

Appendix C

Concordance Tables / Feedback and Response Log



Appendix C1

Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines – Concordance Table



C1 Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road, February 24, 2020

| TISG Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/ Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 1. | Introduction | |
| 1.1 | Factors to be considered in the Impact Assessment The Guidelines correspond to factors to be considered in the impact assessment. These factors are listed in subsection 22(1) of IAA and prescribe that the impact assessment of a designated project must take into account: | |
| a) | The changes to the environment or to health, social or economic conditions and the positive and negative consequences of these changes that are likely to be caused by the carrying out of the designated project, including: i. The effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the designated project; ii. Any cumulative effects that are likely to result from the designated project in combination with other physical activities that have been or will be carried out; and iii. The result of any interaction between those effects. | Section 9 and the relevant Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 13 Section 10 |
| b) | Mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any adverse effects of the designated project; | Section 9 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix AA |
| c) | The impact that the designated project may have on any Indigenous group and any adverse impact that the designated project may have on the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982; | Section 9.5 Appendix O |
| d) | The purpose of and need for the designated project; | Section 2 |
| e) | Alternative means of carrying out the designated project that are technically and economically feasible, including through the use of best available technologies, and the effects of those means; | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| f) | Any alternatives to the designated project that are technically and economically feasible and are directly related to the designated project; | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| g) | Indigenous knowledge provided with respect to the designated project; | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1, Section 8.3.1 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| h) | The extent to which the designated project contributes to sustainability; | Section 13.3 |
| i) | The extent to which the effects of the designated project hinder or contribute to the Government of Canada's ability to meet its environmental obligations and its commitments in respect of climate change; | Section 13.2 Appendix Y |
| j) | Any change to the designated project that may be caused by the environment; | Section 9 and the relevant Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| k) | The requirements of the follow-up program in respect of the designated project; | Section 9 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 14 Appendix AA |
| l) | Considerations related to Indigenous cultures with respect to the designated project; | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1, Section 8.3.1 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix O |

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| | | Appendix T |
| m) | Community knowledge provided with respect to the designated project; | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1, Section 8.3.1, and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix O Appendix T |
| n) | Comments received from the public; | Section 11 Appendix C Appendix X |
| o) | Comments from a jurisdiction that are received in the course of consultations conducted under section 21 of IAA; | Section 11 Appendix X |
| p) | Any relevant assessment referred to in sections 92, 93 or 95 of IAA; | Section 9 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| q) | Any assessment of the effects of the designated project that is conducted by or on behalf of an Indigenous governing body and that is provided with respect to the designated project; | Final EA/IS and its appendices |
| r) | Any study or plan that is conducted or prepared by a jurisdiction—or an Indigenous governing body not referred to in paragraph (f) or (g) of the definition jurisdiction in section 2 of IAA—that is in respect of a region related to the designated project and that has been provided with respect to the project; | Final EA/IS and its appendices |
| s) | The intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors; and | Section 6.2 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| t) | Any other matter relevant to the impact assessment that the Agency requires to be taken into account. | Section 9 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 2 | Overview | |
| 2.1 | The Proponent | Section 3 |
| 2.2 | Project Overview | Section 7.1.1 |
| 2.3 | Project Location | Section 1 Figure 1-1 |
| 2.4 | Regulatory Framework and the Role of Government | Section 5 |
| 2.5 | Qualifications of Individuals Preparing the Impact Statement | Section 5.2 Appendix D |
| 3 | Project Description | |
| 3.1 | Project Components | Section 7.1 |
| 3.2 | Project Activities | Section 7.2 |
| 3.3 | Workforce Requirements | Section 7.2.3.6 |
| 4 | Project Purpose, Need and Alternatives Considered | |
| 4.1 | Purpose of the Project | Section 2 |
| 4.2 | Need for the Project | Section 2 |
| 4.3 | Alternatives to the Project | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |

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| 4.4 | Alternative Means of Carrying out the Project | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 5 | Description of Public Participation and Views | |
| 5.1 | Analysis and Response to Questions, Comments, and Issues Raised | Section 11 Appendix C Appendix X |
| 5.2 | Record of Engagement | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 6 | Description of Engagement with Indigenous Groups | |
| 6.1 | Analysis of Potentially impacted Indigenous Groups | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 6.2 | Analysis and Response to Questions, Comments, and Issues Raised | Section 11 Appendix C Appendix X |
| 6.3 | Record of Engagement | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 7 | Baseline Conditions | |
| 7.1 | Methodology | Section 6 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.2 | Sources of Baseline Information | Section 16 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.3 | Consideration and Methodology in Selected Valued Components | Section 6 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.4 | Spatial and Temporal Boundaries | Section 6.5 Section 8.1.3, Section 8.2.3, and Section 8.3.3 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 8. | Baseline Conditions – Biophysical Environment | |
| 8.1 | Atmospheric, Acoustic, and Visual Environment | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the results of a baseline survey of ambient air quality by identifying and describing emission sources for the following contaminants: total suspended particulates, fine particulates smaller than 2.5 microns (PM_{2.5}), respirable particulates of less than 10 microns (PM₁₀), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone, sulphur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), diesel particulate matter (DPM), and any other toxic air pollutants (mobile and stationary sources); For air pollutants with numerical standards and/or established air quality criteria, [e.g., Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), or Ontario Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC)], observe the averaging time period and the statistical form associated with each numerical standard; Address seasonal variability in the baseline survey and include a determination of background or ambient contaminant concentrations at key receptor points (e.g., traditional land users, sensitive human receptors such as daycares, schools, hospitals, community centres, retirement complexes or assisted care homes) with monitoring data of appropriate duration, representativeness, data completeness, data validation and quality control, baseline air quality monitoring is to be provided for a minimum of one year to represent seasonal variability; Provide dispersion modelling of a base case to account for existing pollutant sources and to determine the spatial distribution of pollutants within the study area; Describe all direct and indirect sources of baseline air emissions, including mobile, stationary and fugitive; | Section 8.3.5 Appendix P Section 8.3.7 Appendix S Section 8.3.8 Appendix T Section 8.3.10 Appendix V Ambient nighttime light level: not applicable for the Community Access Road |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide current ambient noise levels at key receptor points to traditional land users and sensitive human receptors, including the results of a baseline ambient noise survey and permissible sound levels for each receptor. Information on typical sound sources (both natural and anthropogenic), geographic extent and temporal variations will be included; • For the aquatic environment, provide current underwater soundscape and vibration descriptions of the study area and at the project site from various sources based on acoustic measurements. Provide information on vibration and sound sources, geographic extent and spatial and temporal variations within the water column; • Describe existing ambient nighttime light levels at the project site and at any other areas where project activities could have an effect on light levels. The Impact Statement will describe night-time illumination levels during different weather conditions and seasons; and • Provide the approximate number, distance and identity factors of likely human receptors, including any foreseeable future receptors, that may be impacted by changes in air, water, country food quality (e.g., dust deposition on vegetation), and noise levels. At minimum, provide a map showing approximate locations of permanent residences, temporary land uses (e.g., cabins and traditional sites) and known locations of sensitive human receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, community centres, retirement complexes or assisted care homes). | |
| 8.2 | Meteorological Environment | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the local and regional climate including historical records of relevant meteorological information (e.g., total precipitation (rain and snow)); • Provide mean, maximum and minimum temperatures; • Provide typical wind speed and direction; • Identify the potential for extreme weather events such as, wind, precipitation and temperature extremes; • Provide hourly meteorological data (wind speed and direction, air temperature, net radiation, turbulence and precipitation data) from a minimum of one year to support dispersion modelling that captures the normal variability of meteorological conditions; and • Provide pan evaporation measurements or estimates of monthly (or daily) evapotranspiration. | Section 8.3.7 Appendix S |
| 8.3 | Geology, Geochemistry and Geological Hazards | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the bedrock geology and lithological units, including a summary table of geologic descriptions, mineralization styles (if applicable) supported by geological maps and cross-sections at appropriate scale (normally 1:50 000). Provide in the table an inferred risk rating (i.e., low, medium, high) for acid rock drainage and metal leaching potential based on the desk-top review of bedrock geology and mineralization; • Provide written description and maps of the current location of eskers and other post-glacial deposits on a map; • Identify any geological hazards that exist in the areas planned for the project facilities and infrastructure; and • Provide a characterization of the geochemical composition of all expected construction materials (i.e., eskers, quarries, etc.), in order to predict metal leaching and acid rock drainage including oxidation of primary sulphides and secondary soluble sulphate minerals. | Section 8.1.7 Appendix H Section 8.2.8 Appendix N |
| 8.4 | Topography, Soil and Sediment | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the landforms, soils and sediments within the local and regional project areas, including sediment stratigraphy; surficial geology maps and cross-sections of appropriate scale; • Describe the soils and sediments within the local and regional project areas and their suitability for sourcing construction material; • Describe the geomorphology, topography and geotechnical characteristics of areas proposed for construction of major project components, including the presence and distribution of eskers and permafrost, if applicable; • Identify any areas of ground instability; • Provide maps depicting soil depth by horizon and soil order within the project site area to support soil salvage and reclamation efforts, and to outline potential for soil erosion; • Describe the suitability of topsoil and overburden for use in the reclamation of disturbed areas including an assessment of the acid generating potential of overburden to be used; • Describe the historical land use and the potential for contamination of soils and sediments and describe any known or suspected soil contamination with the study area that could be re-suspended, released or otherwise disturbed as a result of the Project; • Identify ecosystems that are sensitive or vulnerable to acidification resulting from the deposition of atmospheric contaminants; • Provide written description and maps of ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts as per Ontario or Canada's Ecological Landscape Classification; • Provide written description and maps of the current location of eskers and other post-glacial deposits on a map; • Describe permafrost conditions including distribution of frozen and unfrozen ground, if applicable; and • Describe the potential for thaw settlement and terrain instability associated with ground thawing in permafrost areas, if applicable. | Section 8.2.8 Appendix N |

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| 8.5 | Riparian and Wetland Environments | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide pre-project characterization of the shoreline, banks, current and future flood risk areas, wetland catchment boundaries; • Quantify, delineate and describe wetlands (fens, marshes, peat lands, bogs, etc.) within the local study area potentially directly, indirectly and/or cumulatively effected by the Project; • Provide written description and maps of primary, secondary and tertiary watersheds and major and minor rivers and lakes; • Provide written description and maps of ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts as per Ontario or Canada's Ecological Landscape Classification; • Provide data files of mapped features depicting natural areas and wildlife presence within, and use of, the study area; • Identify and map all wetlands on federal lands, and all wetlands potentially directly or indirectly effected by the Project and within the scope of federal permits, authorizations, or other approvals; • Determine whether these wetlands are within a geographic area of Canada where wetland loss or degradation has reached critical levels, or considered ecologically or socially or economically important to a region; • Identify and describe wetland capacities to perform hydrological and water quality functions, provide for wildlife and wildlife habitat or other ecological functions; • Provide a wetland functions assessment in accordance with the guiding principles of Wetland Ecological Functions Assessment: An Overview of Approaches or any subsequent approved guidelines by which to determine the most appropriate functions assessment methodology to use; • Collect data from representative wetlands in a manner that enables reliable extrapolations in space (i.e., at minimum to Project, local and regional study areas) and in time (i.e., across years); • This assessment should be quantitative and include the collection of site-specific baseline information on wetland functions; • Submit complete data sets from any survey sites, including GIS files. Databases and GIS files should be accompanied by detailed metadata that meets ISO 19115 standard. Contact provincial and/or local government authorities to determine if other wetland conservation policies, regulations or wetland compensation guidelines apply (refer to The Wetland Network); and • Identify a regional study area of sufficient size to capture effects to wetlands within the larger drainage area and include wetlands located outside of the local study area that may be affected by hydrological changes as a result of cumulative effects. | <p>Section 8.1.8 Appendix I Section 8.2.4 Appendix J</p> |
| 8.6 | Groundwater and Surface Water | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide complete hydrometeorological (temperature, precipitation, evapotranspiration) information based on data from nearby weather stations or from a weather station on site; • Provide the delineation of drainage basins, at appropriate scales (water bodies and watercourses), including intermittent streams, flood risk areas and wetlands, boundaries of the watershed and sub-watersheds, in relation to key project components; • Provide written description and maps of primary, secondary and tertiary watersheds and major and minor rivers and lakes; • Provide the design flood at each water crossing; • Provide details on the hydraulic design of the water crossings; • Quantify the effects of the Project on the hydrological regime of both the local and Regional study area; in particular, in case of any watercourse diversions, describe the effects on the flow upstream and downstream of the diversion; • Provide the timing of freeze/thaw cycles, ice cover, and ice conditions for surface water bodies in the Project area; • Provide for each water body potentially effected by the Project, the total surface area, bathymetry, bank and bottom features, biological components, flows, maximum and mean depths, and type of substrate (sediments); • Provide a delineation and characterization of groundwater–surface water interactions, including an identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, wetlands, discharge and recharge areas; • Develop a quantitative surface water balance for components of the Project that may result in significant changes to surface water flow patterns (e.g., large quarry/aggregate extraction/stockpiles); • Identify all springs and any other potable surface water resources within the local and regional project areas and describe their current use, potential for future use, and whether their consumption has Indigenous cultural importance; • Describe the surface water quality baseline characterization program, including sampling site selection, monitoring duration and frequency, sampling protocol, and analytical protocol, including quality assurance and quality control measures; • Provide baseline surface water quality data, for a minimum of two years, for physicochemical parameters (temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, suspended solids) and relevant chemical constituents (major and minor ions, trace metals, radionuclides, nutrients, and organic compounds, including those | <p>Section 8.1.5 Appendix F Section 8.1.7 Appendix H</p> |

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| | <p>of potential concern); the data should illustrate the seasonal and inter-annual variability in baseline surface water quality, including possible changes due to groundwater–surface water interactions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide baseline sediment quality and characteristic data for key surface water sites likely to be affected by the road (i.e., from runoff, spills, erosion and sedimentation, etc.); • Identify all domestic, communal, or municipal water wells within the local and regional project areas, including their screened hydrostratigraphic unit and piezometric level; describe their current use, potential for future use, and whether their consumption has any Indigenous cultural importance; • Identify any groundwater monitoring wells in proximity to rock quarries and borrow areas, including their location, completion details (diameter, screen depth), geological log, screened hydrostratigraphic unit, piezometric level, and monitoring frequency; • Provide groundwater elevation data from any monitoring wells showing seasonal water level variations when pertinent to the period of quarry and borrow area operation; • Describe the groundwater quality baseline characterization program including sampling site selection, monitoring duration and frequency, sampling protocol, and analytical protocol including quality assurance and quality control measures; • Provide baseline groundwater quality data for physicochemical parameters (temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity) and relevant chemical constituents (major and minor ions, trace metals, radionuclides, nutrients, and organic compounds, including those of potential concern); the data should illustrate the seasonal and inter-annual variability in baseline groundwater quality, including possible changes due to groundwater–surface water interactions; • Describe and provide the hydraulic properties of the hydrostratigraphic units; • Describe the structural geology of the hydrogeological environment, including major faults, fracture density and orientation with respect to groundwater flow directions; • Describe the groundwater flow boundaries of the hydrogeological environment for the purposes of the Impact Statement; • Provide hydrogeological maps and cross-sections of the study area showing water table elevations, potentiometric contours, interpreted groundwater flow directions, groundwater divides and areas of recharge and discharge; and • Present a conceptual model of the hydrogeological environment, including a discussion of geomorphic, hydrostratigraphic, hydrologic, climatic, and anthropogenic controls on groundwater flow. | |
| 8.7 | Vegetation | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the local study area of the Project, provide a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The biodiversity, relative abundance and distribution of vegetation species and communities of ecological, economic or human importance (e.g., traditional use, forestry, tame pasture, native prairie, wetland or old growth); – The conservation status (i.e., listed under the Species at Risk Act (SARA) or assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) to be ‘at risk’, including species of concern) applicable to any particular species or communities; – The species critical habitat as described in final or draft recovery strategies or action plans; – The current level of both anthropogenic and natural (fire, flood, drought, etc.) disturbance associated with vegetation, including a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Level of habitat fragmentation; ▪ Historical and current fire disturbance; ▪ Any proximate activities that have resulted in changes to fire regimes (e.g., fire suppression, flooding, insect infestations, etc.); ▪ Consult Ontario’s Provincial Satellite Derived Disturbance Mapping digital resource³¹; and ▪ Consult Ontario’s Far North Land Cover layer. – Identify the biodiversity metrics, biotic and abiotic indicators that are used to characterize the baseline vegetation biodiversity and discuss the rationale for their selection; – Summarize information available from the Far North Biodiversity Project; – Provide data files of mapped features depicting vegetation presence within the study area; – Describe any weed species, other invasive species, and introduced species of concern; – Describe the use of local vegetation for medicinal or cultural purposes or as a source of country foods (traditional foods). The following species have known cultural importance to Indigenous communities: black spruce, white spruce, tamarack, balsam poplar, cedar, dwarf birch, red willow, trembling aspen, cottongrass, moss, black crowberry, blueberries, raspberries, reindeer moss, sphagnum moss, northern Labrador tea, caribou lichen, bearberry, dogwood, small cranberry, sage, sweetgrass, and lily pads; – Describe any other plant species of concern for consumption or where use has any Indigenous cultural importance; and – Describe any considered vegetation control alternative (including manual vegetation control methods). | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |

