

Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION, JUNE 18, 2026



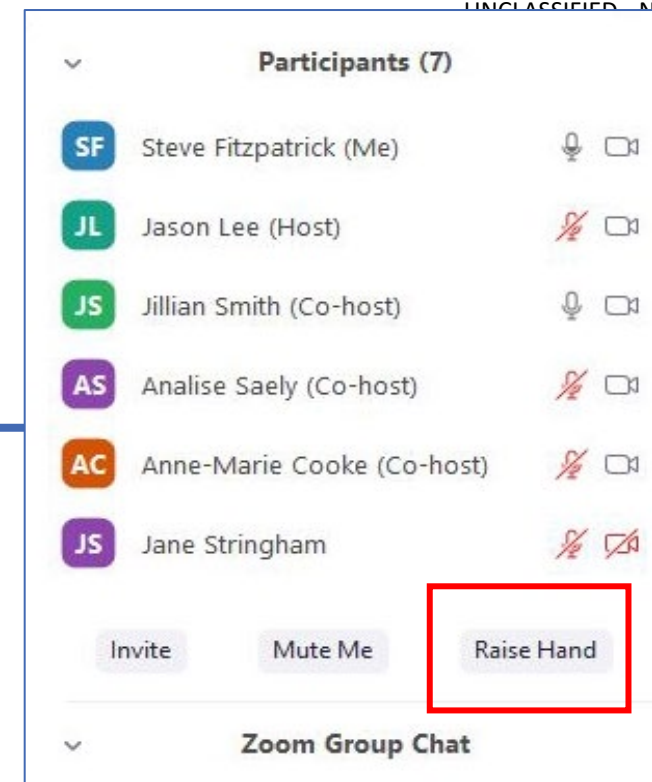
Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

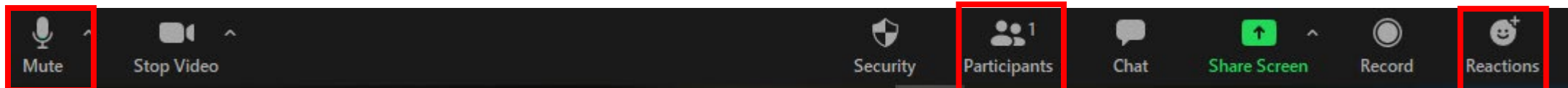
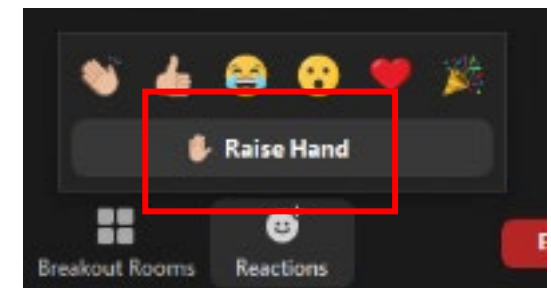
Canada

To ask a question

- Click the “Raise Hand” function or type the question into the chat
- If you are on the phone, press *9 to ask a question and *6 to unmute/mute
- Please mute your microphone unless speaking



OR



Session overview

- Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project overview
- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada & the impact assessment process
- Impact assessment decision under section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act*
- Project-specific key issues
- Next steps
- Discussion and question period



Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

PROPOSED BY TC ENERGY

Project overview and context

Location: Located predominately on federal lands at the Army Training Centre – Central, managed by DND in Meaford, Ontario

Proponent: TransCanada Energy Ltd. (TC Energy)

Project: Pumped storage hydropower facility

- Anticipated to provide 1,000 megawatts to Ontario's electricity system
- Stores surplus energy during low demand and provides energy during peak demand
- Predicted to operate for the foreseeable future with proper maintenance and equipment upgrades

Context:

