

WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD – SUMMARY OF ISSUES

This document provides a high-level summary of the comments received by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) on the Webequie Supply Road Project (the Project) during the comment period on the Initial Project Description submitted by the proponent, Webequie First Nation. The original submissions are posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

Accidents and Malfunctions
Effects of accidents and malfunctions, including to air quality and water quality during all phases of the Project.
Acoustic Environment
Effects of noise disturbance to wildlife, including from blasting activity, machinery use, increased vehicle traffic, helicopter and airplane traffic.
Atmospheric Environment
Effects on air quality from exhaust emissions, fugitive dust, fuel combustion by-products, blasting by-products, mobile off-road machines, vehicles and diesel generator emissions.
Effects on air quality from dust that is generated by vehicular traffic as well as from exposed soils that are cleared and stockpiled for construction.
Birds, Migratory Birds and their Habitat
Effects on birds, including migratory birds, from air emissions, dust and sensory disturbance from noise.
Effects on bird habitat, including migratory birds, like upland and wetland habitats, during breeding season and migration.
Effects on birds, including migratory birds, from increased predation and poaching opportunities.
Effects on birds, including migratory birds, from disruption of movement corridors and collisions with vehicles.
Effects on birds, including migratory birds, from depositing potentially harmful substances in waters or areas frequented by birds.
Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Effects on the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments with respect to climate change.
Effects on peatlands and resulting greenhouse gas emissions from changes to peatlands' ability to store and sequester carbon.
Country Foods
Effects on country foods from contaminants being released into the environment (air, water, soil, or plants).
Effects on country foods as a result of modifications to surrounding peatland and wetland areas, and increase of mercury methylation processes.
Cumulative Effects
Cumulative effects due to further development in the Ring of Fire, including potential resource development and additional infrastructure.
Cumulative effects on fish, wildlife, the ecosystem, Indigenous peoples and their rights.
Cumulative effects on peatlands and their ability to store and sequester carbon.
Drinking Water
Effects on potable water sources including from local alterations to groundwater and surface water flow patterns.
Economic Conditions
Effects on the labour force in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, including request for detail on the anticipated number of jobs created and potential employment opportunities.
Effects on economic conditions due to changes in economic activities associated with the Project and future developments in the Ring of Fire area.
Effects on land prices from the influx of workers to communities.
Effects on active or unpatented mining claims and mining leases nearby or overlapping the Project and communication between the proponent and mineral exploration and development companies.
Dialogue and cooperation with current and future industrial stakeholders whose interests and holdings may be impacted by the Project.
Effects of the Environment on the Project
Effects of the environment on the Project, such as extreme weather events and increased precipitation due to climate change.

Destabilization of project infrastructure in Northern regions from sporadic, discontinuous and warming permafrost.
Fish and Fish Habitat
Effects on fish community dynamics due to increased angling pressure and related activities, including selective removal of some species.
Effects on fish from invasive aquatic life introduced through recreational activities.
Effects on fish and fish habitat including water quality, stream morphology, disruption or destruction of fish habitat or death of fish.
Effects on the movement of fish populations, migratory patterns, spawning and reproductive behaviours from road crossings, poorly designed or perched culverts, and changes in genetics of fish populations due to habitat fragmentation.
General – Assessment Type
Value of a federal assessment, including the assessment of cumulative effects of existing and future development in the Ring of Fire area.
Value of a Regional Assessment to assess the effects of future mineral development and supportive infrastructure in the Ring of Fire area, James Bay and Hudson's Bay Basin.
Involvement and participation of Indigenous groups to determine positive and negative effects in the region.
Value of integrated approach to assessment (versus road-by-road approach to assessment).
General – Project Description
Clarity of the locations of permanent and temporary residences and known sensitive receptors, and location of drinking water sources.
Relationship between Noront's current development plans in the area, the Project and proponent.
Power source for the Project.
Access controls and road use by Indigenous groups, the public and by mineral exploration and development companies.
Clarity on two kilometre wide corridor.
Sufficiency of proposed 35-metre corridor, including for construction activities.
Clarity on the spatial details for the assessment.
Clarity on the direct and incidental effects of the Project.
Clarity on proposed construction camp locations.
Clarity on what the proponent considers an agreement or approval for the Project by communities, Indigenous groups, industrial interests, or Noront.
The Indigenous groups listed in the Anthropogenic Uses and Indigenous Community Activities sections in the Project Description may not encompass all Indigenous groups with traditional connections to the area or that may be impacted by the Project.
Details on the project team, including confirmation of SNC Lavalin's role in authoring the Project Description and Webequie First Nation representation on the project team.
Nature of the proponent's consultation activities and participants in these activities.
Clarity on whether the winter road would have to be upgraded to be used safely to move construction equipment and materials.
Traffic volumes anticipated once the construction of the road is completed, including the base case for anticipated truckloads during operation of the Project.
Role of the province as a proponent in the development of the Project, including operation and maintenance of the road.
Funding (federal or provincial) throughout the Project's complete lifecycle (including planning, construction, and operations).
Identification and communication with owners of mining patents and leases impacted by the Project.
Geology, Geochemistry and Geological Hazards
Effects of using locally sourced gravel as construction material for road building, specifically eskers or other glacial deposits, including effects due to naturally abundant metals, such as chromium, in materials and potential release in northern rivers and lakes.