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| 8.8 | Fish and Fish Habitat | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a characterization of fish (as defined in subsection 2(1) of the <i>Fisheries Act</i>) and other aquatic species on the basis of resident and migratory species, food webs and trophic levels, structural and functional linkages, life history, and population dynamics, such as dispersion, fertility, recruitment, mortality rates, recolonization, age structure, sex ratios, population regulation, stability, distribution (communities, stocks, subpopulations, metapopulations), movements, migratory patterns, routes and preferred corridor, seasonal and annual trends in abundance, sensitive habitats and periods in relation to the study area, behavioural habitat selection, mating strategies, social interactions, and predator–prey interactions at multiple spatial and temporal scales, which are critical to identifying effects on population persistence and ecological processes. • Provide a description of the biodiversity within the freshwater environment, including trophic state, periphyton, phytoplankton, zooplankton, fish, and the interactions and relative significance of each species with the identified food chains. • Identify the biodiversity metrics, biotic and abiotic indicators that are used to characterize the baseline biodiversity for fish and marine animals, including the rationale for their selection. • Provide information on the surveys carried out and the source of data available (e.g., location of sampling stations, catch methods, date of catches, species, catch-per-unit effort). • Describe primary and secondary productivity in affected water bodies with a characterization of biotic interaction processes (e.g., food web and trophic levels, nutrient cycling), season variability, ranges, and sensitive periods. • Provide written description and maps of primary, secondary and tertiary watersheds and major and minor rivers and lakes. • List any aquatic species at risk, including critical habitat, that are known to be present within the study area. • Provide a description and location of critical habitats for aquatic species at risk that are known to be present within the study area. • Describe habitat by mesohabitat (e.g., pool, riffle, run), including the length of the section, width of the channel from the high-water mark (bankfull width), water depths, type of substrate (sediments), aquatic and riparian vegetation. Provide maps and photos. • Identify natural obstacles (e.g., falls, beaver dams) or existing structures (e.g., water crossings) that hinder the free passage of fish. • Provide a characterization of fish habitat features that may demonstrate the presence of fish species in terms of appropriate habitats—water quality and quantity characteristics, sediment type characteristics, benthic features, prey, shelter, refuge, feeding, spawning habitats, nursery habitats, rearing habitats, overwintering, migration routes, and the sensitive times for these activities. • Provide a description of habitat information that includes water depths (bathymetry) and the littoral, sublittoral, limnetic, profundal, and benthic zones. Stratification information will include epilimnion, metalimnion, and hypolimnion depths in combination with a water chemistry profile (dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, etc.). • Describe the use of fish and/or aquatic species (including Walleye, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, Brook Trout, Chain Pickerel (<i>Esox niger</i>), Yellow Perch (<i>Perca flavescens</i>), Cisco (<i>Coregonus artedii</i>), Burbot, Longnose Sucker (<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>), White Sucker (<i>Catostomus commersoni</i>), Lake Sturgeon, and Lake Chub (<i>Couesius plumbeus</i>) for consumption or where use has Indigenous cultural importance. • Describe any existing effects associated with previous or current activities (e.g., angling pressures, commercial fisheries). • Identify sensitive habitat areas (e.g., Ecologically and Biologically Sensitive Areas) within the study area. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| 8.9 | Birds, Migratory Birds and Their Habitat | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe biodiversity of bird species and their habitats that are found or are likely to be found in the study area, including identification of Bird Conservation Regions and Bird Conservation Region strategies; • The following groups of migratory and non-migratory birds should be considered as valued components: forest birds; raptors; shorebirds; waterfowl; and bog/fen birds, and other wetland birds. • Key habitat associated with species at risk should be considered valued components, including eskers and similar geologic features, wetlands and peatlands; • Collect bird data to adequately represent the following temporal sources of variation: among years; within and among seasons; and within the 24 hour daily cycle. • Collect explanatory (i.e., covariate) data necessary for modeling in such a way as to adequately represent the following spatial and temporal sources of variation: spatial variation in: land cover composition; soil type, geomorphology; hydrological processes, and climatic conditions; and, temporal, especially annual, variation in local weather inter- and intra-annual climatic variability; • Collect data in a manner that enables reliable extrapolations in space (i.e., at minimum to Project, local and regional study areas) and in time (i.e., across years); • Design suggestions for Project Study Area and Local Study Area scales: Use a standardized design approach during survey planning. The resulting design details will serve as the basis to develop alternative designs, evaluate options for particular design details, and to identify potential efficiencies. The approaches and tools suggested elsewhere in this document (e.g., land cover analysis, data simulations) should be considered during the planning phase; • Provide detailed descriptions of bird habitat that includes at a minimum, characterization of biophysical conditions with regard to ecoregion, Bird Conservation Region, and with respect to the particular conditions of boundary regions. The Project crosses and is in close proximity to ecoregion and Bird Conservation Region boundaries. | Section 8.2.6 Appendix L |

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| | <p>Since the project study area is at the edges of the ecoregions and Bird Conservation Regions, habitat patterns are likely to reflect these border characteristics, with one of the outcomes being that habitat types common elsewhere in the ecoregion may be relatively uncommon and potentially more ecologically important in the border region. Surveys need to be detailed enough within the local study area and regional study area to put the project study area into context of these wider areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mixed wood forest landcover and other upland vegetation types may be particularly important for many forest associated birds, supporting birds during migration, breeding and through the winter. Eskers and related features are uncommon and potentially ecologically important elements of the landscape and are likely to be disproportionately affected by these projects. River riparian corridors are another relatively uncommon feature with adjacent mixed wood forest; and – Should there be some displacement of nesting birds, baseline data should provide evidence that there is enough equivalent habitat for birds to be displaced to and that the vegetation being removed (e.g., eskers) is not unique to the project study area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the biodiversity metrics, biotic and abiotic indicators that are used to characterize the baseline avifauna biodiversity and discuss the rationale for their selection; • Provide estimates of the abundance and distribution, and information on the life history of migratory and non-migratory birds (including, but not limited to, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, marine birds, marsh birds and other land birds) in the study area. Estimates may be based on existing information, or additional surveys, as appropriate, to provide current data sufficient for reliable estimates; • Identify areas of concentration of migratory birds, including sites used for migration, staging, breeding, feeding and resting; • Provide written description and maps of ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts as per Ontario or Canada’s Ecological Landscape Classification; • Provide a characterization of habitat features found in the project area that are associated with the presence of those bird species that are likely to be affected, based on the best available existing information (e.g., land cover types, vegetation, aquatic elements), including habitat fragmentation. Classification should include local aerial and on-site photos; • Provide an estimate of year-round bird use of the area (e.g., winter, spring migration, breeding season, fall migration), based on data from existing sources and surveys to provide current field data if required to generate reliable estimates. In each portion of the year, survey effort must account for differences in species movements; • Describe the use of (magnitude, timing) migratory and non-migratory birds as a source of country foods (traditional foods) or where use has Indigenous cultural importance (e.g., Canada Goose, Snow goose, Swans, Gyrfalcon, Loon, Peregrine Falcon, and duck species); and • Identify any and all federal Species at Risk and/or Critical Habitat in the study area; sites that are likely to be sensitive locations and habitat for birds or environmentally significant areas. | |
| 8.10 | Terrestrial Wildlife and Their Habitat | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify wildlife species, other than avian species, of ecological, economic or human importance (particularly to Indigenous peoples), within the study area (including moose, rabbit, beavers, otters, muskrat, and frogs), that are likely to be directly or indirectly effected and describe each species: biodiversity, distribution and location; abundance and population status; life cycle; seasonal ranges, migration and movements; habitat requirements; and sensitive periods (e.g., seasonal, diurnal and nocturnal); • For the species identified above, describe and quantify the habitat type, including its: function; location; suitability; structure; diversity; relative use, natural inter-annual and seasonal variability, and; abundance as it existed before project construction; • Provide written description and maps of ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts as per Ontario or Canada’s Ecological Landscape Classification; • Identify the biodiversity metrics, biotic and abiotic indicators that are used to characterize the baseline biodiversity for terrestrial wildlife and discuss the rationale for their selection; • Describe the historic and current use of terrestrial wildlife as a source of country foods (traditional foods) or where use has Indigenous cultural importance (e.g., black bear, caribou, deer, moose, beaver, arctic fox, fisher, wolverine, rabbits, marten, muskrat, and otter); • Describe the use and harvesting of fur-bearing species and whether its harvesting has Indigenous cultural importance; • Describe any locations within the study area that might constitute sensitive areas for terrestrial wildlife such as: species at risk critical habitat that has been designated or is under consideration, ecological reserves and protected areas, in proximity to the project location or that could be effected by routine project operations or any lands in the study area that might constitute sensitive areas and habitat for wildlife, or nearby environmentally significant areas such as; National Parks, areas of natural or scientific interest, National Wildlife Areas, World Biosphere Reserves or UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites; • Identify wildlife management areas and established or proposed sanctuaries; and • Describe the levels of disturbance currently affecting wildlife and wildlife habitat, such as habitat fragmentation and the extent of human access and use. | <p>Section 8.2.5 Appendix K Section 8.2.7 Appendix M</p> |

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| 8.11 | Species at Risk | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a list of all provincially listed protected species at risk and species assessed by the COSEWIC that have the status of extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern and that may be directly or indirectly effected by the Project. Use existing data and literature as well as surveys to provide current field data that reflects the natural inter-annual and seasonal variability; • Provide a list of all species at risk listed under Schedule 1 of the federal Species at Risk Act that may be directly or indirectly effected by the Project. Use existing data and literature as well as surveys to provide current field data that reflects the natural inter-annual and seasonal variability of each species; • Key habitat associated with species at risk should be considered valued components, including eskers and similar geologic features, wetlands and peatlands; • Provide written description and maps of ecozones, ecoregions, and ecodistricts as per Ontario or Canada's Ecological Landscape Classification; • Collect species at risk data to represent the following temporal sources of variation: among years; within and among seasons (e.g., spring dispersal, breeding, late summer/fall migration and swarming, hibernation); and within the 24-hour daily cycle. • Account for the fact that rare species will require more survey effort to detect, which should be reflected in survey design by increasing the number and duration of surveys; • Ensure that, at minimum, the combined information from existing data and field surveys must be able to describe the distribution and abundance of species at risk in relation to the study areas; • Contain complete data sets from all survey sites. These should be in the form of complete and quality assured relational databases, with precisely georeferenced site information, precise observation/visit information and with observations and measurements in un-summarized form. Databases and GIS files should be accompanied by detailed metadata that meets ISO 19115 standards; • Provide documentation and digital files for results of analyses that allow for a clear understanding of the methods and a replication of the results (raw scripts or workflows are preferred in place of descriptive documentation); • Follow the survey requirements specific to bats; • Follow the survey requirements specific to Caribou; • Provide information and/or mapping at an appropriate scale (The project study area and local study area, as defined above for each valued component, constitute the appropriate scale) for residences, seasonal movements, movement corridors, habitat requirements, key habitat areas, identified or proposed Critical Habitat and/or recovery habitat (where applicable). Describe the general life history of species at risk (e.g., breeding, foraging) that may occur in the project area, or be affected by the Project; • Identify and map all species at risk, critical habitat, and residences on federal land within the project study area and local study area (provincial and/or local government authorities should be contacted to determine any additional data sources and survey methodologies); and, • The project study area and local study area, as defined above for each valued component, constitute the appropriate scale. <p>In relation to providing required information for bats, the Impact statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantify baseline bat activity (e.g., using acoustic detection to calculate an index of bat activity) to evaluate relative use of different habitats or features in the project area to help support and evaluate project siting decisions or impact predictions. In addition, locate and confirm use of high-value features such as roosts, foraging areas and hibernacula. <p>In relation to providing required information for caribou, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe boreal caribou use of the study areas (e.g., distribution, movement) over time using surveys to complement existing data if data within the project study areas are insufficient or unavailable to be able to understand how caribou use the habitat. Involve province of Ontario for data and survey requirements. Consider Indigenous knowledge and community knowledge; • Provide a justification for the sensitive periods considered in the assessment. Sensitive periods are associated with caribou life-stages such as calving, wintering, and travel. Ontario has specific sensitive time periods for caribou that are used in the identification, delineation, and consideration of habitat features; • Describe the type and spatial extent of biophysical attributes, as defined in Appendix H of the 2019 proposed amended boreal caribou Recovery Strategy present in the study areas; • Conduct surveys to complement existing data if data within the project study areas are insufficient or unavailable, to be able to understand where the biophysical attributes occur. Note that identification of biophysical attributes is not dependent on boreal caribou currently being present in the area; and • Provide the best available information from the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks on the level of disturbance (anthropogenic vs fire) in the range, consistent with the methodology developed by Environment Canada (2011). | <p>Section 8.1.6 Appendix G Section 8.2.4 Appendix J Section 8.2.5 Appendix K Section 8.2.6 Appendix L Section 8.2.7 Appendix M</p> |

| TISG Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/ Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 9 | Baseline Conditions – Human Health | |
| | <p>In preparing the report on baseline community health profile, the proponent must identify the environmental and social area of influence of the Project. To understand the community and Indigenous context and baseline health profile, the proponent must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a community health profile that describes the overall health of the community across standard health indicators including any specific community identified health concerns (real or perceived) that may be impacted by the Project; • Describe any context-specific definitions of health and well-being, including from the perspective of the relevant Indigenous cultures, including community and spiritual wellbeing; • Describe relevant community and Indigenous history or context, including historical impacts on health, such as intergenerational trauma; • Use a social determinant of health approach to identify and describe the causal chain on relevant health outcomes, including how gender will impact outcomes, across diverse subgroups. Relevant social determinants of health should be selected based on community input, if possible, to reflect the setting and circumstances of the impacted communities. Guidance on selecting relevant determinants may be drawn from the suite of determinants recognized by the Public Health Agency of Canada; • Complete a community health profile that describes the overall health of the community which may include information on birth rates, death rates, communicable diseases including sexually transmitted infections, injuries, chronic disease rates, and mental health and well-being (e.g., diet, substance use, physical activity) and other community-relevant information (e.g., existing communal activities, support networks and cultural/spiritual practices that may contribute to community resilience), where available through secondary information sources (e.g., Indigenous Services Canada’s First Nations Inuit Health Branch, Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada, provincial and municipal health authorities); • Describe and characterize the existing health services and programs and any service delivery arrangements such as with the Geraldton Hospital, including health care provider capacity; • Describe how the Project may impact access to health services; • Describe the current health effects (physical, social, and mental) of geographic isolation and lack of economic development, to better understand the description of potential improvements; • Provide the approximate number, distance and identity factors of likely human receptors, including any foreseeable future receptors, that may be impacted by changes in air, water, country food quality (e.g., dust deposition on vegetation), and noise levels. At minimum, provide a map showing approximate locations of permanent residences, temporary land uses (e.g., cabins and traditional sites) and known locations of sensitive human receptors (e.g., schools, hospitals, community centres, retirement complexes or assisted care homes); • Describe drinking water sources which may be affected by the Project, including surface and/or groundwater (permanent, seasonal, periodic or temporary), their distance from project activities and approximate wellhead capture zones; • Provide baseline contaminant concentrations in drinking water and in the tissues of country foods (traditional foods) consumed by Indigenous groups and local communities. For game animals, the proponent is expected to work with local Indigenous groups to gather tissues-samples, as appropriate; • Describe the consumption of country foods (traditional foods) outside of the commercial food chain, including food that is trapped, fished, hunted, harvested or grown for consumption, medicinal purposes or has cultural value. Specify which species are used, quantities, frequency, harvesting locations, and how the data were collected (e.g., site-specific consumption surveys); • If a Human Health Risk Assessment is required, provide baseline contaminant concentrations in the tissues of country foods (traditional foods) consumed by Indigenous groups and local communities; and • Describe the status of food security and food sovereignty within the Indigenous groups and local communities. | <p>Section 8.3.8 Appendix T</p> |
| 10 | Baseline Conditions – Social | |
| | <p>In preparing a baseline, the proponent must identify the social area of influence of the Project and prepare a community profile. To understand the community context, the information provided must describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influences on community well-being, including youth mental health, current expectations within the community for the Project to bring social and economic development opportunities and implications of the Project not being realized; • Access, ownership and use of resources (e.g., land tenure, forestry, minerals, aggregate, food, water, social infrastructure, current road systems and seasonal roads), including ownership of land surrounding water crossings; • Access to and control over resources from a gender perspective (e.g., information, knowledge and services); • Capacity (currently available or planned) of institutions to deliver public services and infrastructure; • Relevant historical community background; | <p>Section 8.3.8 Appendix T</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicable history with previous developers, including historical and recent proponents of mineral and other natural resource exploration and development projects and aspirations for future social and economic development; and Any issues or concerns related to the cost of living, particularly with respect to food prices, energy prices, and housing/rental costs. | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must provide information on the following social conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Services Education Housing Recreation Navigation Community Cohesion Public Safety Culture | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| 11 | Baseline Conditions – Economic | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must provide information on the following economic conditions related to the Project and the economic opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour market Business Environment Infrastructure Public finances Overall economy | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| 12 | Baseline Conditions – Indigenous Peoples | |
| 12.1 | Physical and Cultural Heritage | |
| | The Impact Statement should include a description of the historical baseline conditions associated with Indigenous cultures. This description should give consideration to understanding historical baseline conditions associated with ability to transmit culture (e.g., through language, ceremonies, harvesting, teaching of sacred laws, traditional laws, stewardship laws, traditional knowledge). | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q Appendix R |
| 12.2 | Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes | |
| | The Impact Statement should include information on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes (e.g., hunting, fishing, trapping, plant gathering, ceremonial or spiritual practices) of all potentially impacted Indigenous groups. | Section 8.3.9 Appendix U |
| 12.3 | Health, social and economic conditions | |
| | The baseline conditions requirements set out in the sections above for health, social and economic conditions, include Indigenous peoples and GBA+ specific to Indigenous peoples. | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| 12.4 | Conditions Related to the Rights of Indigenous Peoples | Section 8.3.4 Appendix O |
| 13 | Effects Assessment | |
| 13.1 | Methodology | |
| | The Impact Statement must describe in detail the project's potential adverse and positive effects in relation to each phase of the Project (construction, operation, maintenance, suspension, decommissioning, and abandonment). | Section 6 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 13.2 | Interactions between Effects and Valued Components | |
| | Although the requirements set out in these guidelines are separated by environmental, health, social or economic conditions and elements, the Impact Statement must consider and describe the interactions between the environmental, health, social and economic effects as well as the interaction and interconnectedness of selected valued components taking into account values of local communities, including municipalities and Indigenous groups. | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

