



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT February 24, 2020

1. Introduction

On November 29, 2019, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment is required for the Webequie Supply Road Project.

This Public Participation Plan was developed by the Agency to set out proposed opportunities for participation during the impact assessment process for Agency-led activities. The Public Participation Plan is intended to be flexible and does not preclude the Agency from making changes to the approaches described in order to accommodate changes that may occur during the assessment or to accommodate comments and requests received from participants.

For additional information about the implementation of meaningful public participation, please refer to the Public Participation Policy and The Technical Guide of Public Participation in Impact Assessments.¹

The Agency also developed an Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan that outlines Indigenous consultation opportunities and approaches.²

2. Description of the Webequie Supply Road Project

Webequie First Nation (the proponent) is proposing the construction and operation, including maintenance, of a 107-kilometre all-season road connecting the Webequie Airport and the McFaulds Lake area in northern Ontario. The corridor would be approximately 35 metres in width in order to accommodate a two-lane gravel surface industrial supply road and could enable future infrastructure development such as transmission lines and broadband. As proposed, the Webequie Supply Road Project would connect Webequie First Nation to existing mineral exploration activities and potential future mineral development in the Ring of Fire area. The project could also become part of a future all-season road network connecting Webequie First Nation and the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway system in Nakina and/or Pickle Lake.

3. Objectives of Public Participation

The Public Participation Plan was developed to outline the various ways a participant—including those most likely affected by the Project—may provide input and engage in the impact assessment process. The Agency presents the following objectives for public participation:

- The public is engaged early and often, including at each key stage of the process;
- The public is engaged on key draft documents including this plan, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the Impact Statement, the Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions;
- Engagement opportunities and mechanisms are selected taking into account diverse needs and interests and include, but are not limited to public comment periods, in-person events, and WebEx sessions at key phases of the process; and
- Public views heard throughout the process are tracked and inform decision-making.

During the planning phase, some members of the public identified values and objectives for public participation for this Project. The Agency summarizes these as:

¹ Refer to the Interim Framework: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act* (Policy) at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/framework-public-participation.html> and the Interim Guidance: Public Participation under the *Impact Assessment Act* at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/interim-guidance-public-participation-impact.html>

² Refer to the Impact Assessment Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Webequie Supply Road Project at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>

- All members of the public should have opportunities to meaningfully participate, including in meaningful discussions in the impact assessment process;
- The public should be engaged early and receive advanced notification of comment periods
- Engagement opportunities and mechanisms such as in-person events and webinars should be designed with a view to maximize participation;
- Notices advertising opportunities for public participation posted clearly in an accessible manner; and
- Ensure that members of the public are provided opportunities to participate in technical meetings with the proponent and the Agency.

To view all comments received in relation to the Webequie Supply Road Project, please access the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>.

4. Identification of Participants

During the planning phase, the Agency identified a list of participants based on information provided in the proponent's submissions to the Agency or participants who submitted comments during the planning phase. The participant's name or name of the organization has been identified in this plan:

- General public (individual residents)
- Canada Chrome Corporation
- Canadian Environmental Law Association
- City of Thunder Bay
- Geraldton Chamber of Commerce
- Leuenberger Air Service
- Longlac Chamber of Commerce
- Mining Watch
- Municipality of Greenstone
- Municipality of Sioux Lookout
- Mushkegowuk Council
- Noront Resources Ltd.
- Osgoode Hall Law School's Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic
- Township of Pickle Lake
- Wilderness North
- Wildlife Conservation Society Canada

Additionally, the Agency will consult with Indigenous groups identified for Crown consultation related to the impact assessment of the Project, on the basis that the Project may adversely impact the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples as defined in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.³ The tools and methods that the Agency will use to consult these Indigenous groups are outlined in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>).

5. How members of the public wish to participate and be engaged

The Agency sought feedback around preferences for participation and possible challenges that should be mitigated. Based on feedback received during the planning phase, the Agency will use the tools listed below to ensure meaningful public participation throughout the impact assessment process.

- Public notice(s) on the Registry Internet Site and in local communities
- Public comment periods
- Social media updates (e.g. the Agency's Twitter Feed)

³ Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* states: (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed. (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. (3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired. (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.

- Viewing centres
- Print copies of key documents at viewing centres
- Direct mailing and/or email distributions
- Agency handouts
- Community meetings to discuss project and potential effects and to seek comments
- Pre-scheduled WebEx presentation for public attendance with question and answer sessions
- Training on the impact assessment process and how to effectively participate in the process, including offering the Agency's Level 1 and Level 2 training⁴
- Meetings with the proponent to support public's technical review of key documents and participation throughout the impact assessment process
- Participant funding under the Funding Program to support those interested in participating in the impact assessment process

Note: this list is not exhaustive and may be adjusted during the impact statement phase to provide opportunities for meaningful engagement and participation.