Human Health and Well-Being
Complex positive and adverse effects on human health from future development including mineral exploration activity enabled by the Project.
Effects due to gender-based violence, spread of sexually transmitted infections and human trafficking, due to the influx of male workers to the communities.
Effects to human receptors from changes to air quality, noise, water quality and country food quality.
Temporal effects to human health, including noise based on construction timing and duration.
Indigenous Consultation and Engagement
Individual Indigenous groups' preferences for engagement and consultation throughout the assessment process, including language preferences.
Involvement and support of the potentially impacted Indigenous groups for development to proceed.
Capacity funding to support participation by Indigenous groups in consultation.
Meaningful, early and ongoing engagement of Indigenous groups by proponent throughout project design, construction, and operation.
Involvement of Indigenous groups in the assessment process, including in discussion, selection of mitigation and decision-making.
Transparent information sharing with Indigenous groups.
Engagement with off-reserve members of Indigenous groups.
Indigenous rights, claims, and interests inform project design and decision-making.
Indigenous groups' land and resource development policies inform the assessment process.
Impacts on relationships and agreements between Webequie First Nation and Indigenous groups in the region, including shared resources within overlapping territories.
Presence of Webequie First Nation Chief and Council in engagement activities with other potentially impacted Indigenous groups.
Indigenous Knowledge
Collection and integration of Indigenous knowledge to enable a comprehensive and collaborative regional planning approach.
Indigenous Peoples Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes
Effects on Indigenous groups' traditional practices such as trapping, traplines, hunting, harvesting (e.g. fur), gathering (e.g. traditional plants, medicines), including locations (e.g. changes in harvesting of caribou due to changes in migration patterns, etc.).
Effects on fish populations and changes to Indigenous groups' ability to fish, pursue commercial or subsistence fishing, and changes to locations of fish populations for cultural and nutritional subsistence practices.
Effects on Indigenous groups due to increased vehicle traffic along the proposed project route through Indigenous traditional territory for industrial purposes.
Effects on Indigenous groups from the foreseeable connection of the Project to the provincial highway network in Nakina.
Effects on Indigenous teaching and spiritual practices, including loss of sites of importance.
Effects on current and historic use of waterbodies by Indigenous groups.
Effects on species (flora and fauna) and components of the environment of importance to Indigenous peoples.
Effects on traditional use of the territory by future generations.
Effects on species that are of cultural and economic importance to Indigenous groups (e.g. caribou, waterfowl, etc.). Request that information on the species be gathered from Indigenous groups.
Information on controlled access to, and use of, the project area and how any access controls would effect Indigenous peoples' current use of lands and resources.
Indigenous Peoples' Economic Conditions
Effects on Indigenous people's economic conditions and economic wellbeing, including economic development, employment and business opportunities for Indigenous groups.
Foster bilateral relationships between the proponent and Indigenous groups', including resource sharing.
Indigenous Peoples' Health Conditions
Effects on Indigenous peoples' health, including effects from other reasonably foreseeable future projects in the area.

