

Comparing Global Impact Assessment Approaches for New Nuclear Projects



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Impact Assessment in Canada

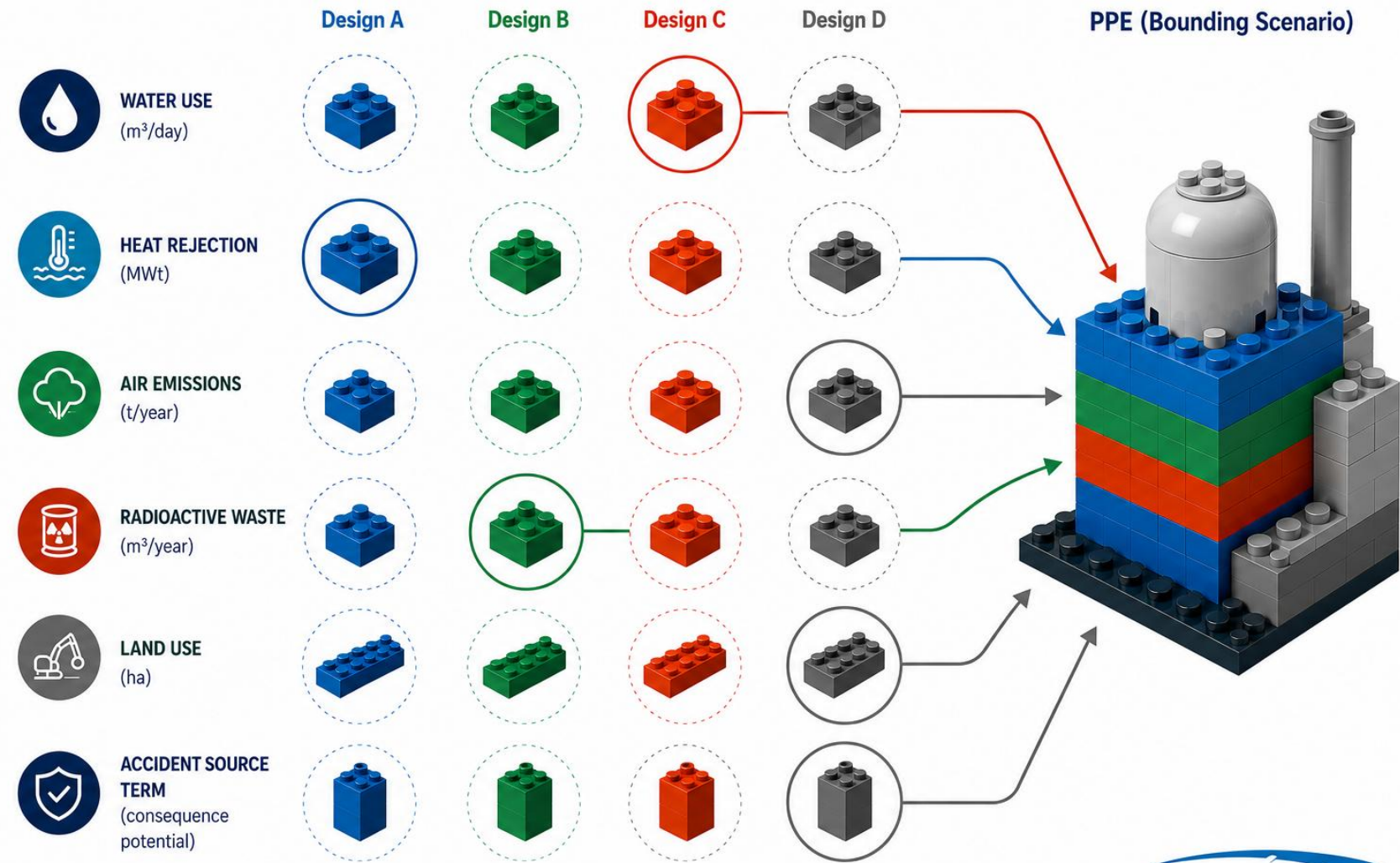


- Physical Activities Regulations designate projects under the Impact Assessment Act (2019)
- During the Planning Phase the required pathway, scope, and depth of the assessment are determined by the Agency.
- Nuclear facilities which are federally regulated by the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission are required to undergo an Impact Assessment and Licensing process

Nuclear Energy in Canada



Plant Parameter Envelope Approach



Near Surface Disposal Facility (NSDF)

- Planned engineered landfill-style repository for low-level radioactive waste (LLW) at the Chalk River Laboratories (CRL) site in Ontario, Canada
- In 2025, Kebaowek First Nation v. CNL / CNSC Federal Court Decision:
 - **Consultation was insufficient**
 - **It failed to consider UNDRIP when assessing consultation adequacy**



National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (NRWWMF)



- Australia's proposed national near-surface radioactive waste disposal facility
- Kimba, South Australia on the Eyre Peninsula
- In 2023, the Barngarla traditional owners won a Federal Court case, which:
 - **Invalidated the site selection process**
 - **Found procedural/legal flaws in how the decision was made**

What Can Canada Learn from International Practices

Bulgaria process:

- Define scope early and hold it firm by adopting clearer front-end assessment boundaries reducing scope creep, iterative information requests, and timeline uncertainty.

UK pre-application process:

- Front-load engagement to resolve key issues sooner by strengthening the Planning Phase, major technical, community, and Indigenous concerns are identified and addressed before formal review begins.



Recommendations

- Define scope clearly
- Reduce regulatory overlap
- Deepen Indigenous partnership
- Early and meaningful engagement is critical to project success





Let's continue the conversation!

Message me your questions or comments in the IAIA26 app.

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