

Hello,

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) conducted a public comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), proposed by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent), from February 21 to March 23, 2023. Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities and the public were invited to provide their input.

The Agency thanks the municipalities that provided comments.

The Summary of Issues document, which reflects the comments received by the Agency in conjunction with the information already available in the Proponent's Initial Project Description, 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 from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities and the public.

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.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ely Weisbrot

Northern Road Link Project
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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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