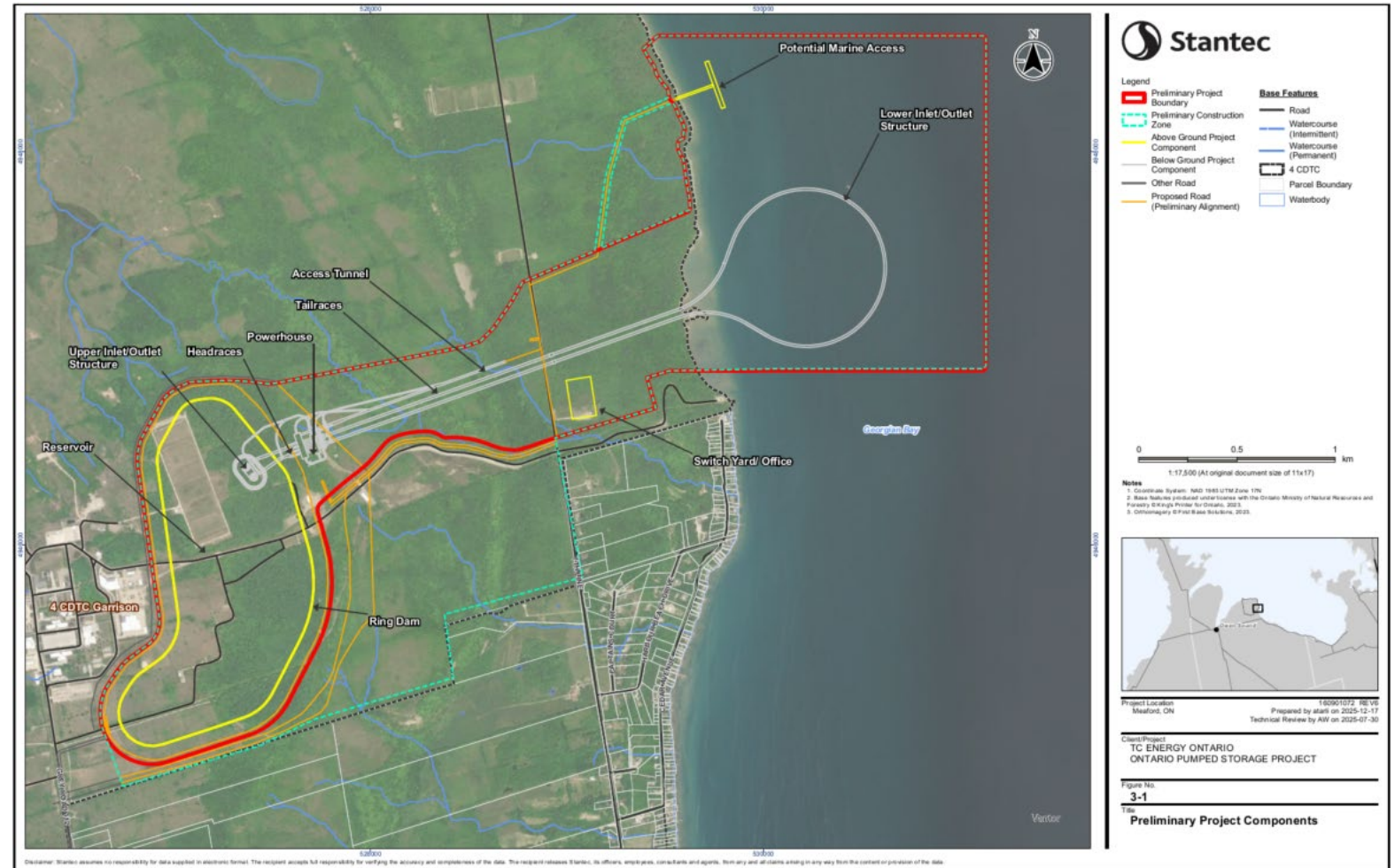
- Proposed as a new, clean energy storage solution to address the Independent Electricity System Operator's projected 65 percent growth in Ontario's energy and storage demand by 2050.



