work on the Bruce C project aligns with Council's priority work for the Community Development Office.

Report Author:

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Departmental Approval:

Claire Dodds, Commissioner of Community Development

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments: None.