

Planning for Nuclear Power

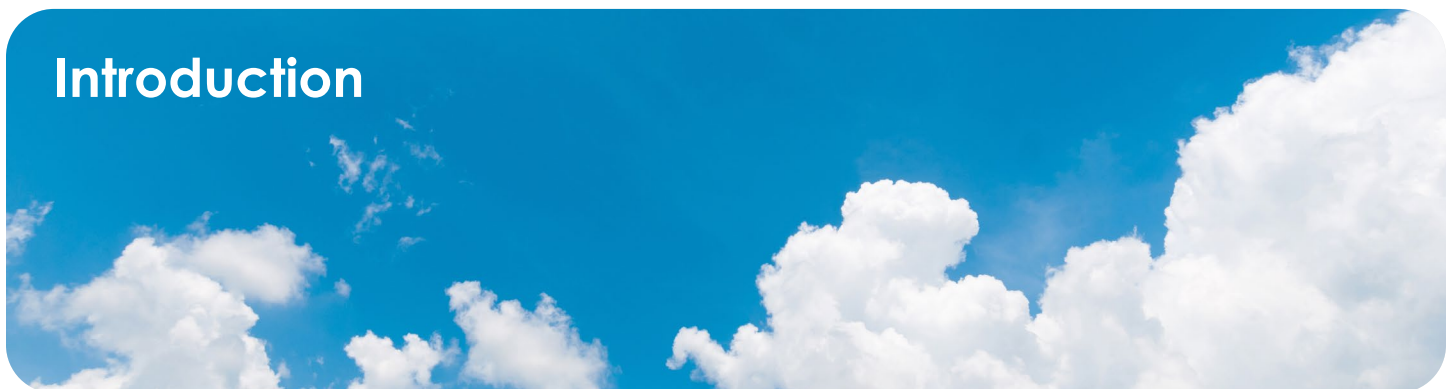
What We Heard Roll-up Report

September – December 2022



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Introduction

On Sept. 21, 2022, we announced that the Estevan and Elbow areas would be considered to potentially host a small modular reactor (SMR). The Elbow study area encompasses an approximate 40 km radius around the Thomson and Gordon McKenzie Arms of Lake Diefenbaker (see map on page 8). Similarly, the Estevan study area is marked by a 40 km radius around the Boundary, Rafferty and Grant Devine Reservoirs (see map on page 9).

Over the next year, our goal is to select a potential site that could support up to two SMRs. This site selection will be based on information collected through detailed technical and environmental analysis, and engagement with communities, stakeholders

and Rightsholders in the study areas. Community feedback helps us identify and understand potential benefits or risks to selecting a specific site.

In this first phase of siting engagement, from September to December 2022, we shared information and learned about each study area. We engaged more than 1,400 participants through virtual and in-person activities. We learned about local interests and priorities, listened to concerns and answered many questions about the project.

This report is a summary of our engagement activities and what we have heard so far.

