



# Appendix A Screening Checklist

## Environmental Review Report

York Energy Centre Upgrades Project

Capital Power Corporation

SLR Project No.: 241.030524.00026

July 2024

## A.1 Screening Checklist

In accordance with the *Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects* (MECP 2024), the screening criteria below have been applied to the YEC Upgrades Project (“the Project”). This screening has focused on the potential for negative environmental effects resulting from the Project. To complete this checklist, mitigation or impact management measures have not been considered.

If a response to a question indicates “Yes”, there is potential for negative environmental effects. Where the response indicates “yes”, additional information and analysis is provided in the Environmental Review Report (ERR) to describe those effects, identify mitigation, or impact management measures to prevent or reduce the effects, and assess the significance of any remaining net effects.

**Each criterion is based on a question which is prefaced with the phrase: *Will the Project:***

**Table A-1: Surface and Ground Water**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
1.1 have negative effects on surface water quality, quantities or flow?		✓	The Project construction phase is associated with equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility pad. No effects on surface or groundwater quality, quantity, flow, or sediment control are anticipated.
1.2 have negative effects on ground water quality, quantity or movement?		✓	
1.3 cause significant sedimentation, soil erosion or shoreline or riverbank erosion on or off-site?		✓	
1.4 cause potential negative effects on surface or ground water from accidental spills or releases to the environment?		✓	The Project does not include the storage or handling of any materials or substances that have the potential to cause negative effects as a result of a spill.



**Table A-2: Land**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
2.1 have negative effects on residential, commercial or institutional land uses within 500 metres of the site?		✓	The Project will be entirely confined to the footprint of the existing YEC. As such, there are no anticipated effects to the surrounding properties within 500 m of the site.
2.2 be inconsistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, provincial land use or resource management plans?		✓	The Project is consistent with the approved existing land uses according to the Provincial Policy Statement and Regional and Local land use policies. The YEC Property is designated as Protected Countryside and Provincial Natural Heritage System in the York Region Official Plan, and Special Policy Area (C-SSPA-3) in the Township of King Official Plan. This policy exempts 18781 and 18765 Dufferin Street from the <i>Planning Act</i> as per Ontario Regulation 305/10 pursuant to s. 62.0.1 of the Act and permits the use of electricity generation onsite. As such, no official plan or zoning by-law amendments are required. Adherence with applicable source water protection plans and policies will remain unchanged.
2.3 be inconsistent with municipal land use policies, plans and zoning bylaws?		✓	
2.4 use hazard lands or unstable lands subject to erosion?		✓	
2.5 have potential negative effects related to the remediation of contaminated land?		✓	There are no known contaminated areas on the YEC Property and no areas undergoing remediation. Minor ground disturbance within the existing facility pad will be required. There is minimal potential for encountering previously undocumented contamination, and no potential for prevention or hinderance of remediation of contaminated land.

**Table A-3: Air and Noise**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
3.1 have negative effects on air quality due to emissions of nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, suspended particulates, or other pollutants?	✓		The Project construction phase is related only to equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility and any effects are considered negligible as activities will occur during IESO scheduled outages. Project operations will include emissions that have the potential to affect air quality. Technical studies have been completed to assess effects and mitigation. Refer to the ERR <b>Section 6.2</b> and <b>Appendix D.2</b> for more information.



Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
3.2 cause negative effects from the emission of greenhouse gases (CO <sub>2</sub> , methane)?	✓		<p>The Project construction phase is related only to equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility and any effects are considered negligible as activities will occur during IESO scheduled outages.</p> <p>Project operations will include emissions of greenhouse gases. Technical studies have been completed to assess effects and mitigation. Refer to the ERR <b>Section 6.3</b> and <b>Appendix D.3</b> for more information.</p>
3.3 cause negative effects from the emission of dust or odour?		✓	<p>The Project construction phase is related only to equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility and any effects are considered negligible as activities will occur during IESO scheduled outages.</p> <p>Project operations will not result in dust emissions. The Project is not anticipated to emit odours during any phase.</p>
3.4 cause negative effects from the emission of noise?	✓		<p>The Project construction phase is related only to equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility and any effects are considered negligible as activities will occur during IESO scheduled outages.</p> <p>Project operations have the potential to generate noise. Technical studies have been completed to assess effects and mitigation. Refer to <b>Section 6.4</b> of the ERR and <b>Appendix D.4</b> for more information.</p>



**Table A-4: Natural Environment**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
4.1 cause negative effects on rare, threatened or endangered species of flora or fauna or their habitat?		✓	A 2022/2023 field program completed for another Capital Power project assessed the YEC Property to identify existing ecological features.  No locally important or valued ecosystems/vegetation were identified within the YEC Property during field studies. Further, no SAR or SAR habitat was identified within the YEC Property; therefore, no effects on SAR or SAR habitat are anticipated (SLR 2024a).  The Project construction phase is associated with equipment delivery and installation within the existing facility experienced during normal operational/maintenance outages. No construction work will occur on undisturbed or naturalized areas. Therefore, no negative effects to the natural environment are anticipated.
4.2 cause negative effects on protected natural areas such as ANSIs, ESAs or other significant natural areas?		✓	
4.3 cause negative effects on wetlands?		✓	
4.4 have negative effects on wildlife habitat, populations, corridors or movement?		✓	
4.5 have negative effects on fish or their habitat, spawning, movement or environmental conditions e.g., water temperature, turbidity, etc.)?		✓	
4.6 have negative effects on migratory birds, including effects on their habitat or staging areas?		✓	
4.7 have negative effects on locally important or valued ecosystems or vegetation?		✓	

