



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

May 23, 2023

Sent by email

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum
Marten Falls First Nation
General Delivery
Ogoki Post ON <personal information removed>
<personal information removed>

Chief Cornelius Wabasse
Webequie First Nation
P.O. Box 268
Webequie ON <personal information removed>
<personal information removed>

Dear Chief Bruce Achneepineskum and Chief Cornelius Wabasse:

Subject: Notification that an impact assessment is required for the Northern Road Link Project

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) completed its review of the Detailed Project Description for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) submitted on May 1, 2023, which includes a response to the Summary of Issues provided by the Agency. Based on the Agency's review of the Detailed Project Description and consideration of comments received to date from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries and the public, the Agency has decided that a federal impact assessment is required for the Project. A Notice of the Agency's Decision with Reasons has been posted to the Project page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>.

The planning phase will continue pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), and the Agency will work with federal authorities to prepare the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) and the required plans to inform the federal impact assessment process. The Agency anticipates holding a 30-day public comment period between June 21 and July 21, 2023, to seek input from Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent), potentially impacted Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries and the public on the draft Guidelines and draft plans.

In accordance with subsection 18(1) of the IAA, the Agency will provide you with the Notice of Commencement, the Guidelines and required plans no later than day 180 of the planning phase (August 20, 2023).

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According to subsection 36(1) of the IAA, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has 45 days from the posting of the Notice of Commencement to determine whether to refer the impact assessment of the Project to a review panel.

I encourage you to examine the provisions of section 7 of the IAA, which states that the proponent of a project must not do any act or thing in connection with the carrying out of the designated project, in whole or in part, that may cause specific effects within federal jurisdiction.

Should you have any questions, please contact Ely Weisbrot, Project Manager, at 416-699-2775 or *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan
Director, Ontario Region

c.c.: Qassim Saddique, Indigenous Engagement and Consultation
Michael Fox, Indigenous Engagement and Consultation