

From: MartenFalls (IAAC/AEIC)
Sent: June 16, 2020 8:38 AM
To: 'Kimberly Jorgenson' <Email address removed>
Cc: <Email addresses removed>

Subject: RE: MFCAR and WSR Project IAs – GFN Follow-Up to Feb 24 IAAC Letter

Hello Kim,

Thank you for your email, dated March 24, 2020, providing Ginoogaming First Nation's response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's Notice of Commencement letter for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project. My apologies with the delay in responding to you. The Agency has updated our understanding of the potential impacts of the Project on Ginoogaming First Nation's exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. The Agency added the following bullet to the section on sites of historical, archeological, paleontological, or architectural significance:

- Potential changes to physical and cultural heritage sites

The Agency recognizes that documentation of Ginoogaming First Nation's Indigenous knowledge and the Project's potential impacts on the community's exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights will evolve as more data is collected. Ginoogaming First Nation is invited to share any information related to the Project with the proponent and the Agency to support our understanding of the Project's potential impacts on the community. The Agency will continue to seek Ginoogaming First Nation's input throughout the impact assessment process.

The Agency is aware of the announcement made by the Province of Ontario, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation regarding the Northern Road Link. On May 19, 2020, the Agency notified Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation that the project appears to be designated under the *Impact Assessment Act* and requested an Initial Project Description. At this time, the Agency has not received an Initial Project Description for the Northern Road Link. Upon the proponent's submission of an Initial Project Description that complies with the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, the Agency will notify Indigenous groups who may be impacted by the Project of a formal comment period and seek their views on the Initial Project Description and whether an impact assessment should be required for the project.

The Agency has noted Ginoogaming First Nation's request for a community-specific annex to the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP Annex) and will be pleased to set up a virtual meeting at a later date to discuss your community's specific interests. As requested, the Agency will review the Ginoogaming First Nation Engagement and Accommodation Protocol provided as an attachment to your submission prior to discussing next steps and availability of participant funding. The Agency also acknowledges receipt of Ginoogaming First Nation's traditional use area map.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Agency recognizes that the Government of Canada has advised all Canadians to implement social distancing measures, including avoiding close contact with others, to minimize COVID-19 transmission in communities. In consideration that social distancing measures often need extensive preparation and currently take priority, the Agency highlights its current measures and commitments to support your community's COVID 19 response at this time:

- The Agency is currently following [guidelines](#) that have been issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada and local health authorities;
- The Agency has halted in-person and in-community meetings; when a meeting is unavoidable during the current circumstance, we will conduct those activities through digital communications including: teleconference calls and WebEx as appropriate and to the preference of Indigenous groups to discuss projects;
- The Agency remains flexible and able to adapt our conduct as necessary to prioritize the health and safety of communities participating in impact assessments; and
- The Agency continues to be in touch with proponents to understand how projects are affected by COVID-19.

The Agency welcomes any further details from Ginoogaming First Nation about when the community might be prepared to participate in future consultation activities. In the meantime, the Agency will provide updates to Indigenous groups about the status of the Project at regular intervals.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Project, please do not hesitate to reach out to me by phone at 416-476-5476 or by email at iaac.martenfalls.aeic@canada.ca.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Cafaro

Marten Falls Community Access Road Project
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CEAA.MartenFalls.ACEE@canada.ca / Tel: 416-952-1576

Projet de route d'accès à la collectivité de Marten Falls
Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