**Table A-5: Resources**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
5.1 result in inefficient (below 40%) use of a non-renewable resource (efficiency is defined as the ratio of output energy to input energy, where output energy includes electricity produced plus useful heat captured)?		✓	The upgrades to the YEC would allow the facility to produce electricity more efficiently. The Project is being implemented to provide dependable generation capacity at peak times when Ontario's other generation sources are not capable of meeting demand. In this way the Project will optimize use of non-renewable resources (natural gas), and only operate as necessary (as determined by the IESO).
5.2 have negative effects on the use of Canada Land Inventory Class 1-3, specialty crop or locally significant agricultural lands?		✓	
5.3 have negative effects on existing agricultural production?		✓	Though agricultural lands are located within the Study Area, agricultural lands are not present on the YEC Property.  The Study Area does not include mineral, aggregate, or petroleum resource areas, forest resources, or natural areas suitable for game and fisheries as resources.
5.4 have negative effects on the availability of mineral, aggregate or petroleum resources?		✓	
5.5 have negative effects on the availability of forest resources?		✓	



Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
5.6 have negative effects on game and fishery resources, including negative effects caused by creating access to previously inaccessible areas?		✓	

**Table A-6: Socio-economic**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
6.1 have negative effects on neighbourhood, or community character?		✓	The Project will not change the existing land use at or in proximity to the YEC Property during construction or operation.
6.2 have negative effects on local businesses, institutions, or public facilities?		✓	No increased demand for community services or infrastructure will occur as a result of the Project.
6.3 have negative effects on recreation, cottaging or tourism?		✓	The Project construction is related only to equipment upgrades to the facility, and installation during IESO scheduled outages will further minimize potential effects.
6.4 have negative effects related to increases in the demands on community services and infrastructure?		✓	
6.5 have negative effects on the economic base of a municipality or community?		✓	
6.6 have negative effects on local employment and labour supply?		✓	The Project installation will occur during scheduled YEC maintenance outages. The delivery of upgrade components will be incorporated into the delivery of other components and materials associated with the maintenance outage activities.
6.7 have negative effects related to traffic?		✓	A minor increase in trucking during Project operation will be required, specifically during the seasonably warmer months. Delivery of demineralized water will be required approximately once per week, and up to once per day during hot days. No other increase in trucking or delivery requirements are anticipated because of the upgrades.
6.8 cause public concerns related to public health and safety?		✓	Potential public health concerns associated with air emissions have been addressed under the air quality criteria (Table A-3). Additional public concerns related to public health and safety are not anticipated.



**Table A-7: Heritage and Culture**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
7.1 have negative effects on heritage buildings, structures or sites, archaeological resources, or cultural heritage landscapes?		✓	One potential BHR, a one-and-a-half storey residence, was identified within the Study Area as part of another Capital Power project (ASI 2023a). However, the Project will not result in changes to the existing YEC that could affect this BHR. The property was previously cleared of archaeological concern. Therefore, there will be no effects on cultural heritage resources.
7.2 have negative effects on scenic or aesthetically pleasing landscapes or views?		✓	The changes to the YEC will be within the facility footprint and there will be no change compared to existing conditions.

**Table A-8: Indigenous**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
8.1 cause negative effects on First Nations or other Indigenous communities?		✓	Given there is no change to land use, limited ground disturbance, and all Project related components and activities will occur within the existing YEC facility footprint, negative effects on Indigenous communities have not been identified. Interests, concerns and questions related to the Project that are expressed by Indigenous communities will be documented as part of the engagement program and considered in Project design and documentation as appropriate and applicable. Capital Power is committed to ongoing engagement with interested Indigenous communities.



**Table A-9: Other**

Criterion	Yes	No	Additional Information
9.1 result in the creation of waste materials requiring disposal?		✓	<p>During Project construction, waste materials will be generated through removal of old components undergoing replacement. The removed components will be kept on-site for future refurbishment.</p> <p>Any other waste generated during construction will be managed as part of the outage activities and sent to an approved waste handling facility.</p>
9.2 cause any other negative environmental effects not covered by the criteria outlined above?	Considered as presented below		
9.2.1 Climate Change Considerations	✓		<p>Effects of the Project on the environment: Consideration of GHG emissions is included in Table A-3 above. Refer to ERR <b>Section 6.3</b> for further information.</p> <p>Effects of the environment on the Project: The Project is not anticipated to interact with potential climate hazards in a materially different way than the existing facility and associated components. No further study is required.</p>
9.2.2 Cumulative Effects	✓		<p>The Project is associated with an upgrade to an existing facility and is therefore consistent with existing and planned land uses, and compatible with any nearby planned future land use development.</p> <p>The Project is one of a limited number of natural gas-fired generation projects the IESO has contracted to help fuel the energy transition and maintain reliability in the province. In terms of cumulative effects with emissions from other proposed undertakings, the effects assessments for air quality, GHG, and noise identified that the upgrades to the YEC will make the facility more efficient, with little to no change in emissions. The specific intent of the Project is to enable other industries, businesses and consumers to continue with their electrification and decarbonization plans without risking reliability of the provincial grid.</p>

