



Impact Assessment Agency of Canada Agence d'évaluation d'impact du Canada

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January 13, 2023

Sent by email

Chief Michael Sugarhead
Nibinamik First Nation
General Delivery
Summer Beaver ON P0T 3B0
michaelsugarhead@summerbeaver.com

Dear Chief Michael Sugarhead:

Subject: Notification of the Agency's Decision on Marten Falls First Nation's Time Limit Extension Request for the Federal Impact Assessment Process of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project

As indicated in its correspondence of November 9, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received a request for a time limit extension from Marten Falls First Nation for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the Project). This letter is to inform you that on January 13, 2023, the Agency granted the requested extension to the three-year time limit for Marten Falls First Nation to provide the required information and studies for the Project's impact assessment.

The new deadline for the Proponent to provide the required information and studies set out in the notice of commencement of the impact assessment is July 24, 2026.

The Agency granted Marten Falls First Nation's requested extension of three years and five months. In coming to this decision, the Agency considered the information submitted by the Proponent and input from assessment participants (Attachment 1).

The reasons for the Agency's decision include:

- the Proponent has demonstrated progress in the development of the required information and studies, and has a realistic work plan to complete all work;
- the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting response measures, the 2021 forest fires, and the 2021/2022 winter weather conditions affected the Proponent's ability to meet the time limit; and

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- the extended time limit would allow for continued coordination with the province and help manage consultation fatigue among the Indigenous communities.

Expectations remain for the Proponent, in order to meet the requirements of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, to engage the Indigenous communities listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Project. Engagement by the Proponent is required on various topics, including baseline studies; alternatives assessment; effects assessment and methodology; cumulative effects assessment and methodology; impacts on the exercise of rights; and mitigation, following-up and accommodation measures.

The Agency would appreciate ongoing participation by Nibinamik First Nation during the remainder of the impact assessment for the Project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, Caitlin Cafaro, Crown Consultation Coordinator, by email at martenfalls@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Caitlin Cafaro
Crown Consultation Coordinator

Attachment 1: Marten Falls First Nation's Extension Request – Table of Summarized Comments from Assessment Participants (Five pages)

c.c.: Walter Oskineegish, Band Manager, Nibinamik First Nation
Alex Monem, PST Law
Alexandria Winterburn, PST Law