6. Activities and Public Participation Approach

During the planning phase, the Agency implemented various tools to engage with the public including an online comment form, open houses and webexes to help develop the planning phase documents such as this Public Participation Plan. The following table provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process, and an outline of the proposed Agency-led engagement opportunities in each phase. The table describes the objectives of each phase, the anticipated engagement activities that will be used, and the public participation tools that will support the engagement activities.

Table 6.1 – Table of Public Participation Approaches and Activities

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tool	Time Frame
Phase 2: Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and how to meaningfully participate • Provide opportunities to participate • Engage with the public for comments on the proponent's Impact Statement to ensure it contains all of the information and studies outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines • Validate the proponent's Impact Statement on whether relevant issues raised by 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency responds to inquiries received via email and phone call • Agency posts public notice of participant funding available to support participation in the impact assessment process • Agency posts public notice of comment period on the proponent's Impact Statement (Registry Internet site, print, radio, web, local communities) and instructions on how to comment • Agency posts social media notices with project updates (e.g. the Agency's twitter feed) • Agency sends direct email and/or letter notice of comment period to distribution list with Registry links to key documents • Agency sends documents to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online comments on the proponent's Impact Statement focusing on whether it contains all of the information and studies outlined in the Guidelines • Community meetings to discuss the proponent's Impact Statement and to seek comments • WebEx Presentations with Question and Answer Session(s) to discuss the proponent's Impact Statement and to seek comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment functionality on the Registry is available throughout the impact assessment process • Online comment period, including in community meetings, WebEx presentations will occur within 30 to 45 days of posting the proponent's Impact Statement on the Registry

⁴ Level 1 and Level 2 training focus on the impact assessment process and is offered through the Agency's website at <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014/index-eng.aspx>.

	<p>potentially affected participants have been addressed and proposed mitigation measures identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify additional mitigation and/or accommodation measures 	<p>the following viewing centers in Thunder Bay, Geraldton, Nakina, Pickle Lake, Timmins, and Sioux Lookout with print copies of the proponent's Impact Statement Summary in French and English</p> <p>Information on the location of the viewing centres will be on the public notice announcing the comment period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency hosts in-community meetings in key municipalities including Thunder Bay and Geraldton to discuss the proponent's Impact Statement (dates to be determined). Information on the locations will be in the public notice announcing the comment period Agency hosts pre-scheduled WebEx presentation with Question and Answer session(s) to discuss proponent's Impact Statement Agency instructs proponent to present to participants the Impact Statement, including baseline conditions, potential effects, assessment of effects and the assessment of the project's contribution to sustainability, mitigation and follow-up measures, and its assessment conclusions Agency posts proponent's Impact Statement as submitted (proponent's Impact Statement Summary in English and French, and the Impact Statement and appendices in English), and additional information or a revised Impact Statement if it is deemed necessary to enable the Agency to determine whether the Impact Statement satisfactorily contains all of the information 		
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		and studies outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines		
Phase 3: Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions on potential project effects within federal jurisdiction in relation to environmental, health, social and economic conditions, and proposed mitigation and follow-up program measures Increase public awareness of the impact assessment process and how to meaningfully participate Engage with the public for comments on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment report and potential conditions Validate whether information in the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions reflect issues raised by potentially affected participants and are addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency responds to inquiries received via email and phone call While preparing its draft Impact Assessment Report, the Agency provides public with opportunity to comment on and confirm Agency's preliminary analysis on potential project effects within federal jurisdiction in relation to environmental, health, social and economic conditions, and proposed mitigation and follow-up program measures Agency posts public notices of comment period on the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions and how to comment (Registry Internet site, print, radio, web, local communities) Agency posts social media notices with project updates (e.g. the Agency's twitter feed) Agency sends direct email and/or letter notice of comment period, with Registry links to key documents Agency administers participant funding to support participation in the impact assessment process Agency sends documents to the following viewing centers in Thunder Bay, Geraldton, Nakina, Pickle Lake, Timmins, and Sioux Lookout with print copies of the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions in French and English Agency hosts prescheduled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online comments on Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions Community meetings to discuss the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions and to seek comments WebEx Presentations with Question and Answer Session(s) to discuss the Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions and draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions and to seek comments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WebEx meetings on the Agency's preliminary analysis and conclusions Online comment period, including community meetings, WebEx presentations on the draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions will occur within 30 days following the posting of these documents on the Registry

