

Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR)**FAAR Response must be submitted by July 19, 2026**

Brandon Dispatchable Capacity Project – Manitoba Hydro

Registry File: 90571

Department/Agency	Indigenous Services Canada
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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?

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will not be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the project as it is not located on reserve lands.

As relevant,

- 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
 - Describe any associated Indigenous or public consultation, including timelines
 - 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
 - Identify any associated project-specific guidance or issues of which the proponent should be aware, or information the proponent should provide
 - 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.
2. **Using Table 1**, identify project- and context- specific **key issues**, based on the expertise within your mandate¹ 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:
- Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location)
 - Specify the project component or activity linked to the key issue
 - Explain why it's a key issue based on:
 - biophysical effect pathway(s) from the specific project component or activity
 - concern unique to the project or a priority within your mandate
 - the issue being material² to decision making under the *Impact Assessment Act*
 - Identify how the issue could be resolved, including through means other than an impact assessment
 - Identify additional information the proponent could provide including to give confidence on how the issue can be addressed through other means.

Julia Gregory, A/Manager, Impact Assessment Indigenous Services Canada
Name and title of Departmental /
Agency Responder

Date: July 17, 2026

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
<i>Identify comments by organization and comment number.</i> <i>e.g.: IAAC-01</i>	<i>Specify the key issue (e.g., specific species and location).</i>	<i>Identify the project component or activity linked to the key issue.</i> <i>Be specific about the nature, scale, novelty and complexity or the component or activity.</i>	<i>Identify the specific biophysical effect pathway between the project component or activity and the affected environmental or human receptor (including Indigenous Peoples).</i>	<i>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.</i> <i>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).</i>	<i>Describe why the key issue is material to decision-making as either:</i> <i>an adverse effect within federal jurisdiction, or a direct or incidental adverse effect, that may be significant based on available evidence including:</i> <i>federal experts' knowledge and experience with past project assessments;</i> <i>presence of sensitive species, habitats or human receptors (including Indigenous Peoples);</i> <i>novel or complex project activities, components or technologies;</i> <i>high uncertainties in effects or in the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</i> <i>unknown or unproven mitigation; or</i> <i>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.</i>	<i>Describe how the key issue could be resolved or addressed by:</i> <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance that your department or agency has;</i> <i>Any means, including powers, duties, functions, frameworks, policies or guidance from another jurisdiction, including the province;</i> <i>Common, proven, well-understood or standard mitigation measures to mitigate the effect or effect pathway(s); or</i> <i>Commitments made by the proponent (e.g., in the Initial Project Description).</i>	<i>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.</i> <i>Consider whether information, studies, analyses or collaborative work with other authorities would be required to address the issue beyond existing means.</i>
ISC-01	Limited understanding of how Indigenous Nations and communities may benefit from the project.	The information provided does not demonstrate how Indigenous Nations and communities were engaged in identifying potential project benefits, including opportunities related to community well-being, economic participation, employment, procurement, energy access , or other community priorities.	This comment is not related to a biophysical pathway or a potential negative impact to Indigenous Peoples. This comment advocates for the potential benefit of the project to Indigenous Peoples and suggests that the proponent further engage with Indigenous Peoples on potential benefits in the spirit of reconciliation and long-term relationship building.	In alignment with UNDRIP, TRC Calls to Action, and MMIWG Calls for Justice, ISC is committed to honouring the right of Indigenous Peoples to improved health, social and economic conditions. To this end, ISC advocates for engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities to be conducted in a way that helps the proponent understand their local needs, priorities and aspirations, and identify measures that could increase the positive impacts of the project.	Meaningful engagement with Indigenous Nations and communities is essential for understanding the potential positive impacts of the project on Indigenous health and the social determinants of health. It is also critical for identifying opportunities for Indigenous Nations and communities to benefit from the project in ways that reflect community priorities and support long-term well-being. Without input from potentially affected Indigenous Nations and communities, the proponent may not fully understand how project benefits can be designed, enhanced, or shared in ways that align with Indigenous rights, local needs, priorities and aspirations.	To enhance reconciliation and build meaningful relationships with Indigenous Nations and communities in the region, the proponent should focus on how the project could benefit them. This engagement should seek input on opportunities to enhance project-related benefits, including but not limited to: - Employment, training, and skills-development opportunities; - Indigenous procurement and contracting opportunities; - Access to reliable and affordable energy; - Community well-being, health, and social outcomes; and - Other priorities identified by Indigenous Nations and communities.	The proponent should describe how input from Indigenous Nations and communities has informed the identification of project benefits. The proponent should explain how the project will benefit nearby Indigenous Nations and communities.