Project components

Main components include:

- reservoir
- powerhouse
- water conveyance structures
- lower inlet/outlet structure
- switchyard
- access
- temporary construction facility
- transmission connection



Impact assessment process

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AGENCY OF CANADA



Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC)

- Federal agency reporting to the **Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature**
- Conducts federal impact assessments on major projects in Canada under the ***Impact Assessment Act (IAA)***
- Works with the support of other federal departments
- Consults Indigenous peoples and meaningfully engages the public
- Cooperates with provincial, territorial and Indigenous jurisdictions

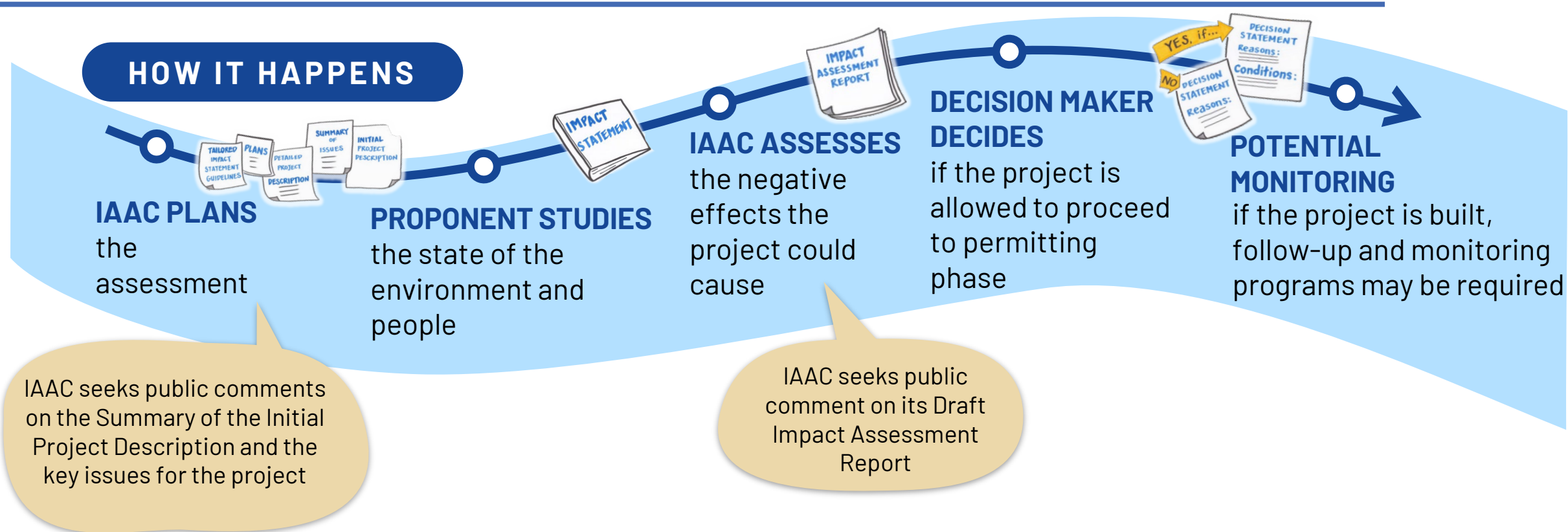


Impact assessment

- A process that the federal government uses to make decisions on major development projects in Canada
- Looks at potential positive and negative effects of proposed projects
- Uses information and evidence from multiple sources (project proponent, scientific experts, Indigenous Peoples, the public, etc.)
- Identifies ways to mitigate potential harm and enhance positive impacts



Impact assessment process



Impact assessment decision under section 16 of the IAA

Impact assessment decision

IAAC is satisfied that the carrying out of the designated project may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct or incidental adverse effects, including:

- potential effects on fish and fish habitat;
- migratory birds;
- changes to the environment on federal lands;
- effects due to activities on federal lands; and
- changes to the health, social, economic and environmental conditions of Indigenous Peoples.