		<p>WebEx presentation with Question and Answer session(s) open to public registration to discuss the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency hosts in-community meetings in key municipalities including Thunder Bay and Geraldton to discuss the Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions (dates to be determined) • Agency posts key documents on the Registry Internet site: Agency's draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions in French and English 		
Phase 4: Decision-Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the proponent and the public about the Minister or the GIC decision on whether the adverse effects in federal jurisdiction are in the public interest • Increase public awareness of the Minister or the GIC decision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency posts final Impact Assessment Report on the Registry Internet site • Agency responds to inquiries received via email and phone call • Agency posts Minister's Decision Statement, including conditions, and reasons for decisions on the Registry Internet site • Agency posts notice of Minister or GIC decision on whether the adverse effects in federal jurisdiction are in the public interest on the Registry Internet site • Agency posts social media notices with project updates (e.g. the Agency's twitter feed) • Agency sends direct email and/or letter notice of decision • Agency hosts pre-scheduled WebEx presentation with Question and Answer session(s) to brief the public on the Minister's Decision Statement and next steps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WebEx Presentations with Question and Answer Session(s) to brief participants on the Minister's Decision Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WebEx Presentations to brief participants on the Minister's Decision Statement will occur within 30 days following the posting of the Minister's Public Interest Decision on the Registry
Phase 5: Post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform participants of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency posts results from 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online comments on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of follow-

IA Decision	<p>the results from the follow-up program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform participants of potential amendments to a Decision Statement and seek their input • Participants may participate in follow-up and monitoring activities 	<p>follow-up and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency posts notice inviting public comment on potential amendments to Decision Statement, should the proponent submit a project change • Agency posts notice of decision to amend Decision Statement and reasons, should the proponent submit a project change 	<p>potential amendments to Decision Statements</p>	<p>up are posted according to the schedule identified in the Decision Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online comment period will occur within 30 days following the posting of the potential amendments to the Decision Statement, should the proponent submit a project change.
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Provincial Engagement Approaches

The Agency will coordinate public and Indigenous engagement activities with the Province of Ontario, to the extent possible. For information on how the Agency will work with the Province of Ontario please see the Cooperation Plan (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>).

Proponent Engagement Approaches

For information on the proponent’s public engagement plans during the impact assessment process, please see the draft Terms of Reference for the provincial Individual environmental assessment at the proponent’s website: <http://www.supplyroad.ca/>.

The Agency expects the proponent to engage with local communities, associations and public groups to gather information identify potential effects and appropriate mitigation measures and address concerns throughout the impact assessment process. The Agency also expects the proponent to prepare the Impact Statement, incorporating Indigenous and community knowledge, and validating the information within the Impact Statement with participants prior to formally submitting it to the Agency for review.

The Agency will organize meetings as indicated in Table 6.1 during which the proponent is expected to present information about the designated project, including on baseline conditions, potential effects, assessment of effects and the assessment of the project’s contribution to sustainability, mitigation and follow-up measures, and its assessment conclusions. For more detail on Agency expectations of the proponent, please see the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>).

7. Participant Funding

Funding to support public participation is available during the impact assessment process. Applications for funding were made available to the public during the planning phase and will be made available during the impact statement phase. These participant-funding opportunities support the public to comment on draft documents including the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the Public Participation Plan, and the Agency’s draft Impact Assessment Report and potential conditions as well as the proponent’s Impact Statement.

For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding, see the National Program Guidelines and application on the following page <https://www.canada.ca/en/environmental-assessment-agency/services/public-participation/participant-funding-application-environmental-assessment.html>

8. How to submit comments and contact information

Comments can be submitted at any time during project assessment via the “submit a comment” feature available on the Project’s Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page (Reference No. 80183 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80183>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency using the information provided below for assistance.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will form part of the Project File and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry internet site. The Agency’s Submission Policy⁵ determines which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.⁶ If you do not want your comment posted on the Registry, please contact Agency prior to submitting the comment.

A summary of comments received throughout the impact assessment process will also be included in the Impact Assessment Report.

The Agency office designated for administering the impact assessment of the Project is:

Webequie Supply Road Project
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
Ontario Region Office
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7
Tel.: 416-952-1576
Email: IAAC.Webequie.AEIC@canada.ca

⁵ The Agency’s Submission Policy can be accessed at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

⁶ The Agency’s Privacy Notice can be accessed at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>