



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 24, 2020

Sent by email

(Acting) Chief Jeff Hunter
Weenusk First Nation
34 Main Street
Peawanuck, ON P0L 2H0

Dear (Acting) Chief Jeff Hunter:

**Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the
Webequie Supply Road Project**

Thank you for your continued participation in the planning phase of the federal impact assessment for the Webequie Supply Road Project (the Project). On February 24, 2020, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) posted a Notice of Commencement on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (the Registry) regarding an impact assessment pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) for the Project. The Project is now in the impact statement phase of the federal impact assessment.

The objective of this letter is to:

- Provide you with the finalized Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) that have been issued to the proponent (Enclosure 1);
- Provide you with the finalized Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP), (Enclosure 2);
- Demonstrate how comments were incorporated into the finalized Guidelines and IEPP (Enclosure 3);
- Share the Agency's preliminary understanding of the potential adverse impacts of the Project on Weenusk First Nation's exercise of rights (Enclosure 4);
- Identify the next steps in the impact assessment process and opportunities for Weenusk First Nation to continue to participate in the impact assessment for the Project (Enclosure 5);

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Finalized Guidelines and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan

Comments provided to the Agency during the comment period, from December 19, 2019 to January 28, 2020, on the Guidelines and the IEPP, helped to define the scope and factors to be studied during the federal impact assessment. The input received has been reflected in the Guidelines and the IEPP.

For further information on how the Agency considered your comments and incorporated them into the Guidelines and IEPP, please see the attached Summary Table of Comments.

Pursuant to the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, the Agency has posted the Guidelines and IEPP on the Registry and has delivered these documents to the proponent, Webequie First Nation. Pursuant to section 19(1) of the *IAA*, the Agency must be satisfied that the proponent, Webequie First Nation, has provided the required information and studies outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines within three years from the date of Notice of Commencement.

The Agency has also published the Notice of Commencement, the Guidelines, the IEPP, the Public Participation Plan, the Permitting Plan and the Cooperation Plan with the Province of Ontario, on the Registry. To access a digital copy of these documents, please see the following link: <https://ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183?culture=en-CA>

Information Available to the Crown with Respect to the Potential Adverse Impacts of the Webequie Supply Road Project on Weenusk First Nation's Exercise of Rights

The information available to the Crown on the Project's potential to cause adverse impacts on Weenusk First Nation's exercise of rights is summarized in Enclosure 4. Please review this information and provide the Agency with any additional information that you feel would contribute to the Agency's analysis by **March 24, 2020**.

In addition, please see the Guide on How to Participate during the Federal Impact Assessment Process (Enclosure 5). This document outlines the information, including Indigenous knowledge, that you may consider sharing with the proponent and the Agency to inform the development of the proponent's Impact Statement. Enclosure 5 also identifies areas of interest where Indigenous knowledge would be helpful in assessing potential effects of the Project and potential impacts on the exercise of rights of Indigenous peoples.

Community-Specific Annex to the IEPP

The IEPP provides information on how the Agency will be working with your community during the remaining phases of the impact assessment process for the Project. If you require further activities to support the Agency's consultation with your community, please share your views by **March 24, 2020**. The Agency will be pleased to discuss the development of a community-specific annex to the IEPP.

Important Note

Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file, and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #80183) subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy (<https://iaac.aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>) 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 Notice (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection?culture=en-CA>). If you do not want your comment posted on the Registry, please contact us at IAAC.Webequie.AEIC@canada.ca or call the Agency at 416-476-5476 prior to submitting your comment.

Participant Funding Program

The Agency will offer additional limited funding, through a contribution agreement, to support the participation of Weenusk First Nation throughout the subsequent phases of the federal impact assessment process. The Agency will notify your community once a call for applications for this funding is made available. For further information on participant funding and contribution agreements during the next phases of the impact assessment process please visit the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer, at 416-476-5476 or iaac.FP-PAF.aeic@canada.ca.

Invitation to participate in a Teleconference with the Agency

If you have any questions about the above-noted impact assessment documents or any of the issues identified in this letter, the Agency would be pleased to arrange a teleconference to discuss. I will be following up with your community in the coming weeks to confirm whether you are interested in a teleconference and to schedule a date and time.

Please feel free to contact me at 416-476 5476 or at *IAAC.Webequie.AEIC@canada.ca* if you have any questions. I welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with your community.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Caitlin Cafaro,
Crown Consultation Coordinator

- Enclosures:
1. Finalized Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
 2. Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
 3. Summary Table of Comments
 4. Summary of information available to the Crown with respect to the potential adverse impacts of the Webequie Community Access Road Project on Weenusk First Nation's Exercise of Rights.
 5. Guide on How to Participate During the Federal Impact Assessment Process

c.c.: Linda Hunter, Lands and Resouce Coordinator, Weenusk First Nation
Sam Hunter, Coordinator, Weenusk First Nation
Loreen Hunter-Koostachin, Councillor, Weenusk First Nation
Gordon Wabasse, Lands & Resources Director, Webequie First Nation
Michael Fox, Regional Consultation Lead, Webequie First Nation
Nathalie Boivin, Senior Funding Officer, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Agni Papageorgiou, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Sasha McLeod, Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks