



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

February 15, 2023

Sent by email

Request for Federal Expert Advice

- Dale Gration, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Thomas Hoggarth, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Chantal Roberge, Health Canada
- Vera Haslett, Transport Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Designation Request for the Baldwin East Aerodrome Project under the *Impact Assessment Act* – Please Reply by March 3, 2023

On February 3, 2023, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) received a request to designate the Baldwin East Aerodrome Project (the Project) under subsection 9(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). The designation request from the Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers is enclosed (Enclosure 1).

The Proposed Project

Sutton Airport Development Inc. is proposing to construct and operate a new aerodrome in the Town of Georgina, Ontario. As proposed, the Project would include two paved, all-weather, marked and lighted runways which would have a maximum length of 893 metres and 991 metres, respectively. The Project would also include a clubhouse building, an aircraft hangar and supporting use development lots, and aerodrome access roads.

Further information on the Project is in Sutton Airport Development Inc.'s Final Summary Report at <https://www.newaerodromeontario2021.ca>.

Designation Request Process

The Project as proposed is not a designated project, as described in the *Physical Activities Regulations*. The impact assessment process under the IAA only applies to designated projects.

.../2

-2-

Under subsection 9(1) of the IAA the Minister may, by order, designate a physical activity that is not prescribed in the *Physical Activities Regulations*.¹ The Minister may do this, if, in the Minister's opinion, the physical activity may cause adverse effects within federal jurisdiction or adverse direct or incidental effects (resulting from federal decisions), or public concerns related to those effects warrant the designation. This discretionary authority enables the Minister to consider **exceptional circumstances**, such as where a project is proposed in an environmentally sensitive location or there is a new or unique type of project that was not contemplated when the Project List was developed. The Minister would consider a number of relevant factors including whether or not:

- standard design features and mitigation would address the anticipated adverse effects;
- the potential adverse effects can be adequately managed through other existing legislative or regulatory mechanisms.

The Agency prepares a recommendation to the Minister on whether the Project should be designated and considers all the information and comments received. The Agency considers comments and input from the public, Indigenous communities, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Town of Georgina, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and expert advice from federal authorities.

According to subsection 9(4) of IAA, it is expected that the Minister will respond, with reasons, to the request by May 14, 2023.

Seeking Federal Authority Advice

The Agency is requesting that you complete and return the attached Federal Authority Advice Record (Enclosure 2) by **March 3, 2023**.

Send the response to Spencer Roth, Project Analyst via email at designationontario@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

A Registry page for the Project will be available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations>.

.../3

¹ Information regarding the process for designation requests can be found at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/designating-project-impact-assessment-act.html>.

-3-

Important Note: All records produced, collected or received in relation to the designation request process – unless prohibited under the *Access to Information Act* or *Privacy Act* – are considered public and may be released. The Agency's Submission Policy² determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice³.

If you have any questions regarding the designation process or the Federal Authority Advice Record, please do not hesitate to contact Spencer Roth by email or telephone (647-355-7318).

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Susan Tiege
A/Regional Director, Ontario Region

Enclosures (2):

- 1) Designation Request Letter from the Pefferlaw Area Ratepayers
- 2) Federal Authority Advice Record – Designation Request under the IAA – Baldwin East Aerodrome Project

c.c.: Robert Clavering, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries Protection Program, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Kitty Ma, Health Canada
David Zeit, Transport Canada

² <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

³ <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>