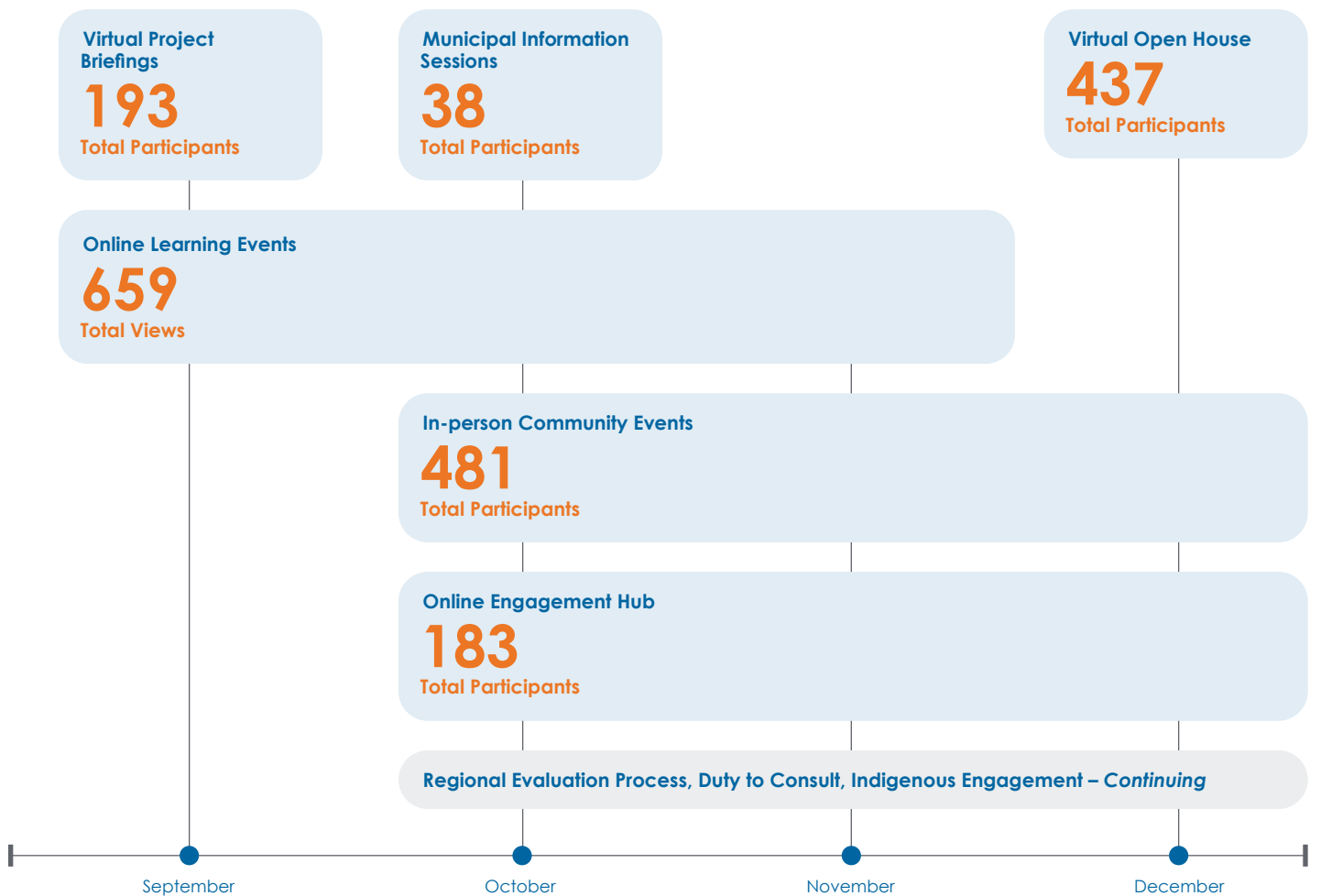




What We Did

Timeline

September – December 2022



Virtual Project Briefings

Directly following our study area announcement in September, we organized six virtual briefing sessions targeting three different audiences: municipal leaders, Indigenous leaders and organizations, and the general public. These hour-long briefings included a presentation introducing the SMR Development Project and a question-and-answer period. **More than 190 people logged on to learn more.**

Municipal Information Sessions

In mid-October, we invited municipal leaders and administrators from the Estevan and Elbow study areas to attend a half-day information session. Building on the Virtual Project Briefing sessions held in September, these in-person meetings focused on the siting process. **A total of 38 representatives attended and shared their community's priorities, engagement and participation preferences, and ways their community could be involved.**

Online Learning Events

Creating opportunities to learn more about Saskatchewan's power grid and supply planning is part of another project called Future Supply Planning – 2030 and Beyond. This project is dedicated to building knowledge around Saskatchewan's electricity generation and grid while providing customers an opportunity to share their perspectives about what's important when considering future power supply options.

Five online learning sessions ran in a 60-minute, webinar format from September to November. Topics included:

- power supply planning
- an introduction to the power grid
- emerging distributed energy technology
- information about nuclear power

Two sessions focused on nuclear energy: Why Nuclear and How Nuclear Power Works. **As of November 2022, over 650 people attended or viewed at least one of the five sessions.**

To stay up to date on progress and opportunities to participate visit saskpower.com/engage.

In-person Community Events

Throughout October and November 2022, members of the SMR Development Project hosted 16 in-person drop-in events, reaching about 350 people. The goal of these drop-ins was to:

- meet a range of community members
- inform study area residents about the project
- answer questions, understand individual perspectives
- identify priorities and interests within the study areas

In the Elbow study area, we hosted two drop-in events in Outlook and Lucky Lake, one in Central Butte and three in Elbow. We held eight events in six communities in the Estevan study area – Weyburn, Alameda, Oxbow, Carlyle, Lampman and Estevan.

From October to December 2022, we also attended a variety of local events to reach a wider demographic within the study areas – we called these “Pop-up Events.” Project team members were stationed at a table and readily available to share information or answer questions. We attended four events in Loreburn, Outlook, Lucky Lake and Estevan and spoke with **more than 130 additional people.**

Virtual Open House

On Dec. 7, 2022, we held a Virtual Open House to provide information about the project, learn from industry experts and ask current nuclear host-community leaders questions about their experiences. The sessions featured presentations and discussions that touched on several aspects of nuclear power in Canada and the development work underway in Saskatchewan.

Over 800 people registered to access the virtual open house site, and over 400 participants attended the live event.

