



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Ontario Region
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Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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Sent by email

Correspondence to Federal Review Team

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Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the Northern Road Link Project

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is writing to inform you of the commencement of the impact statement phase for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act*. The following documents were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website¹ (Registry #84331) and will inform the impact assessment process:

- Notice of Commencement
- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines)
- Public Participation Plan
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Cooperation Plan
- Permitting Plan

Thank you for your comments on the draft Guidelines and Permitting Plan.

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¹ Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>

The Agency is of the view that the Project does not warrant a referral to a review panel, after considering the factors in subsection 36(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Please note that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has until 45 days after the Notice of Commencement to make a final determination on whether to refer the impact assessment to a review panel.

The Project is now in the impact statement phase. The Agency must be satisfied that Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent) provided all the required information and studies for the impact assessment set out in the Guidelines within three years of the Notice of Commencement. During this phase of the assessment process, the Agency may request that your department or agency:

- participate in Indigenous consultation and public participation activities;
- provide expert information or knowledge;
- participate in technical discussions with the Proponent and review interim technical information; and
- review the Proponent's Impact Statement.

The Agency will keep your staff informed of the relevant timelines for each process step as they occur. Within three months of the posting of the Notice of Commencement, the Proponent is expected to provide the Agency with a workplan for the impact statement phase of the Project which the Agency will share with your staff.

Your department or agency is invited to start considering potential complementary measures available for the Government of Canada, such as programs or activities, to help manage effects that are outside the direct care and control of the Proponent or to support a broader federal objective. The Minister's decision regarding whether the adverse effects of the Project are in the public interest would consider complementary measures.

If there are any questions, please have your staff contact Ely Weisbrot, Acting Project Manager, by email at *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Amy Sen
Acting Director

c.c.: Amandeep Chohan, Employment and Social Development Canada
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