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| 14 | Predicted Changes to the Physical Environment | |
| 14.1 | Changes to the Atmospheric, Acoustic and Visual Environment | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quantitative assessment of common air pollutants (total particulate matter, fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), respirable particulate matter with a diameter less than 10 microns (PM₁₀), sulphur oxides, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, diesel particulate matter, and carbon monoxide), as well as any air contaminants potentially associated with the Project such as dust resulting from construction activities and ongoing vehicle use during operations or maintenance of the gravel road bed; • Provide an assessment of the Project's emissions potentially contributing or adding to existing ground ozone levels; • Provide a comprehensive list of project activities (air pollutant emission sources) that may affect ambient air quality; • Include an atmospheric dispersion model of the common air pollutants in order to estimate the contaminant concentrations present in the entire area that could potentially be affected by atmospheric emissions resulting from project activities (air pollutant emission sources); • Provide appropriately scaled contour map(s) plotting the predicted emission concentrations (isopleths). The choice of air quality model must be appropriate for the complexity of sources, terrain and meteorology; • Provide details of all air quality model configuration, including meteorology, land-use, gridded and sensitive receptors and chemical and physical transformation settings; • Assess the potential for emissions from the Project to contribute to acid deposition and exceedances of critical loads for terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems; • Describe the source characteristics (e.g., point emissions, area sources, incineration emissions, and fugitive sources, including dust generated by exposed soils that are cleared and stockpiled); • Provide emission rates for all project and regional sources within the study area, including emission factors (with methodology, uncertainty assessment and references) and all assumptions and related parameters that would enable calculations to be reproduced; • Use established methods for estimating emissions from on-road and off-road activities; • Provide a comparison of predicted air quality concentration against the Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and ozone (O₃). Predicted concentrations for other air pollutants relevant to the project, such as dust resulting from construction activities and ongoing vehicle use during operations or maintenance of the gravel roadbed, should be compared with appropriate provincial and territorial guidelines. The assessment against CAAQS should be based on the principles of "keeping clean areas clean" and "continuous improvement", and in the context of air sheds and air zones with the Air Quality Management System; • For air pollutants with numerical standards and/or established air quality criteria [e.g., Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), or Ontario Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC)], observe the averaging time period and the statistical form associated with each numerical standard; • Provide a description of all methods and practices (e.g., dust suppression strategies and guidelines, control equipment) to be implemented to reduce and control emissions. If the best available technologies are not included in the Project design, the proponent needs to provide a rationale for the technologies selected; • Provide details of the achievement of emission standards for all mobile and stationary engines used in the Project; • Provide justification for all control efficiencies used to reduce emission rates of sources within the model, including details of all assumptions associated with the related mitigation measures, and their achievability; • Describe changes in ambient vibration and other sound levels resulting from the Project at potential receptor locations, including changes to the perception of non-anthropogenic sounds; • Quantify sound levels at appropriate distances from any Project facility and/or activities and describe for each contributing source the timing (e.g., hours of night-time activities), number and duration of noise events and their sound characteristics, including frequency spectrum; • Provide the hourly distribution of baseline noise events at night in comparison to predicted individual noise events at night at each receptor location; • Describe the locations and characteristics of the most sensitive receptors including species at risk and differential effects for sensitive receptors; • Describe consultation with regulators, stakeholders, community groups, landowners and Indigenous groups about potential effects to the atmospheric, acoustic, and visual environment; • Consider the expectation of peace and quiet at receptors (e.g., in a quiet rural area or during Indigenous land use) and the applicable community-based policies concerning noise (e.g., complaints resolution processes); • Identify and justify the approach to determine the extent to which sound effects resulting from the Project are adverse and describe any changes in night-time light levels as a result of the Project; and • Describe any positive changes. | <p>Section 9.5.3 Appendix P Section 9.5.4 Appendix S Section 9.5.8 Appendix V</p> |

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| 14.2 | Changes to Groundwater and Surface Water | |
| | <p>With respect to potential project effects on the physical hydrogeological system, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a project-specific water use assessment identifying and describing the quantity and quality of water resources potentially affected by the Project. <p>With respect to potential project effects on water quality in the receiving environment, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present any applicable water management plan, including for any aggregate sources and stockpiles; • Present estimates of surface water runoff rates for major project components, including aggregate and overburden stockpiles; • Describe any applicable water quality treatment measures and provide evidence supporting the effectiveness of these measures; • Compare the quality of all effluent streams to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life, and to provincial water quality objectives for contaminants of concern (e.g., arsenic, chromium, mercury) that do not have CCME guidelines. CCME's Water Quality Guideline values are national science-based voluntary guidelines developed collaboratively among provincial, territorial, and federal jurisdictions for the protection of freshwater and marine life; • Describe any changes to groundwater quality that could affect surface water quality; • Provide an assessment for off-site migration pathways for impacted groundwater, and an analysis of contaminant attenuation capacities within the hydrogeological units of the project study area; and • Describe groundwater and surface water monitoring programs during the construction, operation and decommissioning and abandonment. <p>If the proponent undertakes quarrying activities to extract aggregate material that may results in effects on groundwater and surface water levels (i.e., quarrying below the water table), the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an integrated site water balance model incorporating surface and groundwater fluxes for the construction, operation and decommissioning of large quarrying sites; • Describe the risk to the receiving environment related to effects to the quantity and quality of all effluent streams released from the site, including surface runoff from aggregate and overburden stockpiles, and dewatering discharge; • Describe spatial and temporal (i.e., all project life cycle) changes to groundwater quality at potential receptor locations (e.g., existing or future drinking water wells and spring water sources), including traditional land users, due to effluents from the Project including changes to physicochemical parameters (temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, dissolved organic carbon), chemical constituents (major and minor ions, trace metals, nutrients, organic compounds); • Describe spatial and temporal (i.e., over project life cycle) changes to surface water quality at potential receptor locations, including traditional land users, due to effluents and atmospheric deposition from the Project including changes to physicochemical parameters (temperature, pH, salinity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, dissolved organic carbon, total suspended solids), chemical constituents (major and minor ions, trace metals, nutrients, organic compounds); • With respect to potential effects on water quality resulting from acid rock drainage and/or metal leaching, the Impact Statement must: provide estimates of the potential for aggregate extraction activities (i.e., eskers and quarries) and rock exposed in permanent rock cuts to be sources of acid rock drainage or metal leaching; • Describe the methods used to predict acid rock drainage and/or metal leaching; • Construction materials, including sample collection and laboratory testing; • Identify potential risks to surface and seepage water quality from the aggregate and overburden stockpiles and project infrastructure during construction, and operation, decommissioning and abandonment; • Provide aggregate sources, volumes and tonnage, and extraction construction methods; • Provide an acid rock drainage assessment and mitigation plan that describes the confirmatory monitoring of construction materials and potential mitigation strategies to prevent or control acid rock drainage and metal leaching during construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment; and <p>Describe contingency plans, monitoring during operation, decommissioning and abandonment, and maintenance plans.</p> | <p>Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 9.3.4 Appendix H</p> |
| 14.3 | Changes to Riparian, Wetland and Terrestrial Environments | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overall description of changes related to landscape disturbance including fragmentation of habitats and project effects on areas of ground instability; • Describe any hydrological or drainage changes that may alter moisture regimes and how that may affect vegetation and wetland function; • Describe how hydrological or drainage changes may disturb soils, wetlands, peatlands or muskeg and result in the release of mercury or methylmercury from disturbed soils, which may affect water and groundwater quality, fish, wildlife and human health; | <p>Section 9.3.5 Appendix I Section 9.4.2 Appendix J</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe any changes to permafrost conditions as a result of the Project; • Describe any changes to eskers and similar geological features as a result of the Project; • Describe any contaminants of concern (e.g., arsenic, chromium, mercury) potentially associated with the Project (including from spills or accidental discharges) that may affect soil, sediment, wetlands, and surface and ground water (including substances used during summer and winter maintenance activities); • Describe direct, incidental and cumulative predicted positive and/or adverse effects to riparian, wetland (including separate description relevant to peatlands) and terrestrial biodiversity metrics, effects of fragmentation, changes to regional biodiversity that could be caused by all project activities, including but not limited to effects to wetland ecological functions, including effects that may alter the wetland's capacity to perform hydrological, biogeochemical cycling, habitat, and climate functions. • Describe the methodology used to identify effects; • Describe the historical land use and the potential for contamination of soils and sediments and potential for loss of soil fertility. Describe any known or suspected soil contamination within the study area that could be re-suspended, released or otherwise disturbed as a result of the Project; • Describe any changes in risk to forest fires that may result from the Project; • Describe any changes to plant species of cultural importance; • Describe the vegetation standards and controls to be implemented while constructing and operating the Project. Describe any integrated vegetation management programs; • Describe any revegetation procedures to be implemented as part of the Project; and • Describe any positive changes (e.g., from offsets that result in re-vegetation, new wetlands, etc.). | |
| 15 | Effects to valued components – Environment | |
| 15.1 | Fish and Fish Habitat | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe any direct, incidental or cumulative predicted positive and/or adverse effects to fish (all developmental stages) and fish habitat as defined in subsection 2(1) of the Fisheries Act, including the calculations of any potential habitat loss (temporary or permanent) including spawning grounds, nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas, or death of fish. The assessment must include a consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The geomorphological changes and their effects to hydrodynamic conditions and fish habitats (e.g., modification of substrates, dynamic imbalance, silting of spawning beds); – The modifications of hydrological, and hydrometric conditions on fish habitat, critical habitat for aquatic species at risk, and on the fish species' life cycle activities (e.g., reproduction, fry-rearing, migration); – Potential effects to riparian areas that could affect aquatic biological resources and productivity taking into account any anticipated modifications to fish habitat (e.g., structure, cover); – Describe effects to fish biodiversity considering identified biodiversity metrics; – Effects to the primary and secondary productivity of water bodies and how Project-related effects may affect fish food sources; – Any potential imbalances in the food web and trophic levels in relation to baseline conditions; – Potential for direct effects of contamination downstream of the Project on fish and bioaccumulation of contaminants (e.g., selenium, mercury, chromium, arsenic) in fish that may be consumed by Indigenous Groups; – Potential direct and incidental effects on fish behaviour, distribution, abundance, migration patterns; and – Potential losses of individuals and relationship to population density and the resiliency of a population • Describe the effects of changes to the aquatic environment on fish and fish habitat. • Include a discussion of how Project construction timing correlates to key fisheries timing windows for freshwater and anadromous /catadromous species, and any potential effects resulting from overlapping periods. • A discussion of how vibration caused by Project activities (e.g., blasting) may affect fish habitat and behaviour, such as spawning or migrations. • Describe potential effects from impingement and entrainment of fish and other aquatic biota through water withdrawal. • Describe any need for a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization and/or a <i>Species at Risk Act</i> permit and describe any consideration of Department of Fisheries and Oceans guidance documents. • Include a risk assessment of the potential introduction and intrusion of aquatic invasive species. • Describe effects from changes in light level. • Describe any positive changes, such as habitat creation. | Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the anticipated changes in the composition and characteristics of the populations of fish, following modifications to the aquatic environment. Describe any effects to other aquatic organisms. Describe any changes to aquatic plants, including all benthic and detached algae and phytoplankton. | |
| 15.2 | Birds, Migratory Birds and Their Habitat | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe direct, incidental and cumulative predicted positive and/or adverse effects to migratory birds and non-migratory birds, including population level effects that could be caused by all project activities; Consult A Framework for the Scientific Assessment of Potential Project Impacts on Birds Appendix 2 and 3 for overview of potential impacts to birds from road projects; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze predicted effects for all birds, each valued component, and for Bird Conservation Region Priority Species and include relevant effects from Appendix 2 and 3. Include separate analyses for each project activity, component, and phase. Incorporate sources of error for all analyses to ensure final impacts estimates show the best available estimate of precision; Non-linear, indirect and synergistic responses to the project should be explicitly explored where reasonable; Any assumption of displacement should be justified with scientific references and surveys should provide evidence that there is available habitat to accommodate displacement under a range of population scenarios. For example, it should be clear that a growing population will not be limited by the habitat loss along the project study area. Consult the maps, data, and models developed through the Boreal Avian Modelling Project, and describe how these materials have been incorporated where relevant (https://borealbirds.ualberta.ca/); Describe short term and long term changes to habitats and food sources of migratory and non-migratory birds (types of cover, ecological unit of the area in terms of quality, quantity, distribution and functions), with a distinction made between these two birds categories, including losses, structural changes and fragmentation of riparian habitat (aquatic grass beds, intertidal marshes), terrestrial environments (e.g., uplands, grasslands, forested, old growth, post fire) and wetlands frequented by birds. Describe changes in terms of the health, integrity, and availability of habitats; Describe the changes to the bird-habitat relationships; the change in biodiversity, abundance, and density of the avian community that utilise the various habitat types or ecosystems; Account for changes in detection pre- and post-project construction. For instance, roads allow for greater detection distances and therefore any estimates of abundance or presence need to account for differential detectability; Describe the effects caused by the new habitat types created in the project area by clearing vegetation. The new habitats created may attract migratory birds, which were not present before (such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will or the Common Nighthawk). Describe how these species at risk may be impacted by the project; Describe the potential direct, incidental and cumulative adverse effects of the Project on migratory bird species (such as SARA-listed Yellow-Rail) who inhabit the project area during breeding season as well as during migration (as staging and stopover sites); Describe the change in mortality risk, including as a result of collision of migratory birds with any project infrastructure, vessels and vehicles; Ensure surveys cover temporal window that incorporates a variety of road usage by both diurnal and nocturnal species; Account for indirect effects such as the increased movement of predators in the predictions of mortality effects; Describe the incidental effects caused by increased disturbance (e.g., sound, artificial light, presence of workers), relative abundance movements, considering the critical periods for the birds, including but not limited to breeding, migration and overwintering; and Support any assumption of temporary displacement during construction and operation of the Project through evidence or through study and monitoring within the project study area. | Section 9.4.4 Appendix L |
| 15.3 | Terrestrial Wildlife and Their Habitat | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the potential direct, incidental and cumulative adverse effects to other wildlife and wildlife habitat, including population level effects that could be caused by all project activities, including but not limited to: project noise and sensory disturbances, habitat alteration, air emissions and dust, increased predation, increased potential for spread of disease, invasive species introductions, poaching opportunities, any linear access corridors (roads, rights of way) particularly in the vicinity of wetland (including peatlands), lake and riparian habitats and on migratory corridors; Describe effects to terrestrial wildlife biodiversity considering biodiversity metrics, effects of habitat fragmentation, changes to regional biodiversity; Describe the potential adverse effects of the Project on species noted as important to Indigenous groups and local communities and their habitat that are not currently listed under the Species at Risk Act or provincial statutes; | Section 9.4.3 Appendix K Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an evaluation of the effects of any new road access or rights of way on wildlife mortality risk and movement patterns; • Describe the potential adverse effects of the Project on wildlife as a result of poaching; • Describe changes to key habitat, including eskers and similar geologic features, wetlands and peatlands, for species important to current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes; • Describe changes to insects, pollinating species in particular; • Describe changes to vegetation species important to Indigenous peoples; and • In addition to direction from Environment and Climate Change Canada via the Agency, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry should be considered a source of information on appropriate methodologies to predict effects to wildlife. | |
| 15.4 | Species at Risk and Their Habitat Science-Based Evidence from the Relevant Jurisdiction that is Consistent with the Recovery Strategy | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the potential direct, incidental and cumulative adverse effects of the project on species at risk listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act and, where applicable, its critical habitat (including its extent, availability and presence of biophysical attributes); • Analyse predicted effects for each species at risk. To fully understand the effects and/or benefits of one alternative versus another, all relevant metrics and evaluators for species at risk should be considered; • Include separate analyses for each project activity, component, and phase; • Consider potential effects to species at risk from bioaccumulation and biomagnification of contaminants of dust and other pollutants resulting from the project; and • Conduct post-construction surveys to verify predicted effects. <p>In relation to describing the effects on bats, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take into account any effects to foraging habitats as well as hibernacula, roosts and travel corridors when assessing effects to local and regional populations; and • Identify potential roosts, hibernacula, foraging habitat and travel corridors in the local area and determine whether the Project will impact these habitats or their functions as bat habitat. Where artificial roost structures (i.e., buildings) are rare in the landscape, particular attention should be paid to identifying natural roost structures. <p>In relation to describing effects on caribou, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an assessment of the potential adverse effects on boreal caribou habitat (e.g., at the range and sub-range scales) considering the direction provided in the RMP and GHD (see section 8.11) and informed by NHIC information layers and the General Habitat Description Mapping Product (available through the Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks). • Assess the effects of all linear disturbances (e.g., new road access or rights of way) on caribou, including movements between seasonal habitats to account for functional habitat loss and effects of increased predation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use population-level modeling to assess the effects of proposed disturbance on caribou at the scale of federal range boundaries and provincial range boundaries. Increases in predation caused mortality rates need to be considered as do the anticipated exacerbating effects of climate change; and – With respect to effects on undisturbed habitat at the scale of the range: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an account (and GIS file if available) of added project disturbance using a 500-metre buffer, using the following formula: (Project footprint + 500-metre buffer) - overlapping area(s) already considered disturbed habitat (see glossary in the federal recovery strategy); and ▪ Determine whether the Project is expected to compromise the ability of ranges to be maintained at the disturbance management threshold and provide a rationale for the conclusion. • With respect to effects on biophysical attributes as defined in Appendix H of the boreal caribou Recovery Strategy: determine whether the Project is expected to remove or alter biophysical attributes necessary for boreal caribou recovery or survival and provide a rationale for the conclusion (provide GIS file if available). • With respect to effects on connectivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Determine whether the Project is expected to result in a reduction of connectivity within or between the ranges and provide a rationale for the conclusion; – Evaluate habitat and range connectivity at the local, regional and range scales using quantitative methods (e.g., habitat suitability analysis etc.); and – In addition, where telemetry data is available, evaluate movements of collared individuals using quantitative methods (e.g., step analysis), to determine existing movement corridors, and how these may be affected by project development. • With respect to the effects of predation: determine whether the Project is expected to result in an increase of predator and/or alternate prey access to undisturbed areas and provide a rationale for the conclusion. | <p>Section 9.3.3 Appendix G Section 9.4.2 Appendix J Section 9.4.3 Appendix K Section 9.4.4 Appendix L Section 9.4.5 Appendix M</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With respect to effects on individuals and population condition at the range scale: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide best available information from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks concerning baseline range population size and trend; – Provide an assessment of the potential adverse effects of the Project on the population condition of the range (i.e., size and trend) at both the provincial range scale and the federal range scale; and – Provide an assessment of the potential adverse effects on boreal caribou individuals (e.g., sensory disturbance, mortality, pollution) including legal harvest from indigenous groups. • Provide an evaluation of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Caribou (Habitat Protection) – Range Condition; – Caribou (Species Protection) – Population Size Estimates at the Range Level (e.g., minimum animal count based on available information); – Caribou (Species Protection) – Population Trend Estimates at the Range Level; – Caribou (Habitat Protection) – Cumulative Disturbance at Range Level; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantify additional disturbance being added to the range (footprint and footprint + 500 metre buffer); ▪ Alignment with existing disturbance; and ▪ Length of new linear disturbances. – Caribou (Habitat Protection) – Habitat Amount and Arrangement; and – Caribou (Habitat Protection) – Categorized Habitat at the Sub-range Level. • Clearings created for the Project may create new habitat types thereby attracting Species at Risk which were not present before (such as the Eastern Whip-poor-will or the Common Nighthawk). Describe how new habitat types will impact species at risk in the project area. • Describe the effects of construction pits and quarries on or near esker deposits on species at risk. • Describe the potential adverse effects of the Project on species protected by provincial statutes and assessed by the COSEWIC as extirpated, endangered, threatened or of special concern (flora and fauna) and their habitat that are not currently listed under the Species at Risk Act. • Identify critical timing windows (e.g., denning, rutting, spawning, calving, breeding, roosting), setback distances, or other restrictions related to these species. • Identify provincial, territorial or federal permits or authorizations that may be required in relation to the species at risk. • Provide survey results and detailed mapping of each species at risk and their habitat, including important habitat features, for all federal lands. • Clearly identify the locations of federal lands/non-federal lands within the study area and differentiate between these land tenures in the presentation of information regarding all species at risk. For example, total habitat disturbance for boreal caribou should be presented at the range scale, but it should also be presented in a way that clearly indicates habitat disturbance specifically within federal lands. • Describe all reasonable alternatives to the Project that would avoid the potential effects on species and their habitat, with particular attention to critical habitat, and important habitats such as upland habitat which is used as movement corridors by caribou, breeding areas for birds, and which contains roosting habitat for bats. • Describe all feasible measures that will be taken to avoid or lessen the impact of the Project on the species and its critical habitat. • Demonstrate that avoidance and minimization measures will be applied for species at risk. Recovery Strategies will provide information such as Population and Distribution Objectives, and Strategic Direction for Recovery. • Describe the residual effects that are likely to result from the project after avoidance and minimization measures have been applied. • Describe the area, biophysical attributes and location of habitat including critical habitat affected (e.g., destroyed, permanently altered, disrupted); describe all feasible measures that would be taken to eliminate the effects of the work or activity on species and their habitats, including critical habitat. • Provide an account of how the project and mitigation measures are consistent with the recovery strategy, action plan, or management plan for the species. | |
| 15.5 | Climate Change | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a description of each of the Project's main sources of GHG emissions; • Provide the estimated annual GHG emissions from each source; • Provide an estimate of yearly net GHG emissions for each year of the project lifetime; • Provide a description of large sources of GHG emissions that may be the consequence of accidents or malfunctions; • Provide a qualitative description of the Project's positive or negative effects on carbon sinks; • Describe how the Project may contribute to Canada's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, if applicable (e.g., the Impact Statement could explain how the Project would result in emission reductions in Canada by avoiding emissions from another source); and | Section 12 Appendix Y |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe how the Project could impact global GHG emissions. The Impact Statement should describe how the Project is likely to result in global emission reductions. | |
| 16 | Effects to valued components – Human Health | |
| 16.1 | Biophysical Determinants of Health | |
| | <p>With respect to biophysical determinants of health, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an assessment of adverse and positive effects on human health; Identify predicted effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of ground or surface water used for domestic uses based on the most stringent guideline values of the following criteria; Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines (CDWQG), Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (ODWQS), or Ontario Soil, Groundwater and Sediment Standards (SGSS); Describe and quantify the health risk from exposure to COPCs (e.g., arsenic, chromium, mercury) via consumption of country foods and differential risk for vulnerable subgroups; Conduct a problem formulation exercise/preliminary model predictions to determine whether a Human Health Risk Assessment is required. The proponent must provide a rationale/explanation if problem formulation/preliminary model predictions indicate that a Human Health Risk Assessment is not warranted; If a Human Health Risk Assessment is required, the assessment must identify all potential contaminant exposure pathways for contaminants of concern to adequately characterize potential biophysical risks to human health. A multimedia Human Health Risk Assessment may need to be considered and conducted for any contaminant of potential concern with an identified risk and multiple pathways; Provide a detailed rationale/explanation if a determination is made that an assessment of any COPCs (e.g., arsenic, chromium, mercury) or exposure pathways should be excluded and/or screened out of the assessment and if the proponent decides to deviate from the suggested assessment approaches and methods or determines that such assessment is not warranted; Describe and quantify the project-related activities, and provide an inventory of contaminants of potential concern and their sources, potential exposure pathways, adverse human health effects and the potential human receptors of these effects; Describe nuisances and environmental, social and economic changes that could potentially be sources of adverse human health effects and the potential human receptors of these effects; In situations where project related air, water or noise emissions meet local, provincial, territorial or federal guidelines, and yet public concerns were raised regarding human health effects, provide a description of the public concerns and how they were or are to be addressed; Food security: describe effects to availability, use and consumption of country foods (traditional foods) and health impacts of this effect; and Describe any project-related changes that may result in positive health effects. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 16.2 | Social Determinants of Health | |
| | <p>With respect to Social Determinants of Health, the Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the social and economic valued components, and their respective indicators, as outlined in Sections 17 and 18, and their potential links to effects on health; Consider adverse and positive effects on health (i.e., overall well-being) based on the social and economic valued components, and their respective indicators, as outlined in Sections 17 and 18. Specific priority indicators must be determined or validated by community members; Describe how community and Indigenous knowledge was used in assessing human health effects; Describe effects on the safety of women and girls from project activities including worker accommodation, and as a result of new roads in remote areas; Identify predicted visual or other aesthetic effects of the project on existing land use in the study area; Apply GBA+ across all relevant determinants of health (including access to health-and social services) and document how potential changes to these determinants may have; Differential effects on diverse subgroups, including Indigenous peoples or other community relevant subgroups (e.g., children, women, youth, elders) or may create or exacerbate existing health disparities identified in baseline assessment. Describe where biological factors (e.g., age and sex) can intersect with socioeconomic position and other health determinants to compound their vulnerability; Describe and quantify specific thresholds and document if different thresholds were considered for vulnerable populations, including by sex and age; provide rationale and justification if specific thresholds not used; Identify which health effects (negative or positive) are expected to be short-term or long-term, as well as which may be contingent upon future economic development projects (e.g., mining activity), or road connections; and Describe any positive health effects (e.g., resulting from improved economic opportunities, increased access to health-social services). | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |

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| | The variation of effects during different project phases and times of year should be described as well as potential project-related effects on the community health profile (e.g., changes to existing communal activities, support networks and cultural/spiritual practices that may contribute to community resilience. | |
| 17 | Effects to Valued Components – Social | |
| 17.1 | Services and Infrastructure | |
| | The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the predicted effects to services and infrastructure in the study area; and Describe any need for government and/or proponent expenditures for new or expanded services, facilities or infrastructure, arising out of project-related effects. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 17.2 | Land and Resource Use and Recreation | |
| | The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe predicted effects to recreation (e.g., hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, aesthetic enjoyment) by the community and Indigenous groups, and youth within these communities; Describe effects to community well-being due to changes to viewscales and soundscapes resulting from the Project; Describe the potential interactions of the Project with local and regional land use and resource activities; and Identify predicted effects of the Project on the quality and quantity of ground or surface water and implications for recreational uses. | Section 9.5.7 Appendix U |
| 17.3 | Navigation | |
| | The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe effects to navigable waterways, including to physical characteristics (e.g., width, depth, etc.), bank/bottom features, biological components, flow/tides, etc.; Describe ancillary project components that will be constructed in, on, under, over, through or across navigable waterways to support the Project; Describe potentially affected waterway users and describe consultation with waterway users and Indigenous groups regarding navigational use, issues raised and how issues were addressed; and Describe project effects to navigation and navigation safety, including potential obstructions to navigation (natural/man-made, other works, navigation aids, etc.). | Section 9.5.7 Appendix U |
| 17.4 | Community Cohesion | |
| | The Impact Statement must assess potential changes to local demographic conditions, including changes to population size and changes in the relative population of men and women, and younger and older people. The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe in-and out-migration effects, including changes in social and cultural make-up of affected communities and changes in populations; and Identify whether social divisions might be intensified as a result of the Project and evaluate effects to social cohesion, both between the project community and other surrounding First Nations. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 17.5 | Community Well-being and Public Safety | |
| | The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess potential adverse and positive effects of changes to social conditions; Assess potential adverse effects on women’s safety, including Indigenous women; Evaluate potential social effects associated with changes in disposable income, including potential cost-of-living effects, adverse and positive lifestyle change; Describe the potential opportunities expected to become available for youth, and how youth will gain access to these opportunities, considering the conditions described (e.g., youth living in urban centres who are attending secondary school, youth who have left the community to seek training or work); and Consider the potential for stresses on community, family and household cohesion, alcohol and substance use, or illegal or other potentially disruptive activities. es, feelings of empowerment, distribution of benefits among affected people. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 17.6 | Culture | |
| | The Impact Statement must assess potential impacts to surrounding communities, including local Indigenous communities. The spatial and temporal boundaries for the assessment should be determined with the input from the community based on pre-contact in consideration of aspects that are relevant to the community’s understanding of their culture. The Impact Statement must assess changes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance and associated effects on other social and economic conditions, specifically burial sites; | Section 9.5.5 Appendix Q Appendix R |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe any anticipated effects to language, such as the relative balance of speakers of local languages, English, and French, and the availability of public services in these languages; Traditional cultural activities (such as religious ceremonies, traditional hunting, etc.) that might be caused by the project; and Culturally significant plants or wildlife. | |
| 18 | Effects to Valued Components – Economic | |
| 18.1 | Labour Market | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the effects of the Project on the local and regional labour markets; Describe the number of new jobs (for each phase of the Project), and the expected rates of pay, and an analysis of differential effects across relevant subgroups, including by sex, age and other relevant identity factors as well as limitations to labour market access; Describe longer-term labour market local and regional labour market effects as a result of the project; Describe plans to encourage local employment; Describe plans to encourage the recruitment, development and retention of underrepresented groups in the Project (e.g., set targets for employment for specific groups); Describe the Project's diversity and inclusion workforce development plans (e.g., youth with substance use programs); Describe any skills-matching issues related to the Project; and Opportunities for diverse groups of women, and underrepresented groups, into higher-skilled jobs through provision of on-the-job training (e.g., surveyors, road safety auditors, and heavy equipment operators). | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 18.2 | Housing and Consumer Prices | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the predicted positive and adverse effects to accommodation/lodging, including housing supply, housing costs, and rental rates, both during the construction and operation phases; and Describe the effects of the Project on availability of goods and services and consumer prices, in particular for food; fuel; and electricity. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 18.3 | Business Environment | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the potential positive and negative effects of the Project on local and regional businesses, during both construction and operation phases of the Project. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 18.4 | Infrastructure | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the effects on infrastructure; and Describe how the Project will affect the local/regional energy system. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 18.5 | Public Finances | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the Project's effects on local/municipal, provincial/territorial, federal, and Indigenous group public finances. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| 18.6 | Overall Economic Impact | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe the Project's impact and consistency with any existing local or regional plans for economic development; energy production; transportation and utilities and communication corridors; airports and winter roads); residential land use; commercial zoning; forestry and logging operations; commercial outfitters; and other land uses. Provide a qualitative analysis and description of the extent to which the Project may facilitate developments, including mining projects, mineral exploration activities and other resource development in the area; Provide an estimate and description of the Project's direct, indirect, and induced economic impact during construction and operation; and Provide the sources and methodologies used for developing multipliers and estimates to calculate the figures above. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |

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| 19 | Effects to Indigenous Peoples and Impacts on the Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights | |
| 19.1 | Effects to Indigenous Peoples | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement should provide information on how the Project may impact Indigenous peoples, as informed by the Indigenous groups involved. Information on measures proposed to address adverse effects should also be provided, including the perspectives of Indigenous groups on potential mitigation measures.</p> <p>The potential effects, to consider assessing include both adverse and positive effects to the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes, physical and cultural heritage, and environmental, health, social and economic conditions of Indigenous peoples impacted by the Project.</p> | Section 9.5.2 Appendix O |
| 19.2 | Impacts on the Exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement should describe the level of engagement with Indigenous groups regarding potential impacts of the project on the exercise of rights, and where possible, the Project's potential interference with the exercise of rights. Where an Indigenous group has not provided this information to the proponent, or both parties agree that it is better to provide information related to the impact on the exercise of rights directly to the Government of Canada, the proponent should describe a rationale for the approach taken. Proponents are encouraged to discuss with Indigenous groups their views on how best to reflect the assessment of impacts on the exercise of rights in their Impact Statement. This may include supporting Indigenous-led studies that are to be provided publicly and to the Government of Canada.</p> <p>Proponents are encouraged to work together with Indigenous groups to find mutually agreeable solutions to concerns raised about a proposed Project, especially for those concerns raised by Indigenous peoples about impacts on the exercise of their rights. The Impact Statement should detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any measures identified in an attempt to avoid, minimize, offset or otherwise address potential adverse impacts of the Project on the exercise of rights; • Where measures are proposed by Indigenous groups, the proponent should respond with its intent to implement them, as appropriate; and, • With respect to mitigation measures proposed by the proponent, the Impact Statement should include perspectives of the potentially impacted Indigenous groups, on the effectiveness of particular mitigation measures on such impacts. <p>Where no mitigation measures are proposed or mitigation is not possible, the Impact Statement should identify potential level of severity of the adverse impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights, as identified by the Indigenous group(s).</p> | Section 9.5.2 Appendix O |
| 20 | Mitigation and Enhancement Measures | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the standard mitigation practices, policies and commitments that constitute proven technically and economically feasible mitigation measures and that are to be applied as part of standard practice regardless of location as well as any new or innovative mitigation measures being proposed. Mitigation measures must be specific, achievable, measurable and verifiable, and must be described in a manner that avoids ambiguity in intent, interpretation and implementation; • In relation to birds, mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with federal authorities and included in the Impact Statement; • In relation to bats, mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with federal authorities and included in the Impact Statement; • In relation to caribou, mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with federal authorities and included in the Impact Statement; • Describe the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, including the proposed mitigation measures and their effectiveness on the contaminants of concern; • Describe the Project's environmental protection plan and its environmental management system through which the proponent will deliver this plan. The plan must provide an overall perspective on how potentially adverse effects would be minimized and managed over time; • Discuss the mechanisms the proponent would use to require its contractors and sub-contractors to comply with these commitments and policies and with auditing and enforcement programs; • Describe the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan, including the proposed mitigation measures and their effectiveness on the contaminants of concern; • Describe mitigation measures that are specific to each environmental, health, social or economic effect identified. Mitigation measures are to be written as specific commitments that clearly describe when and how the proponent intends to implement them, what decision-making criteria will be used, and the outcome these mitigation measures are designed to address; • Assess impacts of each potential route option for effects to valued components and provide a quantitative comparison; • Include mitigation measures for all project components and where components are to be decommissioned and abandoned, include planned activities to do so. Project components that may be abandoned and decommissioned during the construction or operation phases may include access roads, temporary laydown areas, aggregate extraction sites and other temporary sites (if it will no longer be used) Include measures to address sensory disturbance and the resulting functional loss of habitat; | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Wildlife Friendly road-design principles and features, which may include underpasses and wildlife bridges (as well as monitoring to estimate bat and other wildlife mortality); • Include measures to prevent the road from being a conduit for the spread of invasive species such as European Common Reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>); • Describe measures to be used for stockpiling all stripped peat for use during site reclamation, or describe the plan for stockpiling stripped peat and mitigate effects related to its long-term stockpiling or removal; • Describe mitigation measures that are specific to identified effects to Indigenous peoples; • Describe mitigation measures proposed by Indigenous peoples and the consideration of those in the Project; • Identify and describe mitigation measures, including alternative means of carrying out the Project that would avoid or lessen potential adverse effects to terrestrial and aquatic species and/or critical habitat listed under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act, including but not limited to woodland caribou and Lake Sturgeon; • Identify measures to prevent and mitigate the risk of engaging in harmful, destructive or disruptive activities in key sensitive periods and locations (e.g., breeding bird season, migration and nesting) to migratory birds, their nests and eggs, in areas frequented migratory birds; • Identify measures to prevent and mitigate the risk of engaging in activities that cause harmful alteration, disruption or destruction in key sensitive periods and locations (e.g., spawning) for fish; • Identify measures to prevent and mitigate the risk of engaging in harmful, destructive or disruptive activities in key sensitive periods and locations (e.g., hunting season) to wildlife and wildlife habitat; • Identify measures to avoid the deposit of substances harmful to fish or migratory birds in water or areas frequented by fish and/or migratory birds; • Identify measures to prevent water crossings (i.e., culverts) from negatively impacting freshwater fish movement (e.g., due to flow, debris, or “perching”); • Identify opportunities to involve Indigenous groups in monitoring activities during the construction and operations phases to mitigate effects on traditional activities; • Provide best technically and economically feasible mitigation approaches to habitat mitigation that follow the hierarchy: avoid potential impact; minimize potential impact; provide biodiversity offsets to address any residual adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided or sufficiently minimized; and provide justification for moving from one mitigation alternative to the next. • In relation to wetlands, mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with federal authorities and included in the Impact Statement; • Provide offsetting or compensation plans to address all residual effects to species at risk, and their critical habitat, migratory birds, fish and fish habitat and/or wetland functions (if applicable) for review during the impact assessment process; • Offsets are required to address residual effects, ECCC guidance on conservation allowances should be used; • In relation to designing offsets for wetlands, mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with federal authorities and included in the Impact Statement; • Specify the actions, works, minimal disturbance footprint techniques, best available technology, best environmental practices, corrective measures or additions planned during the Project’s various phases to eliminate or reduce adverse effects; • Describe measures included in the design of the Project to mitigate its greenhouse gas emissions. These could include design decisions such as the use of low-emitting technologies, the use of low-carbon or renewable fuel or carbon capture and storage; • Describe information on habitat banks or any habitat credits that have been or will be obtained, including the regime that issued them, project type, project start date and vintage year. Proponents may also provide information on their intent to acquire or generate international habitat credits; • Provide an assessment of the likely effectiveness of the proposed technically and economically feasible mitigation measures and describe all relevant uncertainties on the effectiveness of the measures; • Describe all relevant uncertainties on the effectiveness of the measures to address the Project residual adverse effects; • Identify other technically and economically feasible mitigation measures that were considered but are not proposed for implementation, and explain why they were rejected; • Justify any trade-offs between cost savings and effectiveness of the various forms of mitigation measures; • Assess any potentially adverse environmental effects associated with the mitigation method itself; • Identify and describe the use and application of best available technology and best environmental practice, including its effectiveness on the contaminants of concern, to prevent adverse effects on the receiving environment other than for GHG reduction purposes; • Information on any offset credits that have been or will be obtained, including the offset regime that issued the credits, project type, project start date and vintage year. Proponents may also provide information on their intent to acquire or generate international offset credits; • To inform potential mitigation measures, a comparison of the Project’s projected GHG emission intensity of similar projects in Canada and internationally that are a good example of energy efficiency or low emissions intensity projects. The comparison should explain why the emissions intensity may be different; • Identify the party responsible for the implementation of mitigation measures and the system of accountability; | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where appropriate, provide details regarding financial liability and compensation in place as required by regulation or company commitment in relation to decommissioning or abandonment; Propose differentiated mitigation measures for all potential adverse effects identified, if applicable, so that adverse effects do not fall disproportionately on vulnerable populations, certain Indigenous groups, or certain communities, and they are not disadvantaged in sharing any development benefits and opportunities resulting from the Project. These mitigation measures should be developed in collaboration with those who are vulnerable and/or disadvantaged; Propose mitigation measures to reduce all potential adverse effects to health conditions of all potentially impacted communities and Indigenous groups and present opportunities for enhancing positive effects; Propose mitigation measures to reduce all potential adverse effects to social conditions of all potentially impacted communities and Indigenous groups and present opportunities for enhancing positive effects; Propose mitigation measures to reduce all potential adverse effects to economic conditions of all potentially impacted communities and Indigenous groups and present opportunities for enhancing positive effects such that benefits are not disproportionate on some; Document specific suggestions raised by each Indigenous group for avoiding, mitigating or otherwise accommodating the Project's environmental, health, social and economic effects; Identify opportunities for enhancing positive effects, such as creation of local employment and infrastructure improvements; Describe supplier development initiatives, including identification of potential local suppliers, providing them with information about technical, commercial and other requirements, and debriefing unsuccessful bidders; Describe any procurement policies (e.g., bid packaging) that facilitate the opportunities for local companies; Describe education, training, hiring practices that encourage employment of local people, including the use of the Northern Ontario Network of Indigenous Training Organizations (e.g., the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network); Describe technology transfer and research and development programs that will facilitate the use of local suppliers of goods and services, local employees, develop new capabilities related to project requirements; and Describe how disproportionate effects that were identified in the GBA+ results were used to inform mitigation and enhancement measures. | |
| 21 | Residual Effects | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characterize the residual effects using criteria most appropriate for the effect; Characterize residual effects for human health using human health-related criteria most appropriate for the carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health effects of non-threshold contaminants; Where applicable, consideration should be given to the following criteria for residual effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Magnitude; geographic extent; timing; duration; frequency; context; input from Indigenous peoples; likelihood; reversibility; and the environmental, health, social and economic context within which potential effects may occur should be taken into account when considering the criteria above. Provide the rationale for the choice of criteria used to determine the extent to which the predicted effects are adverse. The information provided must be clear and sufficient to enable the Agency, review panel, technical and regulatory agencies, Indigenous groups, and the public to review the proponent's analysis of effects; Describe any differential effects as per GBA+ (e.g., are the effects more severe for some groups than others); Consider the views of the Indigenous groups and the public in assigning the criteria to be used and in characterizing the effects; and Set out the probability or likelihood of that effect occurring and describe the degree of scientific uncertainty related to the data and methods used within the framework of this analysis. | <p>Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| 22 | Cumulative Effects Assessment | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and provide a rationale for the valued components that will constitute the focus of the cumulative effects assessment. The selected valued components are those most likely to be affected by the Project in combination with other projects and activities; Include a rationale to justify the exclusion of other valued components from the cumulative effects assessment, as applicable; Identify and justify the spatial and temporal boundaries for the cumulative effects assessment for each valued components selected. The boundaries for the cumulative effects assessments may differ for each valued component considered and must not be constrained by jurisdictional boundaries; Assess cumulative effects using a hierarchy, with effects to both local populations and large populations assessed; Describe the methodology used to determine boundaries; | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |

| TISG Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/ Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until the Agency releases Technical Guidance under IAA, refer to Technical Guidance for Assessing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, for more guidance on determining spatial boundaries; • In relation to caribou: assess cumulative effects to caribou at the scale of the three project study areas (defined above), as well as the implicated Ontario caribou ranges, and the federal Far North caribou range; • Identify the sources of potential cumulative effects. Specify other projects or activities that have been or that are likely to be carried out that could cause effects to each selected valued component within the boundaries defined, including potential induced effects, and whose effects would act in combination with the residual effects of the Project. This assessment must consider the results of any relevant regional study conducted; • Assess the cumulative effects to each valued component selected by comparing the future scenarios with the Project and without the Project. Effects of past activities (activities that have been carried out) are to be used to contextualize the current state of the valued component. This assessment must also assess the cumulative effects to rights of Indigenous peoples and their cultures, and effects to Ontario's largest caribou range (Missisa); • Describe the mitigation measures that are technically and economically feasible to eliminate or reduce adverse cumulative environmental, health, social and economic effects. The Impact Statement must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Describe and provide an assessment of the effectiveness of the measures applied to mitigate the cumulative effects; – In cases where measures to mitigate these effects are beyond the control of the proponent, the Impact Statement must identify any parties that have the authority to act on these measures. In such cases, the Impact Statement must summarize any commitments by the other parties regarding implementation of the necessary measures and any associated communication plans; and – Assess the implications of applying project-specific mitigation and enhancement measures within a regional context taking into account all reasonably foreseeable development of the area. • Describe and, where appropriate, quantify the level and severity of the adverse cumulative effects; and • Develop a follow-up program to verify the accuracy of the assessment or the effectiveness of mitigation measures for cumulative effects. | |
| 23 | Other Effects to Consider | |
| 23.1 | Effects of Potential Accidents and Malfunctions | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, taking into account the lifespan of different project components, and contributing and complicating factors such as weather or external events, potential accidents and malfunctions related to the Project, and the potential for vandalism or sabotage, including an explanation of how those potential events were identified, potential consequences (including the environmental, health, social and economic effects), the plausible worst case scenarios for each major incident type and the unmitigated effects of these scenarios; • Plausible accident and malfunction response scenarios should be supported by environmental sensitivity mapping that identifies site-specific conditions and sensitive receptors that are situated adjacent to project activities, including shorelines, streams and wetland areas frequented by fish and/or by migratory birds, as well as likely pathways thereto; • Worst-case scenarios should account for the timing that coincides migration periods involving high concentrations of migratory birds; nesting periods for migratory birds; spawning periods for fish; and the presence of sensitive wildlife and/or seasonally important habitat; • Identify and justify the spatial and temporal boundaries for the effects assessment associated with accidents and malfunctions. The spatial boundaries identified for effects from potential accidents and malfunctions will generally be larger than the boundaries for the Project effects alone; • Describe the magnitude and duration of project-related accidents and/or malfunctions, based on the worst-case scenarios and the more-likely but lower-consequence alternative scenarios, including a description of the quantity, mechanism, rate, form and characteristics of the contaminants, greenhouse gases and other materials likely to be released or spilled into the environment during these scenarios and any potentially adverse environmental, health, social or economic effect; • Describe the preventive measures and design safeguards that will be established to protect against such occurrences and the contingency and emergency response procedures that would be put in place if such events do occur; • Describe the expected effectiveness of the response measures and systems; • Assess the potential for minor and major accidental spills of fuel, or loss of containment of dangerous goods; • Where appropriate, provide an analysis of the potential environmental, health, social and economic effects of these discharges on aquatic and terrestrial environments and on human health within spatial boundaries described for the study area; • Describe existing emergency preparedness and response systems and existing arrangements and/or coordination with qualified response organizations in the spatial boundaries associated with the Project; • Describe exercise and training regimes for emergency response; | Section 13.1 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| TISG Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/ Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any critical infrastructure such as local drinking water treatment plants or facilities that may treat water sources impacted by the Project and the capacity of the drinking water treatment plant or facilities to treat water sources impacted by an accidental release from the Project during all project phases; Describe the role of the proponent in the case of spill, collision, grounding or other accidents or malfunctions associated with the Project during all project phases; Detail the equipment that will be available to be deployed to respond to spills; Describe mutual aid agreements in place in the event that the incident exceeds the resources of the proponent and how these resources would be accessed; Describe volunteer management plans; Describe or provide for a waste management plan as it pertains to waste generated during an emergency response; Where appropriate, provide details regarding financial liability and compensation in place as required by regulation or company commitment; Describe Emergency Communications Plans that would provide emergency instructions to surrounding communities. Procedures should include a combination of urgent immediate actions, such as public notification of safety issues, shelter-in-place and evacuation directions, as well as longer term actions such as general website and hotlines, incident status updates, injured wildlife reporting, etc. as appropriate. Include a description of efforts that will be taken to invite public feedback on emergency response plans; and Describe possible mitigation measures to deal with adverse environmental, health, social and economic effects resulting from accidents or malfunctions. | |
| 23.2 | Effects of the Environment on the Project | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide details of planning, design and construction strategies intended to minimize the potential adverse effects of the environment on the Project; Identify any areas of potential wind or water erosion, slumps and slope instability, geologic hazards, including but not limited to those caused by geologic movements; Describe any mitigation measures that can be implemented in anticipation or in preparation for effects of the environment on the Project; Describe possible mitigation measures to deal with adverse environmental, health, social and economic effects resulting from effects of the environment on the Project; Identify the Project's sensitivities/vulnerabilities to change in climate (both in mean conditions and extremes such as short-duration heavy precipitation events), describe climate resilience of the Project and how climate change effects have been incorporated into the Project design (e.g., water crossings) and planning over the lifetime of the Project and describe the climate data, projections used, and related information used to evaluate these sensitivities (i.e., risks) over the full project lifetime; Describe any identified trends in meteorological events, weather patterns, or physical changes to the environment that are anticipated to result from climate change (for example, changes to annual freeze-thaw cycles, water levels, break-up season and spring freshet) and incorporate this information in a risk assessment as contributing and complicating factors for possible accidents and malfunctions. Provide mitigation measures (both passive and active) that the proponent is prepared to undertake in order to minimize the frequency, severity and consequences of such projected effects; When describing possible effects from climate change on the Project, describe how considerations from Indigenous peoples on climate change may impact the Project were considered; and Describe measures to enhance positive environmental, health, social and economic effects resulting from effects of the environment on the Project. | Section 12 Appendix Y |
| 24 | Canada's Ability to Meet Its Environmental Obligations and Its Climate Change Commitments | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Impact Statement should describe the effects of the Project in the context of environmental obligations, with a focus on Government of Canada obligations and commitments relevant to decision-making. The Impact Statement should describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How the Project's effects (including contribution to cumulative effects) may contribute to Canada's ability to meet its obligations (e.g., related to biodiversity); and How the Project's effects (including contribution to cumulative effects) may hinder Canada's ability to meet its obligations. Where the Project may contribute to Canada's ability to meet these obligations/commitments, the Impact Statement should describe plans and commitments to ensure that positive contributions are met. Likewise, where the Project may hinder Canada's ability to meet these obligations/commitments, the Impact Statement should describe how the Project commits to first try to avoid and then to mitigate these potential effects. Where relevant, the Impact Statement should include expected indicators and data collection methods to support the plans outlined above. The Impact Statement should include how community and Indigenous knowledge may be incorporated in assessing whether the Project presents a contribution or a hindrance to meeting these obligations/commitments. | Section 13.2 |