Having informed voices available to Saskatchewan was helpful, as each speaker brought their own expertise and experience and answered many questions from attendees.

Online Engagement Hub

We launched an online engagement hub in September. In the first four months, nearly 200 people contributed to one of the tools on the site:

- 164 responded to quick polls
- 11 asked questions about the project
- 10 placed pins on map to share current uses and observations
- 6 contributed ideas about siting considerations for a potential SMR

The engagement hub at saskpower.com/engage will remain active throughout the SMR engagement process and will be regularly updated.

Indigenous Engagement

Engaging early and often with Indigenous Rightsholders is a crucial part of any major project we consider.

We continue to meet with Indigenous organizations to discuss ways we can engage community members on the SMR Development Project and all our future power supply options. Plans are underway for additional opportunities in 2023.

For more information, please contact IndigenousRelations@saskpower.com.

Regional Evaluation Process

This fall, we launched the Regional Evaluation Process (REP). This parallel engagement process is designed to share information about the project and gather input on regional identity, siting considerations, potential economic development and future public participation preferences to support the project's regulatory and siting process.

To support the REP, we established two committees – one for each of the two study areas – made up of municipalities, regional and stakeholder organizations, academia, non-government organizations and Indigenous organizations. We held two REP workshops in each study area between November and December 2022.

More information about the REP and a full list of committee members can be found at saskpower.com/nuclear.

Duty To Consult

Our siting decision for the SMR Development Project has the potential to impact Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

SaskPower has a duty to consult and accommodate potentially impacted First Nations and Métis locals. Following our study area announcement, we initiated the formal provincial First Nation and Métis Consultation Policy Framework.

These consultations focus on how rights related to hunting, fishing, trapping and other traditional activities are exercised in the study areas so that project siting will avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts.

We've contacted First Nations and Métis locals located in or near the study areas. Rightsholders were sent a notification letter from SaskPower inviting them to the consultation process. Consultations on SaskPower's siting decision are currently underway.





What We Heard

Note: Data from the Regional Evaluation Process, Indigenous Engagement, and Duty to Consult are being collected and reported on separately and aren't included within this analysis.

This first stage of engagement on the siting process primarily focused on sharing information and answering questions. Throughout our engagement activities we heard a wide variety of comments. They ranged from highly enthusiastic about the potential for emissions-free nuclear energy, to concerns about nuclear safety and the impacts of nuclear on the environment. Others were interested in learning more about all the power supply options or the decision-making process.

We appreciate all the comments made so far, the diverse points of view and especially the requests for more information – all of it is highly valuable and helpful to our process.

Most of what we heard were questions. A comprehensive list of questions and answers are being compiled in a companion document that will be published shortly.

Comments and questions from the engagement activities were collected and grouped by theme.

Top 10 Themes

		Total Questions
#1	Nuclear Energy and SMR Technology	144
#2	Power Supply Options	138
#3	Water Use	132
#4	Siting and Location	115
#5	Waste	108
#6	Process and Timeline	93
#7	Power Needs and Energy Transition	70
#8	Public Health, Safety and Risk Management	66
#9	Project and Electricity Costs	60
#10	Employment and Training	45



Elbow Study Area

Lake Water and Environment

Participants emphasized the importance of water quality, as Lake Diefenbaker provides a substantial amount of Saskatchewan with drinking water. Many mentioned the importance of the water's cleanliness, clarity and availability. Water level was also highlighted, with commenters noting current fluctuations. Several people mentioned the province's irrigation project as a key priority for the area and wondered whether an SMR would compete with its needs.

Socio-economic Impacts

Socio-economic priorities and interests were the second most frequently noted topic. Participants identified the significant tourism sector and year-round recreational activities centered on and around the lake such as hunting, boating, swimming, ice fishing and skating. Commenters also prioritized future employment, population growth and economic development. Some mentioned that the resort villages are growing and new communities are being planned. Several participants also suggested that an SMR could complement spin-off benefits of the irrigation project.

Amenities, Services and Infrastructure

Participants from this region saw their location as an advantage, being between Regina and Saskatoon (east side), or near Moose Jaw and Swift Current (southwest side). They emphasized the potential for these to be feeder communities, supplying services or employees. Some people identified gaps/opportunities, such as having only seasonal services, lacking local first responders or having poor roads. There was some discussion of whether the north end of the lake would be better suited for an SMR site, as it has a concentration of existing power lines.



