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19 July 2026 CIAR File No: 90571

Jennifer Fitzgerald
Project Manager, Prairie and Northern Region
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Submitted by email: Brandon@iaac-aeic.gc.ca

**Subject: NRCan Federal Authority Advice Record Response for the Brandon Dispatchable Capacity Project**

On June 29, 2026, Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) received a request from the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) to comment on the Initial Project Description for the Brandon Dispatchable Capacity project, located near Brandon, Manitoba and to complete the Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) form.

Pursuant to section 23 of *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA 2019), NRCan is participating in the impact assessment of the Brandon Dispatchable Capacity Project. NRCan has reviewed the documentation and provided comments in the Appendix 1: Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) form.

No key issues have been identified at this stage. As the impact assessment process advances, or if there are any changes to the scope of this project, NRCan remains available to provide subject matter expertise that is within it's departmental mandate.

Furthermore, the Proponent should be made aware of the Open Science and Data Platform (OSDP), a centralized data hub led by Natural Resources Canada that provides access to diverse science, data and regulatory information to support the assessment. The OSDP can help guide the Proponent in early planning and align project proposals with regulatory expectations to contribute to more efficient reviews. For example, the dataset CABIN Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network produced by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) may be of interest to the Proponent. NRCan is available to meet and provide more details about what the OSDP has to offer and can be contacted at osdp-psdo@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Natalie.Robinson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca

Sincerely,
**Natalie Robinson**

Senior Impact Assessment Officer
Impact Assessment Division, Science and Innovation Branch (SIB)
Natural Resources Canada

CC: Annie Montpetit, Acting Team Lead, Impact Assessment Division, Science and Innovation Branch
Christina Clarke – Acting Director, Impact Assessment Division, Science and Innovation Branch

Appendix 1 Federal Authority Advice Record Brandon Dispatchable Capacity

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**Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)**
**FAAR Response must be submitted by July 19, 2026**
Brandon Dispatchable Capacity Project – Manitoba Hydro
Registry File: 90571

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|---|---|
| Department/Agency | Natural Resources Canada |
| Lead Contact | Natalie Robinson |
| Full Address | 580 Booth Street Ottawa ON K1A 0Y7 |
| Email | Natalie.Robinson@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca |
| Telephone | 403.483.4587 |
| Alternate Contact | Annie Montpetit, Annie.Montpetit@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca |

1. Will your department or agency exercise a **power, perform a duty or function**, or provide **financial assistance**, related to the project to enable it to be carried out in whole or in part?

   As relevant,

   a) Specify the power, duty or function, or financial assistance, and the likelihood that it will be required to construct the project, based on the Initial Project Description, as either Required, Potential, Likely, Unlikely or Not Required

      Based on the information provided to date, through its role in the administration of the Explosives Act, NRCan is unlikely to exercise a power or perform a duty or function that would enable the proponent to meet required federal approvals, as identified in the Initial Project Description Summary.

   b) Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines

      No Indigenous or public consultation is anticipated in relation to the exercise of that function.

   c) Describe any associated information requirements (e.g., alternative means assessment, habitat offsetting) and specify those that may be coordinated with the impact assessment process, if an impact assessment is required

      Not applicable.

   d) Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide

      In regards to other project related information, the Proponent should be aware of, Natural Resources Canada leads the Open Science and Data Platform, an open catalogue of thousands of federal, provincial and territorial government records, including, datasets, scientific publications, and regulatory information relating to impact assessment and cumulative effects. The diverse information accessible through the Platform would be useful to the proponent to inform the identification of issues, analysis and drafting of their impact statement should a federal impact assessment be required.

   e) Indicate whether your department or agency has identified any power that it will not be exercising or may not be able to exercise to allow the project to be carried out, in whole or in part.

      Not Applicable.

2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate[1] and the information in your possession, including the Initial Project Description, any exchanges with the proponent or others related to the project and known means to address the effects of the project. For each key issue:

   a) Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
   b) Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
   c) Explain why it's a key issue based on:
      i. biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
      ii. concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
      iii. the issue being material[2] to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act*
   d) Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment
   e) Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

Natalie Robinson, Impact Assessment Officer
Name and title of Departmental / Agency Responder

July 19, 2026
Date

[1] Refer to the Memoranda of Understanding with IAAC.
[2] An issue is material to decision making if its analysis is anticipated to affect the conclusions on (1) whether adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or direct and incidental adverse effects (collectively adverse federal effects) are likely not significant, or of low, medium or high significance; (2) appropriate mitigation measures for significant adverse federal effects; or (3) justification in the public interest.

**Table 1: Key Issues to inform the impact assessment process**

This table should outline key issues to inform the impact assessment process, including whether an impact assessment is required and, if so, the scope of the assessment and tailoring of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

Key issues are the major concerns directly related to a project component or activity, the analysis of which is anticipated to be material to decision-making under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Federal authorities' advice should be guided by the identification and resolution of key issues. If an impact assessment is required, it will be focused on key issues.

| Comment ID | a) Key issue | b) Project component or activity | c)(i) Biophysical effect pathway(s) | c)(ii) Concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate | c)(iii) Material to federal decision-making | d) Means for issue resolution | e) Additional information from the proponent |
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| *Identify comments by organization and comment number.*<br><br>*e.g.: IAAC-01* | *Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).* | *Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.*<br><br>*Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.* | *Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).* | *Describe why it's a key issue within the mandate of your department or agency, including in terms of priorities of the federal government and in terms of anticipated likelihood, severity or uncertainty of effects.*<br><br>*Identify if the key issue is common for projects of this nature or in this sector, or whether it's unique to this project due to its complexity, size or novelty; a sensitive or rare receiving environment; and/or proximity of sensitive environmental or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples).* | *Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:*<br><br>• *an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:*<br>  ○ *federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;*<br>  ○ *presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);*<br>  ○ *novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;*<br>  ○ *high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;*<br>  ○ *unknown or unproven mitigation; or*<br>• *a factor for the justification in the public interest anticipated to be material to decision-making such as a likely positive effect contributing to sustainability, to Canada's environmental obligations or climate change commitments or in supporting governmental priorities, such as reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.* | *Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:*<br>• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;*<br>• *Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;*<br>• *Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or*<br>• *Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).* | *Describe information the proponent can provide, or commitments the proponent can make, in their Response to the Summary of Issues that would provide confidence that the issue can be resolved by existing means.*<br><br>*Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.* |
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*Please insert additional rows as necessary.*