| TISG Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/ Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|---|--|
| 25 | Description of the Project's Contributions to Sustainability | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characterize the Project's contribution to sustainability. The Impact Statement should describe the context of the particular project, including the issues of importance to participants, the diversity of views expressed and the selection of valued components. The Impact Statement should also characterize the Project's contribution to "sustainability", as defined by Indigenous groups, such as "Seven Generations Teachings" and "Seven Generation Stewardship". • Describe how sustainability principles were applied (outlined above) and identify conclusions drawn from this analysis. This summary should be qualitative in nature but may draw on quantitative data as necessary. • Indicate how the planning and design of the Project, in all phases, considers the sustainability principles; • Describe the process in selecting the preferred alternative means and alternatives to the Project and how the sustainability principles were considered; • Indicate how monitoring, management and reporting systems consider the sustainability principles and attempt to ensure continuous progress towards sustainability; • Describe the ecological, health, social and economic benefits of the Project to local communities within the study area, potentially affected Indigenous groups, regional, provincial, territorial and/or federal governments; and • Describe engagement with potentially affected Indigenous groups and describe measures and commitments to ensuring the sustainability of Indigenous livelihood, traditional use, culture and well-being. | Section 13.3 |
| 26 | Follow-up Programs | |
| 26.1 | Follow-Up Program Framework | |
| | <p>The Impact Statement must present a follow-up program that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the follow-up program and the valued components targeted by the program; • List of elements requiring follow-up; • Number of follow-up studies planned, as well as their main characteristics (list of parameters to be measured, planned implementation timetable, etc.); • Intervention mechanism used in the event that an unexpected deterioration of the environment or impacts on the exercise of rights of Indigenous peoples and cultures is observed or experienced; • Mechanism to disseminate follow-up results among the concerned interested parties; • A description of how the monitoring results will be used to trigger the proponent's intervention mechanisms for effects that do not have compliance-based thresholds (e.g., CAAQS for common air pollutants); • Accessibility and sharing of data for the general population; • Opportunity for the proponent to include the participation of Indigenous groups and stakeholders on the affected territory during the development and implementation of the program; and • Involvement of local and regional Indigenous organizations in the follow-up program design and implementation, evaluation of the follow-up results, as well as any updates, including a communication mechanism between these organizations and the proponent. | Section 6.9 Section 9 Section 14 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix AA |
| 26.2 | Follow-Up Program Monitoring | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Impact Statement must describe the environmental, health, social and economic monitoring to be established, as part of the follow-up program. • Specifically, the Impact Statement must present an outline of the preliminary environmental, health, social and economic monitoring program. | Section 6.9 Section 9 Section 14 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix AA |
| 27 | Assessment Summary | |
| | The proponent must prepare a stand-alone plain language summary of the Impact Statement in both of Canada's official languages (French and English). The summary must contain sufficient details for the reader to understand the Project, any potential environmental, health, social and economic effects, potential adverse impacts on the exercise of rights Indigenous peoples, proposed mitigation measures, residual effects and any required follow-up programs. | Assessment Summary Package |

Appendix C2

Terms of Reference – Concordance Table



C2 Proposed Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road, September 2020

