

Federal Review Team – Comment Form – draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and draft Permitting Plan

New Nuclear at Wesleyville Project

Response required by: May 7, 2026

Please submit the completed form by May 7, 2026, via email to wesleyville@iaac-aeic.gc.ca. In order to be posted on the Registry, and to align with the Official Languages Act, IAAC is requiring that your submission be provided in French and English. Please note that this is your opportunity to tailor the draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines.

Department/Agency:	Fisheries and Oceans Canada		
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Section 1 – Draft Permitting Plan:

1. Confirm that all applicable legislative and regulatory oversight that may apply to the project, under the authority of your department or agency, is accurately listed in the draft Permitting Plan.

Insert response here:

Yes, the applicable legislative and regulatory requirements for DFO are accurately listed in the draft Permitting Plan.

2. Indicate whether your department or agency has identified any power that it will be unable to exercise to allow the project to proceed, in whole or in part. For more information, please refer to subsection 17(1) of the IAA.

Insert response here:

No, DFO has not identified any power that it will be unable to exercise to allow the project to proceed, in whole or in part.

Section 2 – Draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines:

1. Please review the [draft Integrated Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines](#) (the Integrated Guidelines) sections that are applicable to your department’s or agency’s mandate.
2. Using the table below, given the context of the project, please provide any comments and include your recommendation for how the final Integrated Guidelines should be adapted to address your comments.
 - Please indicate any corrections, additions or deletions that should be made to the text including considerations of submissions from First Nations and other Indigenous communities that are relevant to your departmental expertise. Please provide a clear context and rationale for your recommendations, including how their implementation would help focus the assessment on, and resolve, key issues relevant to federal decision-making.
 - Federal expert advice should be solution oriented and commensurate to the context of the project. Advice should be informed by risk-based prudence and evidence in the proponent’s Initial Project Description, Summary of Issues, Response to the Summary of Issues, and publicly available information, with a strong reliance on well-understood mitigation measures, existing guidance, and regulatory instruments that will manage effects. Advice should also be informed by a clear understanding of the project and the local biophysical and socio-economic context. In doing so, departments and agencies are encouraged to ensure that information requirements are proportionate, clearly justified, and practicable within the context of the impact assessment process and associated timelines (i.e., GoC 3-year target for nuclear projects). Advice should focus on outcomes and the information necessary to support sound decision-making, while maintaining flexibility in how requirements may be met. Departments and agencies are also encouraged to avoid duplication with existing regulatory instruments and to identify opportunities to streamline the draft Integrated Guidelines, including proposing the removal or consolidation of requirements where effects can be effectively addressed through existing legislative, policy, or permitting frameworks.
3. *Strategic Questions to Inform Advice*
 - *What knowledge/information does your department have in relation to the key issue? Does your department have any ongoing or upcoming relevant studies/initiatives? What information/action might support mitigating/resolving issues?*
 - *Do we have a good understanding of the pathways of effects? Which key VCs or pathways of effects are missing? Do we have common ground on what the key issues are?*
 - *What federal and provincial tools can be leveraged to resolve issues and avoid duplicating efforts? How can we use existing regulatory frameworks to build confidence in predictions and outcomes?*

Department – Comment ID (e.g., ECCC-01)	Draft Integrated Guidelines Section (and subsection, if available)	Context and Rationale (provide an explanation of your comments)	Recommendation: provide text to be inserted or deleted. Be specific on the location within the draft Integrated Guidelines that the text would be added/deleted.
DFO-01	5.11.2 – Effects to Fish and Fish Habitat	The effects from the intake and outfall should be described similar to the thermal effects section.	Insert at the end of section 5.11.2: Describe the effects from the water intake and outfall associated with nuclear power generating activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effects on fish and fish habitat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - physical displacement of life stages exposed to intake and outfall;

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - loss of -or- changes to fish habitat from the construction of the intake and outfall structures - behavioural responses (attraction and avoidance) for all life stages; and - direct effects (survival, growth, reproduction, diet, condition) and indirect analysis and evaluation of the incremental effects from the Project, and the cumulative effects of combined intakes and outfalls, as well as from other industrial activities, including nearby nuclear facilities, within in the vicinity of the Project location.
DFO-02	5.11.2	DFO recommends a bullet point be added to ensure that the fulsome effects on fish and fish habitat are assessed in terms of habitat function and productivity, not solely area disturbed. This for each project activity, component and phases of the project that has the potential to impact fish and fish habitat .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe and quantify effects and impacts on fish habitat in terms of habitat function, not solely spatial extent, including changes to habitat quality, connectivity, availability, and suitability for each fish species and their life stages.
DFO-03	5.11.2	DFO recommends the inclusion of these bullets to ensure that the guidelines require the proponent to demonstrate how avoidance and mitigation measures for fish and fish habitat are incorporated into project design and reflected in the characterization of effects. While the current guidelines provide detailed direction on identifying potential effect pathways, they do not clearly require proponents to assess effects in the context of best available technologies and mitigation measures, particularly for impingement, entrainment, and thermal effects associated with nuclear facilities.	<p>Insert where applicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and describe all mitigation and avoidance measures incorporated into the design, construction, operation, maintenance, refurbishment, and decommissioning of the project to avoid or reduce adverse effects on fish, fish habitat, and other aquatic biota, consistent with DFO's mitigation hierarchy. - Describe measures to avoid or mitigate harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat, or the death of fish, with consideration of species, life stage, sensitive periods (e.g. spawning, incubation, migration, overwintering), and sensitive habitats potentially affected by the project. - Describe the measures to avoid or mitigate effects on fish from impingement and entrainment associated with cooling water and auxiliary water systems,

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			<p>including intake siting, design features, screening, pumping rates, and operational controls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Describe measures to avoid or mitigate effects from thermal discharges and thermal plumes, including controls on discharge temperature, flow, and location, and measures to reduce the risk of thermal shock, attraction or avoidance behaviour, and changes to fish distribution or survival. - Describe measures to avoid or mitigate effects of noise, vibration, and blasting on fish and aquatic biota, including timing considerations, spatial separation from aquatic habitats, and the use of avoidance or attenuation measures, where applicable.

Insert as many rows as applicable