

Dear colleagues:

As indicated in the email of November 9, 2022, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received a [request for an extension](#) to the three-year time limit of the impact statement phase from Marten Falls First Nation.

This email is to inform you that on January 13, 2023, the Agency granted the request to extend the time limit, by three years and five months, to provide the required information and studies for the impact assessment of the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project.

In coming to this decision, the Agency considered the information submitted by the Proponent and input from assessment participants (Attachment). The new deadline for Marten Falls First Nation to provide the required information and studies set out in the [notice of commencement of the impact assessment](#) is July 24, 2026.

The reasons for the Agency's decision are provided in its [letter](#) to the Proponent. A public notice pertaining to this decision has been posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site for the Project: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184>

Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Regards,

Chiara Calabrese
Project Manager

Marten Falls First Nation’s Extension Request - Table of Summarized Comments from Assessment Participants

IMPORTANT NOTES: The Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines) for the Marten Falls Community Access Road Project (the Project) outline the Agency’s expectations for the Proponent, regarding required information and studies for the assessment, and proponent conduct and deliverables of engagement with the Indigenous communities listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the public, particularly the public groups listed in the Public Participation Plan. Of note, sections 5 and 6 of the Guidelines describe the various topics the Proponent must cover during engagement activities. These include topics raised by the assessment participants during the Agency’s review of the extension request. Furthermore, the Guidelines require the Proponent to provide timely notification of proposed engagement activities on the topics. Therefore during the impact statement phase, which continues during the extension period, the Proponent is expected to conduct engagement activities that cover the topics identified in the Guidelines, including the issues raised by assessment participants.

The submitted comments from assessment participants are accessible from the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80184). This table was forwarded to Marten Falls First Nation. As the Proponent, Marten Falls First Nation is expected to demonstrate in the Impact Statement how all comments, received during the assessment process, including those received during the Agency’s review of the extension request, were addressed.

Row #	Commenter	Summarized Comments	Agency Response
Extension Request			
1	<p>Constance Lake First Nation</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation</p> <p>Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group</p> <p>Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada</p>	Expressed support for the requested extension to the time limit of the impact statement phase.	The Agency acknowledges the comments.
2	<p>Constance Lake First Nation</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation</p>	Asked how the Proponent’s new project schedule will accommodate communities that have been experiencing challenges to participate.	<p>Section 6.2 of the Guidelines indicates that the Impact Statement must include how the Proponent responded to comments raised by Indigenous communities and provide a detailed and comprehensive consultation work plan that describes engagement activities and timelines.</p> <p>In addition, section 6.3 requires the Proponent’s record of engagement of Indigenous communities to describe how the engagement activities were intended to ensure communities were provided an opportunity to comment.</p> <p>As such, the Agency expects the Proponent to provide, in a timely manner, an explanation of the new project schedule.</p>

Row #	Commenter	Summarized Comments	Agency Response
3	Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada	Concerned that baseline data could become inadequate over time.	According to section 1.1 of the Guidelines, the Proponent is to work collaboratively and seek support of the Agency and federal authorities throughout the assessment process, to ensure the guidance provided in the Guidelines is sufficient and methodology is appropriate.
4	Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada	Asked for clear descriptions of how the various federal and provincial assessment processes will be coordinated to inform all assessments.	<p>Section 2.4 of the Guidelines require the Proponent to identify in the Impact Statement any coordinated assessment that is ongoing, including details on how the processes are being met, as well as identify government planning or study initiatives such as relevant regional and strategic assessments.</p> <p>In addition, section 7.2 of the Guidelines identifies ongoing project, regional and strategic assessments, as well as studies conducted by Indigenous communities, as potential sources of baseline information. The information and studies used for the assessment (including cumulative effects assessment) must be described in detail in the Impact Statement, as per sections 13 and 22 of the Guidelines.</p> <p>The Cooperation Plan for the Project, released on February 24, 2020, outlines how both the federal and provincial assessment processes may cooperate in common areas of interest. Information relevant to both processes that is received by the Agency is shared with the province and the Proponent, as appropriate.</p>
Consultation and Engagement			
5	<p>Constance Lake First Nation</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation</p> <p>Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group</p> <p>Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada</p>	<p>Commented that Indigenous communities do not have the financial and technological resources and the capacity needed to participate meaningfully in the assessment process.</p> <p>Commented that there are multiple demands on communities, which make it challenging to participate and provide input.</p>	<p>The Agency acknowledges the challenges with respect to resources and capacity to participate, and access to funding. Section 6 of the Guidelines requires the Proponent to provide plain language documents to the Indigenous communities listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan.</p> <p>Upon request, the Proponent is expected to provide simultaneous translation for engagement sessions and plain language documents translated in Indigenous languages, to enable meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities.</p> <p>According to section 6 of the Guidelines, the Proponent is expected to work with the Indigenous communities to determine the best approach to engagement that ensures a safe space for meaningful dialogue to foster full and free participation. The Proponent must give consideration to culturally appropriate, gender sensitive and trauma-informed and healing centered engagement methods and approaches.</p>