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|--|---|
| 1 | INTRODUCTION | |
| | No commitments in Section 1 of the ToR. | Not applicable |
| 2 | THE PROPONENT | |
| 2.1 | Proponent Identification | Section 3 |
| 3 | ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS | |
| 3.1 | Provincial Environmental Assessment Requirements | Section 5.1.1 |
| 3.2 | Federal Impact Assessment Requirements | Section 5.1.2 |
| 3.3 | Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation | Section 5.1.3 |
| 3.4 | Preparation of the Environmental Assessment | |
| | The EA for the Project will consist of: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description and purpose of the undertaking; | Section 2 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description and statement of the rationale for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The undertaking; The alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking; | Section 7 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the undertaking and alternative methods, a description of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The environment that will be affected or that might reasonably be expected to be affected, directly or indirectly; The effects that will be caused or that might reasonably be expected to be caused to the environment; The actions necessary or that may reasonably be expected to be necessary to prevent, change, mitigate or remedy the effects upon or the effects that might reasonably be expected upon the environment; | Section 4 Appendix B |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking and alternative methods; and | Section 8 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of any consultation about the undertaking by the proponent and the results of the consultation. | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 3.4.1 | Environmental Assessment and Project Management Principles | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | Environmental Assessment Principles: | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with potentially affected and interested persons | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | | Section 11 Appendix X |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a reasonable range of alternatives | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider all aspects of the environment | Section 8 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically evaluate net environmental effects | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear, complete documentation | Final EA/IS and its appendices |
| | Project Management Principles | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to timelines in accordance with Ontario Regulation 616/98 – Deadlines Regulation and involve interested persons early in the EA process; | The Final EA/IS is being submitted as per the schedule set out by the Province and Marten Falls First Nation. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply the EA process clearly and in a manner consistent to similar undertakings; | Final EA/IS and its appendices |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be open and transparent to enable interested persons to follow the planning and decision-making process undertaken; | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify other approvals required for the undertaking to proceed and coordinate approvals, where possible; | Section 5 Section 13 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the best available information based on sound scientific, engineering, and planning practices and processes, and on input obtained through consultation activities; | Section 8 Section 9 Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an appropriate level of detail to fulfil the requirements of the EAA, considering the nature and complexity of the undertaking, potential for environmental effects, and the level of public interest; and | The main body of the Final EA/IS is intentionally written in plain language to make it accessible to a broader audience, while the technical details are provided in the appendices for those who wish to review them in depth. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize potential harm and enhance benefits to the environment by recommending impact management measures and opportunities to enhance societal benefits. | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 3.4.2 | Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use | |
| | During the EA, Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use will inform and validate the proposed criteria and indicators, inform the existing environment conditions, identify and predict potential effects, and help determine appropriate impact management measures and monitoring methods. | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| | Indigenous communities will be involved at critical decision-making points throughout the EA so that MFFN can consider and incorporate, where appropriate, Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use information into the Project | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 Appendix X All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|----------------|--|---|
| | <p>Information Criteria and Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbouring Indigenous communities will be engaged to help inform and confirm the criteria and indicators selected for the Project from an Indigenous Knowledge perspective. • Respecting cultural protocols and governance structures, MFFN will continue to work with Indigenous communities to identify what is important to them and why. | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| | <p>Establishing Existing Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available Indigenous Knowledge shared and collected to support the EA will be used to both guide future data collection and supplement the data gathered through Western scientific means for this remote area of the province. • The findings of field investigations will also be presented to Indigenous communities to determine where Indigenous Knowledge fills gaps for characterizing existing conditions. | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |
| | <p>Assessing Potential Effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFFN will support interested Indigenous communities in completing Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use Studies during the EA. • MFFN will consult and engage with Indigenous communities to identify potential effects from an Indigenous perspective. | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |
| | <p>Developing Impact Management Measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFFN will work with Indigenous communities and solicit Indigenous Knowledge and perspective on impact management measures to manage potential effects. | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |
| | <p>MFFN will continue to engage neighbouring Indigenous communities to determine their interest in participating in the Indigenous Knowledge Program.</p> | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |
| | <p>Marten Falls First Nation will strive to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities on how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use will become part of the Environmental Assessment.</p> | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |
| 3.4.2.1 | Indigenous Knowledge Program | |
| | <p>The following principles will be used to guide the Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use studies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Holders will be identified by the MFFN community to participate in the studies; • Consultation and Indigenous Knowledge protocols will be defined prior to commencing studies; • A collaborative approach will be used that follows the customs and culture of each Indigenous community; • Traditional channels of authority and levels of approval within each Indigenous community will be respected; • Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous land and resource use data collection workshops and interviews will be facilitated at sites within the Traditional Territory of each Indigenous community; • Engagement and communication with Knowledge Holders through workshops and / or interviews will be respectful; • Indigenous communities will own and control their Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use; and • MFFN will strive to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities on how Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use shared will be incorporated into the EA. | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X</p> |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|----------------|--|--|
| | MFFN will collaborate with Indigenous communities that complete Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use studies to develop the data collection methods, or to build on data collection methods already used by Indigenous communities, where appropriate. | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| | MFFN will develop and provide an Indigenous Knowledge Program Guidance Document to support the sharing and collection of Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and resource use relevant to and required for the EA, per provincial and federal requirements. | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| 4 | PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT AND THE STUDY | |
| | The final purpose statement will be included in the EA that will be submitted to the MECP. | Section 2 |
| | The EA will confirm the preferred alternative, identify the potential effects of the Project, identify and recommend impact management measures to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects and identify opportunities to enhance benefits to the environment. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 8 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 5 | RATIONALE FOR AND DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING | |
| | The final rationale and description of the undertaking will be included in the EA. | Section 2 Section 7 |
| 5.1 | Rationale for the Proposed Undertaking | |
| | No commitments in Section 5.1 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 5.2 | Description of the Proposed Undertaking | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EA will include the consideration of construction and operation activities for a Community Access Road. The Project description will be provided in greater detail in the EA. | Section 7 |
| 5.2.1 | Project Components | |
| 5.2.1.1 | Road | |
| | The preferred route of the 100 m ROW for the Community Access Road will be identified in the EA. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 5.2.1.2 | Bridges and Culverts | |
| | No commitments found in Section 5.2.1.2 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 5.2.1.3 | Quarries, Borrow Areas, and Aggregate Source Areas | |
| | The volume and type of borrow materials, and therefore number of quarries, borrow areas, and aggregate sources areas required will be determined during the EA. | This item will be completed during the detail design phase of the Community Access Road. |
| 5.2.1.4 | Temporary Infrastructure for Construction | |
| | The Project will take into consideration MRNF recommended practices for the construction of access roads on Crown Land provided in their publication of Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (MNR, 1990). | Section 7 |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--------------|--|---|
| 5.2.2 | Project Activities | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each phase will be further detailed as part of the EA. A detailed description of the proposed undertaking will be provided in the EA and will be sufficiently detailed to identify and assess potential effects during the construction and operations phases of the Project. | Section 7 |
| | Planning and Design Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the ToR be approved, an EA will be prepared in accordance with the ToR and EAA. | Final EA/IS and its appendices |
| | Construction Phase | Section 7.2.3 Section 7.2.4 |
| | Operations Phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EA will conservatively assess the potential effects of salt, pesticide and dust suppressant use, and where effects are predicted recommend impact management measures. | Section 7.2.5 |
| | Emissions | Section 8.3.7 Section 9.5.4 Appendix S |
| | Discharges | Section 9.3.2 Section 9.3.4 Appendix F Appendix H |
| | Wastes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved waste facilities in the vicinity of the Project will be considered and identified during the EA. | Section 7.2.3 |
| | Further information on emissions, discharges and wastes during construction and operation will be provided in the EA. | Section 8.3.7 Section 9.5.4 Appendix S Section 9.3.2 Section 9.3.4 Appendix F Appendix H Section 7.2.3 |
| 6 | DESCRIPTION OF AND RATIONALE FOR ALTERNATIVES | |
| 6.1 | Overview | |
| | No commitments in Section 6.1 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 6.2 | Approach to Considering “Alternatives To” | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Code of Practice allows for proponents to limit the discussion of previously examined alternatives in the EA when alternatives have been previously considered through a separate decision-making process such as a provincial government priority initiative (MECP 2020). In these cases, the proponent must document the rationale for not examining alternatives and the extent to which any previous planning supports the provincial government priority initiative. The EA will consider and assess the construction, operation and maintenance of a Community Access Road. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 6.3 | Approach to Considering “Alternatives Methods” | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EA will consider the alternatives methods of carrying out the undertaking, which for the Project is the identification and assessment of alternative routes of a CAR and associated temporary infrastructure for construction. The alternative temporary infrastructure, including quarries, borrow areas and aggregate source areas, to support construction of the CAR will be identified in the EA. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 7 |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|----------------|--|--|
| 6.3.1 | Alternative Routes for the Environmental Assessment | |
| | The specific location of the Project components of the CAR, including the roadway, is not yet known and will be determined in the EA. | Section 7 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 7 | EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS | |
| 7.1 | Description of the Environment and Methods to Characterize the Environment | |
| | No commitments in Section 7.1 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 7.1.1 | Preliminary Study Area | |
| | The 5 km wide study area is considered preliminary and will be refined in the EA through the identification of discipline-specific local and regional study areas. | Section 6.5 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.1.2 | Environmental Features The information included in the ToR will be augmented during the EA by field investigations and studies, Indigenous Knowledge shared, and input from neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons. The more detailed description of the environment will be provided in the EA. | Section 8 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.1.3 | Methods to Characterize the Environment during the Environmental Assessment | |
| | The existing environment that may be affected by the Project will be described in greater detail in the EA. | Section 8 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | The EA will document the methods and results of field investigations and studies that are completed in support of the EA. Project-specific field investigations and studies will be undertaken for input into the assessment and evaluation of effects of the alternatives and to support other permits and approvals required for the Project. | Section 6 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.1.4 | Description of the Existing Environment | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The description of the existing environment that will be included in the EA will incorporate applicable Indigenous Knowledge provided, where possible. In addition to Indigenous Knowledge, it is expected that non-Indigenous Knowledge information relevant to the Project may be shared by Indigenous communities as consultation and engagement proceeds. Information of this nature and relevant to the Project will also be incorporated into the EA. | Section 8 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.1.4.1 | Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests | |
| | Consultation will continue throughout the EA as per the interest expressed by each community. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | MFFN will work with Indigenous communities to collect and incorporate information on Indigenous uses of lands and resources in relation to the area of the Project through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, including Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Land and Resource Use Studies. | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| | MFFN will work with Indigenous communities to collect and incorporate information on cultural sites, features and practices in relation to the area of the Project through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, including Project-specific Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous Land and Resource Use Studies | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| 7.1.4.2 | Atmospheric Environment | |
| | Characterize the study area and surrounding region through an atmospheric environment field program to better understand the existing local and regional air quality. One-year air quality monitoring program to measure the compounds most commonly associated with roadway emissions. | Section 8.3.7 Appendix S |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|----------------|--|---|
| | Baseline GHG emissions within the area of the Project from existing activities, such as air travel, will be quantified. Desktop information regarding the extent that peatlands and other landcover types that are within the study area act as carbon sinks will also be compiled. Existing air quality conditions will also integrate applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, where possible. | Section 8.3.7 Appendix S |
| 7.1.4.3 | Acoustic Environment | |
| | Characterize noise and vibration levels within and surrounding the study area through a field program to better understand the existing local and regional ambient noise levels. Noise measurement and monitoring will be completed in general accordance with guidelines provided by the MECP including the methodology outlined in NPC 300 Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning (NPC 300), and internationally-recognized standards issued by the International Standards Organization (ISO). Baseline vibration levels will be determined based on available information. In addition, the existing conditions of the acoustic environment will integrate applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, where possible. | Section 8.3.5 Appendix P |
| | Monitoring program to include monitoring at locations considered to be representative of the different types of points of reception where human activity is expected to occur. 'Representative' monitoring sites will be selected to document ambient noise levels at existing or potential sensitive receptors and will generally follow the definition of noise sensitive receptors in MECP's (formerly Ministry of the Environment, and Climate Change [MOECC]) Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning NPC-300 (MOECC 2013). | Section 8.3.5 Appendix P |
| 7.1.4.4 | Physiography, Geology, Terrain and Soils | |
| | Geotechnical engineering field work will include selective hand augering and peat probes to explore and confirm soil and rock stratigraphy, drilled boreholes and sampling for material testing at selected locations, visual assessment of major water crossing defined as crossing having a width of greater than 10 m, and site visits to potential bedrock quarry sites. The test hole drilling program will be mainly focused on investigating specific geological features that could be developed as potential borrow sources, and to verify geotechnical conditions in key areas, such as major water crossings. During site visits of potential bedrock quarry sites, the bedrock feature will be characterized with respect to rock classification, relative size and relief of the feature, and accessibility to the proposed road alignment. Samples of the bedrock will be obtained, and photographs of the feature will be taken to assess the suitability for quarry development. The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with applicable agencies. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Section 8.2.8 Appendix N |
| 7.1.4.5 | Surface Water | |
| | Wetlands in the area of the Project will be described using other acceptable methods (e.g., Riley 2011 and Far North Science Advisory Panel 2010). The field program will involve both aerial and ground-based survey approaches to characterize existing conditions at water body crossings within the study area. An aerial reconnaissance will be undertaken along the full extent of the study area to verify the location of mapped and unmapped water body crossings, and to further augment the existing environment information available through desktop analysis. At water body crossing locations (at approximately the centreline of each corridor crossing), the water body type and coarse-level description of surface water and peatland features will be documented. Surface water conditions will also integrate applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, where possible. | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| | The ground-based field survey will be used to obtain site-specific field data at a subset of water body crossings to verify or augment the results and assumptions from the desktop analysis. The site selection process will be based primarily on a 'scaled approach', with a plan to select a representative number of water body crossings under three different categories of watershed size and to get representation across the alternatives. | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| | Surface water field surveys will be completed along an approximate 200 m section of the selected water body (centred over the proposed crossing location). At each selected crossing, observed water body conditions will be documented to broadly define typical channel patterns and flow conditions, including bed and bank morphology, channel geometry and stability, channel substrate, streamflow, and riparian and / or shoreline vegetation. In addition, basic topographic channel surveys targeted at the proposed crossing may include collection of a few bed elevation shots at locations upstream and downstream of the crossing. The results of the basic topographic channel surveys will be used to generate coarse hydraulic calculations at the planned crossing structures. Basic water quality parameters (conductivity, pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen) will be measured at all selected sites using a multi-parameter water quality meter (during the fish and fish habitat field program) | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| | During the geotechnical field program, the depth of peat will be investigated since a significant portion of the Project traverses organic terrain and will have a surficial layer of peat moss. During the vegetation field survey, peatlands will be also examined, including peat humification and degree of surface or groundwater flow for distinction of fens and bogs. | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| | Field crews will also document any opportunistic observations on substrate type, overburden, bedrock, and / or signs of upwelling that can be used to advance the desktop analyses for the groundwater and geology components. These observations will be supplemented by field surveys outlined in Section 7.1.4.4. | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with applicable agencies. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Surface 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| 7.1.4.6 | Groundwater | |
| | Incidental observations during the surface water field program, that may supplement the desktop analysis of groundwater quantity or quality (e.g., signs of upwelling) will be recorded opportunistically. | Surface 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| | The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with applicable agencies. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Surface 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| | Groundwater elevation will be recorded during the geotechnical drilling program. | Surface 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| 7.1.4.7 | Vegetation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species at Risk: Vegetation • Species of Importance to Indigenous Communities: Vegetation | |
| | To support the EA, desktop research will be supplemented by aerial and ground-based survey to characterize habitat and Ecological Land Classification. Preliminary locations for vegetation surveys will be selected based on a review of aerial imagery and PLC2000 landcover types. The plant community of each survey location will be classified to the ecosite level using the Ecosites of Ontario (Banton et al. 2009) protocols. A description of soil, plant species, relative abundance of plant species, and presence of invasive and Species at Risk (SAR) will be recorded for each survey plot. Plant surveys are conducted during the summer months. Results of the field investigations, combined with other data sources (e.g., MNR 2019), including applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program where possible, will be used to describe and map the range of vegetation communities present in the study area. During the vegetation field survey, peatlands will be also examined, descriptions of plant species, relative abundance of plant species, degree of surface or groundwater flow for distinction of fens and bogs and presence of invasive and SAR will be recorded. | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |
| | Detailed maps of the ecosites identified will be prepared and the variability of plant communities within and among ecosites will be described. Plant species lists (including vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes, where observed) will be provided. SAR will be identified and suitable habitat for these species will be extrapolated to include the entire study area. | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |
| | A description of soil, plant species, relative abundance of plant species, and presence of invasive and SAR will be recorded during field investigations within each vegetation survey plot; no specific field program targeting at-risk vegetation species is planned. The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with MECP and MNR. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |
| 7.1.4.8 | Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species at Risk: Wildlife • Species of Importance to Indigenous Communities: Wildlife | |
| | The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with MECP and MNR. Information on wildlife and wildlife habitat within the study area will integrate applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, where possible. | Section 8.2.5, Section 8.2.6, and Section 8.2.7 Appendix K Appendix L Appendix M |
| | Caribou herd population estimates will be evaluated as part of the provincial EA. | Section 8.2.7 Appendix M |
| | A review of aerial imagery and PLC2000 landcover types will be conducted to identify potentially habitat for SAR bats. Bat acoustic monitors deployed within the study area in suitable habitats to record the bat activity during the maternity roosting period to determine if SAR bats are present in potential maternity roost communities. | Section 8.2.5 Appendix K |
| | Targeted surveys for bird SAR, such as Bank Swallow (<i>Riparia riparia</i>), Barn Swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>) and Eastern Whip-poor-will (<i>Antrostomus vociferus</i>) will be completed. Suitable habitat is identified through a review of aerial imagery and aerial reconnaissance by helicopter. Detailed inspection of suitable habitat for Bank Swallow and Barn Swallow is conducted. Acoustic monitoring devices installed within suitable habitat for Eastern whip-poor-will. | Section 8.2.6 Appendix L |
| | Remote cameras will be deployed in a variety of habitat types where wildlife concentration may occur (e.g., wildlife trails, roads, cut lines, riverbanks, and other linear features). Camera data analyzed to determine number of individuals of each species at certain locations within the study area. | Section 8.2.5 Appendix K |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | The need for and scope of additional SAR wildlife surveys, including Caribou (Boreal population), is being determined in consultation with MECP and MNR. The results of field investigations for this Project will be documented in the EA. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Section 8.2.5, Section 8.2.7 Appendix K Appendix M |
| 7.1.4.9 | Fish and Fish Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species at Risk: Fish • Species of Importance to Indigenous Communities: Fish | |
| | The field program will involve both an aerial and ground-based survey approach to characterize existing conditions at water body crossings within the study area. The aerial and ground-based field surveys will be done in coordination with the collection of surface water information (Section 7.1.4.5). Indigenous Knowledge related to fish and fish habitat collected through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| | The fish habitat assessment will involve the classification of instream habitat by distinct habitat units (i.e., areas of similar habitat type) and be modeled after the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol (Stanfield 2007). Information describing the fish and aquatic communities (either based on fishing effort, habitat suitability for known or suspected SAR, or desktop information) and physical habitat parameters (including channel widths and depths, channel velocity, substrate, and instream cover). In situ physico-chemical parameters (e.g., pH and temperature) will be recorded at each station. Fish presence and relative abundance will be evaluated in the vicinity of the water body crossing locations using backpack electrofisher and / or baited minnow traps sampling methods. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| | The ground-based field surveys will be used to obtain site-specific field data at a subset of water body crossings (approximately 10% of the total number of mapped and unmapped waterbody crossings) to verify or augment the results and assumptions from the desktop analysis. The site selection process will be based primarily on a 'scaled approach', with a plan to select a representative number of water body crossings under three different categories of watershed size and to get representation across the alternatives. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| | No field surveys are planned to target at-risk fish species. The need for and scope of additional surveys will be determined in consultation with MECP and MNR. Applicable information obtained through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will also be integrated, where possible. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| 7.1.4.10 | Social, Economic and Built Environment | |
| | Social Primary data collection programs will support all components of the assessment. | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| | Economy Primary data collection programs will support all components of the assessment. | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| | Land and Resource Use Primary data collection programs will support all components of the assessment. | Section 8.3.9 Appendix U |
| | Human Health and Community Safety Primary data collection programs will support all components of the assessment. | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| | Visual Aesthetics Primary data collection programs will support all components of the assessment. | Section 8.3.10 Appendix V |
| 7.1.4.11 | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | |
| | Archaeological Sites and Resources | Section 8.3.6 Appendix R |
| | Known (previously recognized) and potential cultural heritage resources will be identified and described within the EA. | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q Appendix R |
| | <p>A Stage 1 archaeological assessment to identify areas of archaeological potential within the study area will be undertaken by a licensed archaeologist. The Stage 1 archaeological assessment will be submitted for the MHSTCI review during the EA.</p> <p>Should results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment confirm archaeological potential within the directly affected area of the preferred alternative, further stages of archaeological assessment will be completed as early as possible prior to the completion of detailed design. Areas that cannot be visually determined to be permanently wet, and are not sloped, will be subject to Stage 2 test pit survey using the alternative strategies for special survey conditions in northern Ontario and on Canadian Shield terrain, as per Section 2.1.5 of the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTCS 2011).</p> | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q Appendix R |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | Archaeological assessment(s) will be conducted by a licensed archaeologist and will meet the requirements of the Ontario Heritage Act and the Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTCS 2011). The results of the Stage 2 archeological assessment will inform the need for further archaeological investigation where effects to identified archaeological resources cannot be avoided through detailed design. | |
| | Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q |
| | Known (previously recognized) and potential cultural heritage resources will be identified and described within the EA. | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q |
| | The Cultural Landscapes within the study area will be identified and characterized following the process set out in the MHSTCI document Heritage Resources in the Land-use Planning Process; Info Sheet #2, Cultural Heritage Landscapes (MTCS 2005). Since the Landscapes to be addressed are largely Associative (i.e., they do not consist of formal built structures or “neighbourhoods”), the key information sources will be Indigenous Knowledge and discussions with knowledgeable community members. | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q |
| 7.2 | Potential Environmental Effect | |
| | The potential effects identified within this ToR are preliminary and will be further developed during the EA. The EA will also recommend impact management measures to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects, as well as identify opportunities to enhance benefits to the environment. | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | The potential effect of the environment (i.e., climate change) on the undertaking will be addressed through a climate change risk assessment of the preferred alternative, based on the principles of the Engineers’ Canada Public Infrastructure Engineering Vulnerability Committee protocol and International Standards Organization 31000 and Ontario’s Guide for Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process (MOECC 2017). Current conditions and future conditions will feed into a climate change risk assessment of the preferred alternative. Indigenous Knowledge compiled through the Indigenous Knowledge Program will be used to guide and inform the climate change risk assessment. | Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 7.2.1 | Indigenous People Rights and Interests | Section 9.5.2 Appendix O |
| 7.2.2 | Atmospheric Environment | |
| | The GHG emissions from the Project will be estimated, based on industry standards and other publicly available information and compared to the provincial, national and industry profile GHG emissions. | Section 9.5.4 Appendix S |
| 7.2.3 | Acoustic Environment | |
| | Given the rural nature of the area surrounding the Project, it is expected that ambient sound levels will be low and that traffic along the CAR has the potential to cause a perceptible change in the acoustic environment at nearby sensitive receptors. The location of receptor locations will be informed by input received through the Indigenous Knowledge and consultation programs, where applicable. | Section 9.5.3 Appendix P |
| 7.2.4 | Physiography, Geology, Terrain and Soils | |
| | Blasting may result in areas of slope instability. Where unstable rock structures are encountered, design modifications (e.g., minor refinements to the route) may be implemented to minimize potential effects from erosion, settlement, slope instability, foundation failure or rock fall hazards that could occur as a result of construction. | Section 9.4.6 Appendix N |
| | Road salt is not expected to be used during winter maintenance, however, the EA will conservatively assess the potential effects of road salt on soil quality, particularly along the road edges. | Section 9.4.6 Appendix N |
| 7.2.5 | Surface Water | |
| | The Project will consider MNR and DFO recommended practices outlined in Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry / Fisheries and Oceans Canada Protocol for the Review and Approval of Forestry Water Crossings (MNR / DFO 2016) and Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings (MNR, 1990). | Section 9.3.2 Appendix F |
| 7.2.6 | Groundwater | |
| | Mapping that identifies the location and parameters of registered and unregistered groundwater supply wells will be provided in the EA as applicable. Should effects to wells be predicted in the EA, impact management measures and corrective actions will be recommended. | Section 9.3.4 Appendix H |
| 7.2.7 | Vegetation | |
| | No commitments in Section 7.2.7 of the ToR | Not applicable |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 7.2.8 | Wildlife | |
| | No commitments in Section 7.2.8 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 7.2.9 | Birds | |
| | No commitments in Section 7.2.8 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 7.2.10 | Fish and Fish Habitat | |
| | The EA will assess potential effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat, which will consider fish species that have the potential to be located within the study area. Project-related effects on surface water quality and quantity may result in indirect effects on fish and fish habitat, including Species at Risk. Deposition of sediment in a waterbody can result in the loss of or alteration to habitat, alteration to baseflows or water temperatures, disruption of fish life processes, and fish and egg mortality. | Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |
| | The construction of temporary (e.g., bridges, cofferdams, fords, corduroy, swamp mats, culverts, ice and snow crossings) and permanent (e.g., bridges, culverts) watercourse crossings, and blasting as required, have the potential to result in adverse effects to fish and fish habitat. The potential effects associated with placement of structures in water includes disruption of life processes such as migration and spawning due to fish passage issues, fish mortality due to equipment and machinery, dewatering, water-taking or water discharging activities, changes in water quality (e.g., accidental release of contaminants), and the degradation, alteration or loss of fish habitat and function. To mitigate potential adverse effects on fish and fish habitat, waterbody crossings and culvert installations will be designed and installed in accordance with applicable provincial and federal guidelines and standards to avoid harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat. | Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |
| 7.2.10 | Social, Economic and Built Environment | |
| | Social: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in population and demographics • Change in availability and use of public services and infrastructure • Changes to housing • Changes to community well-being | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| | Economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to employment and income • Changes to the regional economy • Changes to government finances • Change to industrial opportunities | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| | Land and Resource Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to provincial parks and protected area lands • Changes to existing industrial uses • Changes to recreational and commercial lands used for trapping, hunting, fishing and other activities | Section 9.5.7 Appendix U |
| | Human Health and Community Safety: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in air quality, noise levels, and water quality • Changes to public health and community safety • Changes to diet • Changes to access to health and emergency facilities and care | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| | Visual Aesthetics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternation of existing landscape and visual character of the area (e.g., scenic values and viewpoints). | Section 9.5.8 Appendix V |
| | It is possible that barriers may exist that may prevent or affect the ability to participate in Project benefits. Potential barriers, should they exist, will be identified during the EA, and where feasible, measures to enhance benefits of the Project will be considered. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| | Changes to human health by altering public safety (including potential increased illicit activities, conflicts and other potential harms to communities and their members), public health, diet and mental health. These changes may be facilitated by additional access to and from southern communities year-round. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 7.2.11 | Archaeology and Cultural Heritage | |
| | Technical cultural heritage studies (e.g., archaeological assessment[s], Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary IA) will be undertaken during the EA process and will identify preliminary effects and recommend avoidance and / or impact management measures where potential effects on archaeology and cultural heritage resources are predicted to occur. | Section 9.5.5 Appendix Q Appendix R |
| 8 | ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION | |
| | An assessment and evaluation of the alternative methods (i.e., alternative routes and temporary infrastructure, including quarries, borrow areas and aggregate source areas) will be undertaken and documented in the EA. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As outlined in the Consultation Plan, MFFN will seek input from neighbouring Indigenous communities, including vulnerable groups such as women, youth and the elderly, as well as from government agencies and interested persons, on the proposed method to assess and evaluate the alternatives and cumulative effects. Uncertainty in the assessment can be reduced by making conservative assumptions, planning implementation of impact management and monitoring measures based on proven and recognized best management practices, and requiring adaptive management techniques to address potential unforeseen circumstances should they arise. The process of each step of the proposed assessment method will be described in the EA. | Section 6 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 8.1 | Alternative Route Segments | |
| | The assessment and evaluation will be done on each segment, with the net effects and advantages and disadvantages. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | Segments EF, GH and IJ correspond to the segments of Alternative 1 and Alternative 4 that overlap. The net effects of these segments will be assessed in the EA and are anticipated to become part of the preferred alternative. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | The specific locations of the Project components of the CAR are not yet known and will be determined in the EA. Therefore, the above noted comparison of the alternative routes is subject to change and will be documented in the EA. The results of the comparison will be the identification of the preferred alternative, which will be the combination of segments that has comparatively more advantages and less disadvantages. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 8.2 | Proposed Criteria and Indicators | |
| | The proposed criteria and indicators are preliminary and will be further refined in the EA, and are provided here for the purposes of gathering feedback for the refinement in the EA. The final list of criteria and indicators to be used in the EA will be based on information that arises throughout the study process and comments received through consultation. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 8.3 | Assess and Evaluate Net Effects | |
| | <p>Net effects of the alternatives will be assessed and evaluated by identifying potential effects and predicting the net effects remaining with the recommended impact management measures applied. The net effects will then be described on the basis of their net effects characteristics listed below.</p> <p>The assessment will include both direct and indirect effects of each alternative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direction: Direction of change from existing condition Magnitude: Magnitude is the expected change from existing conditions Geographic Extent: the spatial area that the effect is expected to occur Duration: the period of time that the effect is expected to occur Frequency: how often the effect is expected to occur Reversibility: the ability to return to existing conditions Likelihood: probability that the effect will occur | Section 6 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 8.4 | Advantages and Disadvantages | |
| | The EA must include an evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages to the environment of the undertaking and alternatives. The evaluation will include the alternative methods and the do nothing alternative. The advantages and disadvantages will be based on a comparison of the predicted net effects, and technical consideration of cost and constructability, such as capital cost, maintenance cost, route length, borrow availability, safety and construction implementation. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| | The results of the comparative analysis of the advantages and disadvantages will be the identification of the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will be compared against the “do nothing” alternative and used to predict cumulative effects. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B |
| 9 | COMMITMENTS AND MONITORING | |
| | <p>Environmental Commitments</p> <p>The EA will include a comprehensive list of environmental commitments made by MFFN during preparation of the ToR and EA process. This will include commitments arising throughout the environmental planning process related to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of impact management measures to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects, identify opportunities to enhance benefits to the environment; • Completion of required works and field investigations; • Receipt of regulatory approvals, prior to construction; • Development and implementation of plans for environmental monitoring, including the need for follow-up on report recommendations; • Continued consultation with Indigenous communities, including relevant sub-groups (e.g., women, youth, elders), government agencies and interested persons; and • Contingency planning, documentation and correspondence. <p>These commitments may relate to construction and operations, impact management measures, and plans for effects and compliance monitoring.</p> | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 9.1.1 | Commitments Identified During the Terms of Reference | |
| | MFFN will provide information on ownership, maintenance and liability in the EA, if available at the time of preparing the EA. | Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding ownership and operations of the Community Access Road. |
| | MFFN will provide information on road access and user fees in the EA, if available. | Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding ownership and operations of the Community Access Road. |
| | MFFN will prepare technical work plans on the environmental components, effects assessment methods and cumulative effects assessment methods at the onset of the EA, including an opportunity for technical review by applicable agencies. | All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | MFFN will engage in waste disposal discussions with the Municipality of Greenstone and possibly other municipalities to understand what waste disposal options will be available to the Project. MFFN will also engage with license waste disposal haulers and disposal sites in nearby municipalities as required. | This item will be completed during the detail design phase of the Community Access Road. |
| | MFFN will discuss and confirm any permitting requirements with provincial, federal government and other jurisdictional agencies to acquire permits and approvals necessary to facilitate construction. | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| | MFFN will identify and describe the location of existing infrastructure during the EA. To aid in the description of existing infrastructure, inclusion of a map of existing infrastructure will be considered where practicable. | Not applicable There are no existing infrastructures in the project area. |
| | MFFN will continue to share information on caribou and migration as it relates to the Project and as it becomes available on an ongoing basis to neighbouring Indigenous communities and interested persons. | Due to the confidential nature of the caribou information, Marten Falls First Nation provided this information only upon request and solely to Indigenous communities that had entered into a data-sharing agreement with Marten Falls First Nation. |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | MFFN will follow-up with an interested stakeholder to identify the brook trout spawning area shared during consultation. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G Section 11 Appendix X |
| | MFFN will engage with MECP prior to deployment of the ambient air quality monitoring equipment to discuss the requirements of, and how air quality monitoring will meet the Operations Manual for Air Quality Monitoring in Ontario. | Appendix S Section 11 Appendix X |
| | MFFN will assess potential effects to peatlands in the EA. An estimate of the length of road corridor that will cross through peatlands will be provided in the EA. | Section 9.3.5 Appendix I |
| | MFFN will assess potential effects to subsistence economies in the EA. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T Section 9.5.7 Appendix U |
| | MFFN will review data sources suggested in comments received on the Draft ToR to confirm if they are applicable to the Project and should be used to inform the EA. | Appendix C |
| | MFFN will seek direction from MNR related to options for unusable timber. | This item will be completed during the detail design phase of the Community Access Road. |
| | MFFN will continue to engage relevant provincial and federal ministries throughout the duration of the Project to better understand the potential for any land claims that may need to be considered in the EA process. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | MFFN will continue outreach and consultation with Indigenous communities and will work with communities to set up a MOU where appropriate. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | MFFN will identify how Indigenous land use has changed as a result of cumulative effects. This will be informed by information received through the Indigenous Knowledge Program, where applicable. | Section 10 |
| 9.2 | Environmental Monitoring | |
| | MFFN will develop plans for environmental monitoring during the EA process. These plan(s) will identify the compliance and effects monitoring activities to be undertaken during all phases of the Project, as required. Environmental monitoring will verify the potential environmental effects predicted in the EA, evaluate the effectiveness of impact management measures, identify the process MFFN will follow if impact management measures are not effective, and determine compliance with applicable environmental legislation, industry standards, permits and commitments made in the ToR, EA and EAA approval. | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| 10 | CONSULTATION DURING THE TERMS OF REFERENCE | |
| | No commitments in Section 10 of the ToR. | Not applicable |
| 11 | CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN TO SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT | |
| | Input received from government activities and provided to MFFN will also be considered in the EA. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.1 | Importance of Consultation | |
| | MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with interested persons, including MFFN community membership, neighbouring Indigenous communities and their memberships, government agencies and interested persons to support the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the proposed CAR. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.2 | Duty to Consult | |
| | The MFFN Project Team will work with Ontario (MECP and ENDM) to coordinate consultation activities and identify appropriate times for Ontario participation in Proponent-led activities | Section 11 Appendix X |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| 11.3 | Neighbouring Indigenous Communities, Government Agencies and Interested Persons | |
| | The Project Contact List developed during the ToR will be expanded on throughout the EA and will be used to inform neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons about the EA and planned consultation and engagement activities. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.3.1 | Identification of Neighbouring Indigenous Communities | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFFN is currently consulting and engaging the neighbouring Indigenous communities identified to-date by the MECP and the Agency and will continue to do so throughout the EA, as per the level of interest expressed by each community. MFFN will also work with neighbouring Indigenous communities to collect Indigenous Knowledge to incorporate into the EA. The MFFN Project Team commits to following up with communities to confirm they received and understand the information provided, confirm that their feedback has been interpreted appropriately and to demonstrate how feedback has been considered and may inform the EA. All MECP / Agency identified communities will continue to receive Project notices, including notices of public meetings, key website updates, and draft documentation releases. Plain language summaries and updates will also be periodically prepared and distributed at key milestones during the EA (e.g., identification of preferred alternatives). The information provided will clearly identify the MFFN contacts, should more information be desired and / or to provide questions or concerns to. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.4 | Crown Government Agencies | |
| 11.4.1 | Provincial and Federal Agencies | |
| | No commitments in Section 11.4.1 of the ToR. | Not applicable |
| 11.4.2 | Municipalities | |
| | The City of Thunder Bay, the Municipality of Greenstone and Municipality of Sioux Lookout will be consulted and engaged during the EA. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.5 | Interested Persons | |
| | Many interested persons within the area meet frequently (monthly) as part of the Geraldton Area Natural Resource Advisory Committee; this group has been and will continue to be consulted and engaged throughout the EA. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.6 | Consultation Activities During the Environmental Assessment | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, consultation and engagement will be planned and executed to align with the Guiding Principles and consultation and engagement key elements (Section 10), to provide interested persons, including MFFN community membership, neighbouring Indigenous communities and their membership, government organizations and interested persons with opportunities to learn about and understand the Project, and to provide input to help identify potential effects and impact management measures. Consultation and engagement efforts undertaken during the ToR phase will continue into the EA. Any feedback received from these efforts related to the consultation approach, activities, milestones and scheduling will also be taken into consideration during the EA. A variety of communication, engagement and consultation tools will be used throughout the EA process to build positive, respectful relationships, share information with Indigenous communities and interested persons and obtain input on the Project. Input received through these activities, including how that input was considered, will be documented in the EA. Communication and engagement tools will be regularly evaluated to gauge effectiveness and adjustments will be made as necessary for the implementation of a robust and effective consultation program. MFFN will offer alternatives to face-to-face meetings, such as teleconferences (that do not require an internet connection) and online consultation and engagement opportunities, and work with the community's preference in how they would like to be consulted and engaged. Online consultation and engagement opportunities will be provided in consideration of an Indigenous community's knowledge of and access to technology and broadband limitations. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.7 | Milestones and Targeted Input | |
| | No commitments in Section 11.7 of the ToR | Not applicable |

