



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

May 20, 2025

Sent via Email

Karim Zariffa
Consultant
AHP Development Corporation
<Contact information removed>

Dear Karim Zariffa:

SUBJECT: Reminder regarding the transitional provisions of the *Impact Assessment Act* and the implications for the Amisk Hydroelectric Project

In follow-up to previous [correspondence](#) dated July 16, 2024, and discussions in subsequent meetings and email correspondence, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) is writing to provide a reminder of next steps following the June 20, 2024 amendments to the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). If by June 20, 2025, IAAC does not receive the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Amisk Hydroelectric Project (the project), IAAC intends to transition the project to an impact assessment under the IAA.

The project has been subject to an environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) since 2015, and the final EIS Guidelines were issued on February 19, 2016. With respect to projects referred to a review panel and undergoing an environmental assessment under CEAA 2012, the transitional provision in subsection 183(2.1) of the IAA states that if the required information or studies are not provided within one year after the amended IAA comes into force, IAAC may decide that the environmental assessment of the project is to be continued as an impact assessment under the IAA, as if the impact assessment had been referred by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to a review panel under subsection 36(1) of the IAA.

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Next Steps

IAAC is of the understanding that AHP Development Corporation will not be able to provide an EIS or other substantial information within one year of the amended IAA coming into force. Therefore, on June 20, 2025, IAAC intends to transition the environmental assessment under CEAA 2012 to an impact assessment under the IAA. Following the transition to the IAA, any work undertaken by IAAC in relation to the impact assessment will be subject to cost recovery under the provisions of the *Cost Recovery Regulations*.

Once the project is transitioned, IAAC will prepare guidance on how to meet the requirements of the IAA. This work would include:

- Revising the EIS Guidelines by updating to reflect the applicable information or studies to meet the requirements of the IAA;
- Cooperation Plan with other jurisdictions;
- Engagement and Partnership Plan with Indigenous peoples;
- Public Participation Plan; and
- Permitting Plan.

IAAC would consult Indigenous groups and the public on these documents.

AHP Development Corporation will have three years from the issuance of the revised EIS Guidelines to provide an impact statement with all relevant information or studies. If the information or studies are not provided within this time limit, the impact assessment would be terminated, pursuant to subsection 20(1) of the IAA.

In the coming weeks, IAAC will request that you provide a work plan for the Impact Statement phase detailing the time needed to provide the information and studies required by the IAA.

IAAC notes that the project has been suspended since 2017. If AHP Development Corporation does not intend to carry out the project, you are encouraged to advise IAAC and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change in writing of your intent to terminate the project. In that case, the project will not be transitioned to the IAA.

Note that, if the environmental assessment is terminated the IAA will continue to apply. In accordance with subsection 7(1) of the IAA, a proponent of a designated project is prohibited from carrying out any act related to the project that may cause one of the effects listed therein. If a proponent wishes to continue with the Project after the termination of the

assessment, it must submit an Initial Project Description to IAAC in accordance with section 10 of the IAA.

If you wish to discuss any of the above, or have questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact Tracy Utting at

<Contact information removed>

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Candida Cianci
Director, Review Panels Division

c.c.: Matt Colden, President, AHP Development Corporation
Virginia Crawford, Director, Crown Consultation, IAAC