Row #	Commenter	Summarized Comments	Agency Response
			The Agency encourages Indigenous communities listed in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, to apply for Agency funding to support, partially, their activities for the federal impact assessment, if they have not already done so. To apply, please send an email to martenfalls@iaac-aeic.gc.ca .
6	Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Commented that the Proponent should make more effort to engage in-person, be considerate when notifying and timing engagement, and provide material that supports community-level conversations.	As per section 6 of the Guidelines, the Proponent is expected to work with the Indigenous communities identified in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Project, to understand the approaches to engagement that would create safe spaces for meaningful dialogue to enable full and free participation of all community members, including different subpopulations (e.g., Elders, women and youth), in the engagement process.
7	Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Shared recommendations to enhance future engagement outcomes.	The Guidelines provide the set of instructions that the Proponent must follow, as well as require actions by the Proponent to support activities in the Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan and the Public Participation Plan, for the federal impact assessment. The submission with the recommendations is posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80184) and the Proponent is expected to consider and respond to the recommendations. How comments were addressed should be incorporated in the Impact Statement, as per sections 5.1 and 6.2 of the Guidelines.
8	Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Concerned that the Proponent's approach to share its findings on the effects assessment will not provide enough time for Indigenous communities to provide their views and for the Proponent to address their comments on the findings.	As per section 6 of the Guidelines, the Proponent must provide an opportunity for Indigenous communities to inform the effects assessment and review the conclusions. Section 6.2 indicates that the Impact Statement must provide an analysis of input received, including potential effects and impacts, and impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights. In addition, section 6.3 of the Guidelines requires the Proponent's record of engagement of Indigenous communities to include descriptions of the Proponent's efforts to discuss and validate with Indigenous communities their input.

Row #	Commenter	Summarized Comments	Agency Response
9	Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Commented that it is important for the Proponent to meet with the knowledge holders of Indigenous communities, to inform the assessment of effects on land use, cultural practices, and historic and current land use practices.	Section 6.2 of the Guidelines indicates that incorporation of Indigenous knowledge in the assessment is expected. The Impact Statement must include, in a culturally appropriate manner, consideration of Indigenous knowledge provided by Indigenous communities that consented to the use of their knowledge in the assessment.
10	Jackfish Métis Association	Expressed interest in participating in the assessment process.	Section 5 of the Guidelines requires the Proponent to engage assessment participants and provide timely notification of engagement activities to seek community knowledge and views. The Agency engages with participants, notably at each key stage of the impact assessment process, providing opportunities for participants to share their views. Interested parties known to the Agency are notified about these opportunities. Information about formal opportunities also would be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (Reference #80184): https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80184 .
Effects Assessment Methodology			
11	Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada	Expressed interest in knowing how data collection will be done, including the biophysical sampling and field surveys, and demographic sampling for interviews and gathering of data and information (including disaggregated information).	Sections 7 through 12 of the Guidelines provide the set of instructions that the Proponent must follow to describe baseline conditions, with incorporation of community and Indigenous knowledge, and the application of Gender Based Analysis Plus. Sections 5 and 6 of the Guidelines require the Proponent to engage assessment participants on various assessment topics, including baseline data collection methodologies and how community and Indigenous knowledge will be integrated into the assessment. Further, the Proponent is expected to respond to comments received.

Row #	Commenter	Summarized Comments	Agency Response
12	Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Stressed the importance of using a demographic sample size that accurately reflects the population of the communities and includes Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse people.	Sections 9, 10, 11, 12.3 of the Guidelines require the Proponent to collect health, social and economic baseline data that is disaggregated to support the analysis of potential disproportionate effects of the Project, as per Gender Based Analysis Plus. Sections 16 and 17 require the Proponent to utilize Gender Based Analysis Plus when assessing the potential effects on health and social conditions. In addition, section 19.1 requires the Proponent to disaggregate the information on effects to Indigenous Peoples, by relevant community identity factors to apply Gender Based Analysis Plus.
13	Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation	Asked for information on how data and information gathered by the community will be incorporated in the assessment.	See Row #11 response.
Cumulative Effects			
14	Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation	Expressed concern that the cumulative effects assessment will not include effects from mineral development projects.	Section 22 of the Guidelines outlines the requirements for the cumulative effects assessment. Among the minimum projects and activities to include in the cumulative effects assessment is mineral development. Also, the cumulative effects assessment would consider cumulative effects on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and would consider the results of any relevant regional study conducted.
Surface Water			
15	Constance Lake First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation	Concerned about potential impacts to waterbodies, specifically changes to flow patterns and wildlife pathways.	Sections 8.6, 8.8 and 15.1 of the Guidelines requires the Proponent to assess baseline conditions and potential effects on fish and fish habitat. This includes changes to the quality and quantity of waterbodies. In addition, sections 8.9 through 8.11, and sections 15.2 through 15.4, require the Proponent to assess potential effects on terrestrial wildlife and their habitats. This includes habitat alteration, such as changes in water access or availability.
Health Conditions			
16	Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group	Commented that impacts on overall well-being (social determinants of health such as individual health, security and safety) of those living near the project area should be considered.	Sections 9 and 12.3 of the Guidelines, require the Proponent to collect baseline data on human health for local communities. This includes baseline data collection for social determinants of health. In addition, sections 16 and 19.1 of the Guidelines require the Proponent to assess how the Project may effect human health, including social determinants of health.