

Good afternoon,

This is an update on the federal impact assessment process for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), proposed by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent).

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) conducted a public comment period on the Project and the Proponent's Summary of the Initial Project Description, from February 21 to March 23, 2023, to invite input from the public, Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, and municipalities on the Initial Project Description and any issues that they consider relevant to the Project. To support public participation during the comment period, the Agency held virtual information sharing and discussion sessions on March 14, 2023, and March 15, 2023, to provide information about the Project and the impact assessment process.

The Summary of Issues document, which reflects the comments received by the Agency, from the public, Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, and municipalities, was submitted to the Proponent on March 31, 2023, and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site for the Project at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>. The Internet site also includes the comments that were received.

Next steps

The Agency expects to receive the Proponent's Detailed Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues on April 30, 2023. Once received, the Agency will consider the Detailed Project Description including how the Proponent plans to address the issues raised in the Summary of Issues, and will then determine whether a federal impact assessment is required pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*. The notice of decision, and the reasons for it, will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

If an impact assessment is required, the Agency would prepare the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Public Participation Plan, taking into account comments received, and will hold a comment period on these draft documents.

Please note that the Proponent may notify the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Agency that it wishes to suspend the legislated time limit for the planning phase, to provide itself more time to prepare the Detailed Project Description and response to the Summary of Issues. If such a request is received and accepted, the Agency would post a notice on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site for the Project and notify you via email of the anticipated timelines.

Stay updated by following the Agency on Twitter: @IAAC_AEIC #NorthernRoadLink

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me by email at NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Inclusion in the Agency's distribution list

The Agency is contacting you as it has identified that you or your organization may have an interest in the Project; or because you have participated in the information sharing and discussion sessions; and/or submitted comments on the Project. Should you wish to be removed from the Agency's distribution list, please notify the Agency at the email address above.

Thank you,

Ely Weisbrot

Northern Road Link Project

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada / Government of Canada

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Projet de la route de raccordement du Nord

Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

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