As a result, IAAC determined that the designated project will move to the next step in the Planning phase



Impact assessment decision-making factors

In making this decision, IAAC considered the following factors, set out under section 16(2) of the IAA:

- information in the Initial Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues;
- the potential for adverse effects within federal jurisdiction, or adverse direct or incidental effects;
- adverse impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples of Canada under s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;
- comments received during the public comment period;
- any regional or strategic assessments;
- any study or plan that is prepared by a jurisdiction that is related to the proposed project;
- whether a means other than an impact assessment exists that would address the adverse effects within federal jurisdiction and the direct or incidental adverse effects; and
- any other factor that the Agency considers relevant.



Key Issues

Project-specific key issues

- On February 17, 2026, IAAC issued the Summary of Issues, which outlined the key issues that it considered relevant for the federal impact assessment process for the project.
- The Summary of Issues was informed by input from Indigenous communities, federal and provincial authorities, and the public on the proponent's Summary of the Initial Project Description.
- The key issues outlined in the Summary of Issues will inform the scope of the impact assessment, and the development of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Plans.



Fish and fish habitat

- Potential effects to spawning habitat.
- Potential effects to habitat from in-water construction and operation of the inlet/outlet structure, including:
 - sedimentation;
 - turbidity;
 - resuspension of materials; and
 - changes to water quality.
- Potential loss or alteration of habitat from lakebed disruption and shoreline modification.
- Potential fish mortality or injury from:
 - entrainment and impingement;
 - blasting; and
 - changes to hydrodynamic conditions in Georgian Bay, such as water circulation, temperature, and stratification.



Change to the environment on federal lands

- Potential effects to species at risk, including:
 - increased mortality risk; and
 - loss or alteration of habitat.
- Potential changes to terrain stability from project construction.
- Potential changes to groundwater and surface water quality from the excavation of bedrock.
- Potential changes to groundwater flow and levels, resulting in potential effects on groundwater–surface water interactions.
- Potential changes to air quality from construction activities and associated impacts to human health.
- Potential changes to noise and vibration levels from construction activities.



Community well-being and infrastructure

- Potential impacts to social conditions from the influx of construction workers, including:
 - increased demand for housing, local services, and infrastructure
- Potential impacts to health conditions from changes to drinking water quality due to:
 - disturbance of soils containing pre-existing contaminants;
 - overburden handling;
 - stormwater runoff; and
 - construction activities



Impacts to Indigenous Peoples

Structures, sites, or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance to Indigenous Peoples

- Potential disturbance or loss of heritage resources

Physical and cultural heritage

- Potential impacts on the relationship with the land, including spiritual and cultural impacts

Current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes

- Potential impacts to fishing, navigation, and harvesting
- Potential cumulative impacts of existing restrictions on Indigenous access to the Army Training Centre – Central in combination with the project



Impacts to Indigenous Peoples

Health, social, and economic conditions

- Potential impacts to health from environmental changes affecting water quality, resource quality and availability, and access to country foods.
- Potential impacts to social and economic conditions from limited access to lands and resources used for commercial and traditional purposes.

Indigenous Peoples' exercise of Rights

- Potential impacts to the exercise of rights of Indigenous Peoples, resulting from effects on lands, waters, and resources used for traditional purposes.



Accidents and malfunctions

- Potential effects due to an infrastructure malfunction, accident or failure, with respect to:
 - the upper ring dam;
 - the reservoir;
 - water conveyance structures; and
 - spillways



Next steps

- IAAC will develop the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines based on information provided by the proponent and input received from Indigenous communities, federal and provincial authorities, and the public
- IAAC will collaborate with other relevant parties to develop the other planning documents, including federal authorities, the Province of Ontario, and Indigenous communities
- IAAC will post the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Plans with the Notice of Commencement
- The impact assessment will move to the next phase of the process



Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project

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