



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

President

Président

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

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Gitane De Silva
Chief Executive Officer
Canada Energy Regulator
Gitane.DeSilva@cer-rec.gc.ca
ConsultationWestPath2023@cer-rec.gc.ca

Gitane De Silva :

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is aware that, on May 24, 2022, the Commission of the Canada Energy Regulator (the Commission) submitted its Recommendation Report regarding the NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. West Path Delivery 2023 Project (the Project). The Agency also note the Commission's recommendation, in Section 1.4.2 of the Recommendation Report, that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada (the Minister) initiate a regional assessment under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), in cooperation with other relevant jurisdiction(s), to address various issues of concern that were raised during the assessment of the Project. These issues include cumulative effects on Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights in the region.

The Agency understands that the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) is continuing to consult Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project on the Commission's Recommendation Report. During recent meetings with the CER, the Agency's Regional and Strategic Assessments team has provided an overview of the regional assessment program, as well as the processes, factors and timelines associated with the submission and review of regional assessment requests to the Minister under subsection 97(1) of the IAA. This includes discussing the information requirements detailed in the Agency's *Operational Guide: Requesting a Regional or Strategic Assessment under the Impact Assessment Act* (the Operational Guide) which is available online at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/regional-strategic-assessments/requesting-regional-strategic-assessment-iaa.html>.

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As discussed and confirmed with CER staff at these meetings, the above noted recommendation for a regional assessment requires additional information, as outlined in the Operational Guide, in order for it to be considered a complete request under subsection 97(1) of the IAA.

Should a complete regional assessment request be received, the Agency will initiate and undertake an analysis of the information provided, to help inform the Minister's decision and eventual response to requestor(s). Pursuant to the IAA and its associated regulations, the Minister would respond, with reasons, within 90 days of receipt of a complete request. The request and the Minister's response would be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

If the CER has any questions or requires further information on this process, please contact Dr. Steve Bonnell, Manager of Strategic and Regional Assessments at stephen.bonnell@iaac-aeic.gc.ca or (709) 682-4192.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Terence Hubbard