Effects on Indigenous peoples' health from chromium, arsenic, and mercury levels in fish, a subsistence food source during all phases of the Project and cumulative effects due to reasonably foreseeable development.
Effects on health conditions of Indigenous people from changes to air quality (including air emissions and dust).
Indigenous Peoples' Rights
Effects of development, including downstream effects, on Indigenous rights.
Land in the area is the traditional territory of Indigenous groups and is used for traditional practices.
Impacts on the exercise of rights as protected under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , including impacts from cumulative effects, and how they will be mutually addressed and mitigated.
Impacts on the Treaty rights and the right to subsist off the land.
Indigenous Peoples' Social Conditions
Effects on social conditions and social wellbeing of Indigenous peoples, including effects on familial relationships.
Indigenous Peoples' Physical and Cultural Heritage
Effects on Indigenous cultural heritage, resources, archeology and way of life from the Project, including aggregate extraction.
Effects on Indigenous groups' cultural heritage and archeological resources from increased traffic traveling through the traditional territory of Indigenous groups for industrial and community access purposes.
Effects on Indigenous groups' cultural heritage and archeological resources from increased vehicle traffic associated with a foreseeable connection to the provincial highway network in Nakina.
Effects on cultural, spiritual and sacred sites from non-community members accessing the area.
Mitigation Measures, Follow-up, and Monitoring Programs
Follow-up and monitoring programs, including a regional environmental monitoring program that is built and led by Indigenous groups, to assist in identifying effects and addressing issues, including vegetation restoration and rehabilitation to avoid direct impacts on traditional activities.
Mitigation measures that are appropriate and include the consideration of cumulative effects.
Mitigation measures in relation to impacts on Indigenous people, their rights, their social, health, and economic conditions.
Mitigation measures in relation to impacts on Indigenous people from changes to environmental conditions, including loss or changes to flora and fauna, water quality, and atmospheric changes.
Navigation
Effects on navigation by the public and Indigenous groups, including activities that obstruct or restrict access to navigable waterways (e.g. portage routes and access roads).
Effects on safety of navigation routes.
Project Contribution to Sustainability
The Project's contribution to sustainability.
Project Expansion
Potential impacts on Indigenous groups if there is a Project expansion.
Purpose of and Need for the Project
Purpose of the Project and its role as part of a future connection to provincial highway network.
Lifespan of the Project in relation to development in the region and the Project's viability without mineral development.
Residual Effects
Effects, including long term and residual following mitigation, on multiple Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities within major watersheds, and on Indigenous groups' living on/using the land.
Riparian and Wetland Environments
Effects on wetlands and overall wetland health including wetland function.
Effects on globally significant bogs and peatlands, and the capacity to store carbon.
Effects on wetlands from invasive species, such as European Common Reed.
Effects on wetlands from roadside herbicides.
Effects on wetlands including water quantity and hydrology.
Social Conditions
Effects on social services from road connectivity.
Effects on current and historic use of the waterbodies by members of the public.

Effects on cottagers, special events, fishing and other recreation activities including from changes to waterbodies.
Species at Risk
Effects on caribou from construction pits and quarries near esker deposits.
Effects on caribou populations, including population stress and habitat fragmentation from the Project and cumulative effects of future development.
Effects on caribou migration patterns, including from future development.
Effects on caribou from linear infrastructure including habitat fragmentation and increased predation.
Effects on species at risk due to effects on upland habitats, including roosting habitat for bats.
Effects on species at risk including noise effects from blasting and disturbance and mortality effects resulting from habitat alteration (including wetland and upland habitats).
Effects on species at risk, including mortality, resulting from habitat alteration.
Effects on species at risk from disruption of wildlife movement corridors, increased predation and poaching opportunities.
Structure, Site, Things of Historical, Archaeological, Paleontological or Architectural Significance
Determination of the location of any structure, site or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in consultation with Indigenous groups.
Surface Water and Groundwater
Effects on the water table at a regional level, including consideration of future development.
Effects on surface water quality by dust deposition, run-off, spills of petroleum products, chemicals, erosion and sedimentation.
Effects on surface water quality from construction camps and along the corridor.
Effects on waterbodies including physical characteristics, bank/bottom features, biological components flow/tides, etc.
Effects on surface water and hydrology from aggregate extraction.
Effects on surface water hydrology from water crossing construction, including velocity changes.
Effects on groundwater quality, including temporary and localized effects during construction.
Terrestrial Wildlife and their Habitat
Effects on wildlife from habitat loss, habitat alteration (including wetland and upland habitats), barriers to dispersal and migration and disruption of wildlife movement corridors.
Effects on wildlife from increased predation and poaching opportunities.
Long term effects on wildlife, including cumulative effects and residual effects following mitigation.
Effects on wildlife from sensory disturbance, noise effects from blasting and mortality during site preparation.
Topography, Soil and Sediment
Effects of the Project on permafrost, including exacerbating warming of permafrost due to the insulating effect of snow collection along the roadside.
Vegetation
Effects on aquatic plants, including from changes to hydrology and water quality.
Vulnerable Population Groups (GBA+)
Effects on vulnerable population groups (GBA+) such as women, disable persons, elders and youth.
Effects on Indigenous women's safety as a result of new roads and potential mining activity.
Clarity on the segments of the population that will either benefit or be negatively impacted (directly or indirectly) by the Project, such as information on indigeneity (quality of being Indigenous), religion, education levels, disability or accessibility, etc.
Effects from road infrastructure on social change, and impacts on diverse subgroups of people differently during all phases of the Project.
Approach to consultation, including that consultation activities consider barriers to participation for local under-represented groups .
Waste and Wastewater
Effects of portable treatment facilities for domestic wastewater and sewage.