Top 5 Question Topics

1. Siting and Location
2. Water
3. Community Impacts
4. Nuclear Power and SMR Technology
5. Three topics tied:
 - Power Supply Options
 - Public Health, Safety and Risk Management
 - Process and Timeline

Elbow Study Area



(Boundaries are approximate)

- Potential siting area
- - - Proposed study area
- Potential water source
- Communities visited for in-person events



Estevan Study Area

Jobs, Training and Economic Diversification

Participants prioritized job generation and economic opportunities in the area, given the federally regulated phase-out of conventional coal by 2030. Some expressed a desire to re-train coal workers and provide educational opportunities for young people to work in nuclear power. While some commenters emphasized that they wanted to keep existing coal jobs, others saw an opportunity to transition and diversify the economy.

Siting and Land Use

Comments on siting included a request to build the facility on SaskPower land and to prioritize Estevan over Elbow because of its proximity to the United States for selling power across the border. Some felt the Boundary Dam area would be better than the Alameda Dam because of pre-existing industry and deeper waters.

Recreation, Fish and Wildlife

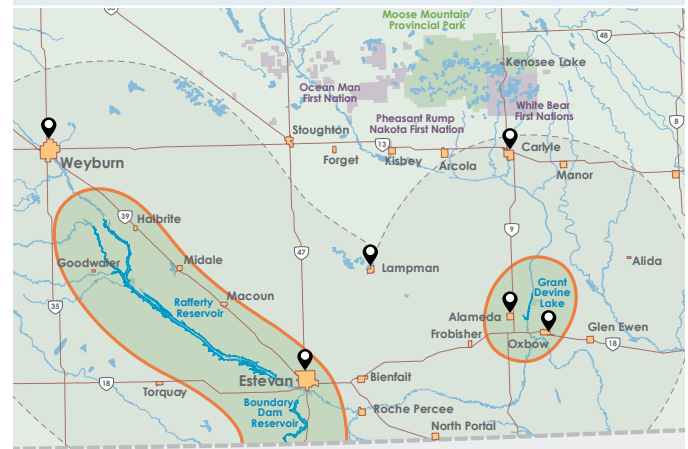
Participants prioritized recreational uses of all three water bodies in the study area, focusing on fishing and ice fishing. They mentioned the importance of the bass in Boundary Dam and the year-round presence of geese because of the warmer water temperatures created by the coal power plant.



Top 5 Question Topics

1. Power Supply Options
2. Siting and Location
3. Employment and Training
4. Nuclear Power and SMR Technology
5. Three topics tied:
 - Power Needs and Energy Transition
 - Public Health Safety and Risk Management
 - Water

Estevan Study Area



(Boundaries are approximate)

- Potential siting area
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- Potential water source
- First Nation reserves
- 📍 Communities visited for in-person events



Participant Feedback

To help shape future engagement activities, we asked participants in the Virtual Open House, Municipal Information Sessions, Drop-in Events and Online Engagement Hub three questions. Their preferences will be considered as we design the next phase of engagement.

The answers below are ranked from most to least preferred.

How would you like to participate or provide feedback?

1. Virtual meetings, webinars and workshops
2. Surveys and other digital tools
3. In-person meetings, presentations and workshops
4. Casual conversations at community events, pop-up booths and open houses

Note: People who attended in-person events tended to prefer this format, while those participating virtually preferred online and digital approaches.

What are you most interested in learning about?

1. Nuclear safety
2. Nuclear waste
3. Cost of electricity
4. Project cost
5. Radiation

How do you want to be kept up to date?

1. Email
2. Social media
3. SaskPower website
4. Community social media and websites
5. Mainstream media
6. Local and Indigenous media

Virtual Open House, Municipal Sessions & Drop-in Events

When asked if participating in the event was a good use of time

88%

of people agreed it was.

Virtual Information Sessions & Online Learning Events

When asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the event

94%

were mostly or very satisfied.





Throughout the fall we heard a desire for more information, details around impacts to water sources and more opportunities to learn about other supply options we're considering. We're using this feedback to shape engagement and information-sharing activities in 2023.

What's Coming Up Next:

- Water Valuation Survey – now open at saskpower.com/watersurvey
- Community Drop-in Events are coming in March

We'll continue to compile feedback from engagement activities and use it to inform the site-selection process.

We recently released two new maps that show potentially suitable siting regions within the Estevan and Elbow study areas. The maps are a snapshot of what our technical analysis and local feedback has shown so far. We haven't excluded any area from hosting an SMR, but some areas show more suitability than others. Visit saskpower.com/nuclear and click on the Potential Facility Location tile to learn more.

As the process unfolds, more detailed maps of the two regional study areas will be released to indicate the areas considered more suitable for a potential SMR.

To participate in online activities, register for upcoming engagement activities and sign up for our project e-newsletter, check out engage.saskpower.com/planning-for-nuclear-power

Learn more about SaskPower's future supply planning process and the power options we're considering by visiting engage.saskpower.com/future-power-supply