



PEACE REGIONAL
**ENERGY
ALLIANCE**

Position Paper

BUILDING A SOCIAL LICENSE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHWESTERN ALBERTA

PREPARED BY THE PEACE REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE (PREA)

FINAL

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FOR PUBLIC RELEASE



Executive Summary

The Peace Regional Energy Alliance (PREA), representing a coalition of municipalities in Northwestern Alberta, is united in its support for advancing nuclear energy development in the Peace Region. As a coordinated alliance of municipal leaders, PREA is committed to ensuring communities are informed, prepared, and positioned to benefit from this transformative opportunity.

Alberta is entering a period of growth in electricity demand alongside a transition in how energy is generated. Nuclear energy offers a reliable, affordable, and zero-emission baseload solution that supports long-term energy security and economic stability. PREA supports the Government of Alberta in advancing nuclear energy as part of its long-term energy strategy and positions itself as an essential **regional partner** in this work. With appropriate resources and capacity, municipalities will be well-positioned to support planning, engagement, and infrastructure readiness.

PREA is equally committed to ensuring that communities are engaged early and meaningfully throughout the process. Through strong partnerships, transparent communication, and shared benefits, Northwestern Alberta is ready to lead responsible nuclear energy development and growth alongside both the provincial and federal governments.

PREA serves as the strong united voice of energy and economic diversification, committed to an advocacy role for the dissemination of unbiased and evidence-based information to Northwestern Albertans. PREA stands ready to work with the Government of Alberta as the province formalizes their nuclear energy stance and respective framework/policies.

PREA understands and supports the concept of reliability, sustainability and affordability of nuclear energy as outlined in the Province of Alberta's press announcement in April of 2026.

PREA also strongly supports the National Electricity Strategy released on May 14, 2026 in its statement that electricity is the clear solution to Canada's energy security, affordability, and competitiveness. This includes the funding and development of new nuclear projects in our country.



Position Summary

PREA, through its existing mandate and representative local and regional role in Northwestern Alberta, will advocate for and advance new energy projects and boldly endorse nuclear development for its region. Furthermore, PREA encourages the Government of Alberta to advance their public policy platform and framework on nuclear development and officially designate the Peace River region of **Northwestern Alberta (PEACE REGION)** as the location for such developments in Alberta.

The creation of jobs, new business development, environmental stewardship and careful advancement of energy related projects will enhance the economic prosperity of the entire region.

Who We Are: Background

The Peace Regional Energy Alliance (PREA) brings together municipal leaders from across the Peace Region to provide a unified, region-first voice on major energy and economic development opportunities.

PREA includes:

- County of Northern Lights
- Municipal District of Peace No. 135
- Northern Sunrise County
- Town of Grimshaw
- Town of Manning
- Town of Peace River
- Village of Berwyn
- Village of Nampa

PREA represents both elected officials and administrative leadership, working collaboratively to advance regional priorities. PREA's role is to advocate for responsible development, support economic diversification, and ensure communities are informed, engaged, and prepared for emerging energy opportunities.

With strong regional alignment and established leadership, PREA serves as a trusted bridge between government, industry, and communities. PREA is committed to establishing the Peace Region as Alberta's nuclear hub, supporting responsible development, regional prosperity, and long-term energy leadership. PREA's priorities are also closely aligned with those of the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC), including workforce readiness, infrastructure planning, regional coordination, and long-term economic opportunities.



Community sentiment demonstrates both interest and concern, with a large component of residents seeking accessible, clear science-based information from unbiased third parties. Engagement must be proactive, transparent, and sustained, particularly regarding economic benefits, emergency preparedness, land-use compatibility, water use regulations, infrastructure impacts, proponent financing and long-term waste as well as environmental stewardship.

Drawing on Canadian precedents such as Bruce Power's expansion in Ontario, where public support exceeds 80% when engagement is robust, PREA can position the Peace Region as **Alberta's model nuclear hub**.

SOCIAL LICENSING FOR THE PEACE REGION

Defining "Social License" for Nuclear in the Peace Region

A social license is built through trust, transparency, and ongoing engagement. In the Peace Region, it will be achieved through clear communication, accessible information, and meaningful opportunities for community participation.

PREA will facilitate and lead, when necessary, a coordinated regional approach to engagement, ensuring residents receive credible, science-based information and have opportunities to participate in the conversation throughout the lifecycle of any project.

Strong public confidence is supported by demonstrated safety, environmental stewardship, and the delivery of tangible local benefits. Ongoing transparency and open communication will continue to strengthen trust across the region.

PREA defines social license in the Peace Region as:

- A trusted voice and advocate for safety oversight across the entire lifecycle (site, construction, operation, decommissioning).
- Leadership on regional economic prosperity through shared decision making.
- Transparent third-party facilitation of public engagement, where information is accessible, questions are answered, and participation influences project regulators, influencers and both Provincial and Federal government decisions.
- Identify tangible local benefits (jobs, training, supply chain, municipal revenues, community investments) through, in part, the development, negotiation and execution of a long-term Regional Benefits Agreement for the area.
- Credible waste and emergency management information through official networks.
- Measurable accountability via public reporting and independent verification, to ensure transparency, accountability and integrity for the Peace Region.

PREA supports nuclear development in the Peace Region contingent on these principles being upheld.



Background: Learning and Best in Class

PREA will apply proven, best-in-class approaches from across Canada, where early engagement, transparent communication, and clear community benefits have supported strong public confidence in nuclear development. PREA is also a member of the Canadian Association of Nuclear Host Communities (**CANHC**) and is learning from experienced host communities across Canada as the Peace Region prepares for its potential role as an emerging nuclear host community.

Provincial engagement is underway. Alberta launched a province-wide engagement process in 2025 (surveys, information sessions, and an expert panel that traveled across Alberta) to determine how nuclear could fit into Alberta's electricity mix. The panel reported to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities in March 2026, and a final report was publicly released in April 2026. This will be followed up by a comprehensive nuclear roadmap and regulatory framework to support nuclear energy in Alberta in early 2027.

Indigenous Rights-Respecting Engagement

As a regional alliance, we recognize the importance of meaningful Indigenous consultation and collaboration with First Nations and Métis communities. We are dedicated to being good neighbours by building strong, respectful relationships grounded in trust, open dialogue, and a shared willingness to listen and learn.

We affirm that project proponents must undertake full, meaningful, and ongoing consultation with Indigenous communities throughout all phases of project planning, assessment, and development. Consultation processes must be conducted in good faith and ensure that Indigenous perspectives, traditional knowledge, rights, interests, and concerns are appropriately considered and reflected in project decision-making processes and outcomes.

Waste Management

PREA recognizes the significance of public concerns related to the long-term management, transportation, and oversight of spent nuclear fuel and the importance of addressing those concerns through transparency, accountability, and ongoing engagement. Providing communities with clear, accurate, and accessible information regarding Canada's national used-fuel policy, transportation oversight, and emergency preparedness measures is essential to building public confidence. Ongoing communication and transparency are critical to supporting public understanding of the regulatory framework, safety standards, and long-term management approaches associated with used nuclear fuel. We support continued collaboration with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization to advance meaningful public and stakeholder engagement initiatives that encourage open dialogue, information sharing, and responsiveness to community questions and concerns.

Canada's used-fuel plan is to construct a Deep Geological Repository (DGR) in the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation–Ignace area, selected after years of technical studies and community willingness processes. This national solution is progressing under federal oversight; transport planning will be regulated and publicly scrutinized.

The CNSC regulates packaging and transport of nuclear substances, and the IAAC/CNSC processes require robust accident prevention and emergency response plans developed in conjunction with nuclear proponents—key components for a social license in our region.

CLOSING

PREA, representing the Peace Region, will steward a people-first approach grounded in openness, inclusion, and measurable benefits. PREA formally supports advancing nuclear energy development in Northwestern Alberta and stands ready to act as the unified regional voice in partnership with government, industry, and communities. With this plan, the Peace Region can demonstrate how Alberta responsibly earns **a social license** for nuclear energy—setting a national standard while building prosperity at home in Northwestern Alberta.

The Peace Region is ready to lead—demonstrating how Alberta can successfully build public confidence while advancing a reliable and sustainable energy future.



ENDORSEMENT SIGNATURES

PEACE REGIONAL ENERGY ALLIANCE MEMBERS:

Reeve, County of Northern Lights

Reeve, Municipal District of Peace

Reeve, Northern Sunrise County

Mayor, Town of Grimshaw

Mayor, Town of Manning

Mayor, Town of Peace River

Mayor, Village of Berwyn

Mayor, Village of Nampa