| TOR Section | Information Required | Locations in the Environmental Assessment/Impact Statement (EA/IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|-------------|--|---|
| 11.8 | Issue Resolution | |
| | Comments and input received throughout the EA will be documented and included in a RoC for the EA. Each issue or comment received will be considered and responded to by MFFN and documented in the EA. If an issue persists, continued discussions, including face-to-face (or online) meetings, are proposed to explore potential solutions. If resolution cannot be reached, mediation by a neutral, mutually acceptable third party will be considered. Issues that cannot be resolved will be noted along with documentation of attempts to resolve the issue. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 11.9 | Record of Consultation | |
| | A similar RoC will be prepared that documents engagement and consultation undertaken during the EA and will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Key Consultation Activities Undertaken During Preparation of the EA; • Summary of Feedback Received and Response / Action; • Consultation Log; and • Appendices of supporting consultation materials (e.g., presentations, minutes). | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | The EA RoC will describe engagement and consultation activities undertaken with neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| | A copy of the RoC will be provided to agencies. Each neighbouring Indigenous community will be provided with a copy of their community-specific record for their consideration and review before it is included in the public record. This is an opportunity for neighbouring Indigenous communities to comment on the contents of their community-specific record and review how their feedback was considered or may have been incorporated into the EA, and where changes may have been made in specific documents. A final RoC including all incoming and outgoing Project correspondence will be provided as an appendix to the EA. A section summarizing consultation and engagement efforts will be included in the body of the EA. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| 12 | ACCOMMODATING NEW CIRCUMSTANCES | |
| | No commitments in Section 12 of the ToR | Not applicable |
| 13 | OTHER PERMITS AND APPROVALS | |
| | A preliminary list of permits and approvals anticipated to be applicable or potentially applicable to the Project are detailed in Table 13-1 of the ToR. This list is based on a conceptual level of design, and the final determination of permits and approvals that will be required will occur as the design is defined through the EA process. | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

References

Ministry of Natural Resources, 1990. Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings. Queen’s Printer for Ontario. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/environmental-guidelines-access-roads-and-water-crossings>

Appendix C3

Commitments from Responses to Comments on the Draft Terms of Reference



C3 Commitments from Comments/Responses from the Draft Terms of Reference Review Period

The Draft Terms of Reference Review period was initiated with the December 2019 release of the Draft Terms of Reference and Plain Language Guide to the Draft Terms of Reference for review by Marten Falls First Nation community, neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons. A round of Public Information Centres was held in December 2019 specific to the Draft Terms of Reference, and we extended offers to meet with interested Indigenous communities on the Draft Terms of Reference throughout January 2020 to early March 2020. In June 2020 the Indigenous communities were provided community-specific Record of Consultation materials for review and comment prior to release of the Proposed Terms of Reference. As part of the Record of Consultation material review, Indigenous communities that had not provided comments during the Draft Terms of Reference review period were offered another opportunity to comment on the Draft Terms of Reference. Offers to hold discussions were made and the Indigenous communities were informed of the anticipated timing for submission of the Proposed Terms of Reference to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

We reviewed Appendix E (Comments Received/Responses to Comments on the Draft ToR) within Appendix C (Record of Consultation) of the Draft Terms of Reference to prepare **Table C3-1**. **Table C3-1** lists the commitments identified through comments from the Government Review Team on the Draft Terms of Reference, as well as commitments arising from our responses to comments submitted by Indigenous communities and other stakeholders.

Table C3-1: Commitments from Comments/Responses from the Draft Terms of Reference Review Period

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--|---|---|
| Government Review Team | | |
| Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks – December 23, 2020 | | |
| MECP-1 | Please ensure that the EA includes an Executive Summary. | Pages i to xvii |
| MECP-5 | A commitments table that will document commitments made during the ToR review (see ToR Code of Practice, Section 5.2.8, for guidance on this table). One of these commitments should clarify the full list of alternative methods to be assessed in the EA (i.e., quarries, borrow areas, aggregate source areas, temporary access roads, temporary work areas and camps). | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Appendix C3 |
| MECP-6 | Please ensure that the proponent considers Ontario's Guide for Considering Climate Change in the EA Process in both climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation considerations for the EA. | Section 12 Appendix Y |
| MECP-7 | Please ensure the EA correctly describes that the MOU is in regard to potentially impacted and potentially interested Indigenous communities. It defines the roles and responsibilities of both parties (Ontario and MFFN) in regard to the consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities. | Section 11 |
| MECP-12 | Please make sure for any updates to this section or for the EA to include on page 84 a cross-reference to the comment-response tables in Appendix C to guide the reader to where comments and responses can be found. Please make sure that the comment-response tables in Appendix C clearly indicate where in the ToR (or EA) the comment is addressed. | Appendix C3 |
| MECP-13 | Please make sure for the EA that it is clear where in the ToR or EA an issue is addressed (e.g., line up each issue with the corresponding section). | Section 11 Appendix C Appendix X |
| MECP-17, MECP-20 | The Environmental Assessment (EA) must include an assessment of the potential surface water quality impacts relating to the construction camp on-site domestic waste storage units, the accidental release or spill of domestic waste from such containment units, and construction camp on-site domestic sewage wastewater treatment unit/facility. | Section 7.2.3 Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 9.3.4 Appendix H |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|---|--|---|
| MECP-18 | If the proponent were to amend the Terms of Reference (ToR), edits to the MECP Water Well Record number in Section 7.1.4.6: Groundwater must be made at that time (i.e., replace "#16003369" with #1603369); this information must be updated in the Environmental Assessment (EA). | Section 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| MECP-22 | An assessment of potential water quality and flow impacts to identified spring water sources must be included in the EA. | Section 8.1.7 Section 9.3.4 Appendix H |
| MECP-28 | Provide clarity to the ROW for the Proposed project at the EA stage. | Section 6.5 |
| MECP-29 | "... species listed as threatened, endangered or special concern (SAR) under the provincial Endangered Species Act, 2007 or the federal Species at Risk Act, 2002." – "or" should be replaced with "and", as both pieces of legislation may be applicable for a single species. Provide clarification at the EA stage. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G Section 8.2.4 Appendix J Section 8.2.5 Appendix K Section 8.2.6 Appendix L Section 8.2.7 Appendix M |
| MECP-35 | In the final EA, please include the complete table of commitments made during the ToR process and where they have been addressed in the EA. Please include both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The commitments in Section 9.1.1 of the ToR; and All other commitments made during the ToR process, which are likely mostly found in the proponent's response tables to comments received on the ToR (e.g. the proponent's February 8, 2021, ToR response table for MECP indicated "Commitment for EA" where applicable). Please include a statement in the EA where to find the table of ToR commitments. Please also include the commitments made during the EA phase that will be carried out during project implementation, should the project receive EAA approval. This is a separate table from the ToR commitments table noted above. | Section 14 Appendix AA Appendix C |
| Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines – December 21, 2020 | | |
| ENDM-4 | It should be the communities themselves that identify the Knowledge Holders within their communities who will provide IK. Bullet should read "Knowledge Holders will be identified by their community to participate in the studies". Moving forward to the EA stage, please use revised language. | Section 6.1 |
| ENDM-5 | As part of the EA, clearly indicate that aggregate sites, quarries, temporary camps etc. will be outside of the 100 m corridor. As part of the EA, please identify on maps the proposed locations of temporary roads, camps, aggregate sties etc. to ensure that consultation on their location occurs during the EA process. | Section 7.2.3 |
| ENDM-7 | As part of EA, please confirm current and future direction and permitting related to the winter road. | Section 9 Section 14 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix AA |
| ENDM-23 | Inset on Neighbouring Indigenous Communities is a great explanation of what is meant by neighbouring Indigenous communities. At the EA stage, ensure that this definition is included in the main body of the document when the community-led process is explained. | Section 11 |
| ENDM-24 | Suggested wording Ontario (MECP and ENDM) has delegated some procedural aspects of Ontario's Duty to Consult to MFFN (the proponent) and together with MFFN has developed... Please use this wording at the EA stage when referring to the MOU. | Section 11 |
| Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – December 21, 2020 | | |
| MNRF-4 | Include commitments that the environmental assessment will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe estimated amounts of aggregate required and anticipated sources, including whether the development of new pits or quarries is planned; Assess the potential impacts of obtaining, using, and retirement of aggregate source areas; | This item will be completed during the detail design phase of the Community Access Road. |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify any aggregate sources that will be required beyond the construction phase; and Determine appropriate decommissioning and rehabilitation approaches for aggregate sources which are developed but will not be needed once construction is completed. | |
| Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries – December 21, 2020 | | |
| MHSTCI-2 | A strong commitment to protect the interests of these remote operators should occur, consistent with protections within other government processes, such as forest management planning. | Section 9.5.7 Appendix U |
| Indigenous Communities | | |
| Aroland First Nation – December 18, 2020 | | |
| AroFN-1 | MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with Indigenous communities as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program for the Project. MFFN will strive to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to find mutually beneficial solutions where possible. MFFN agrees to continued community-to-community discussions throughout the Project and will continue to discuss the Project with Aroland First Nation according to the Consultation and Engagement Program outlined in Appendix B of the ToR. MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, including Aroland First Nation, agencies and interested person to obtain feedback and input on the alternatives. MFFN will contact Aroland First Nation during the EA to understand concerns about alternative methods being considered for the Project in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| AroFN-2 | MFFN commits to formally acknowledge that the Project overlaps with the Traditional Territory of Aroland First Nation throughout the EA and in the EA Report. | Section 4.4.1 |
| AroFN-6 | The value and contributions of Indigenous Knowledge will be included as part of MFFN's Project Management Principles for the Project. | Section 3.5 Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| AroFN-7 | The assessment of economic activity will consider the change in overall economic well-being and changes in community well-being will consider changes in socio-economic structures and changes in community cohesion. The assessment of these changes will incorporate other socio-economic criteria and indicators to provide a holistic assessment of potential effects on community well-being, which will be inclusive of social and cultural dimensions of well-being. The assessment will examine and make recommendations on how societal benefits of the Project can be enhanced. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| AroFN-8 | The monitoring, follow-up and compliance will be included as part of MFFN's Project Management Principles for the Project. Recommendations from Indigenous communities to enhance monitoring, follow-up, and compliance will be solicited through the Project Consultation and Engagement Program during the "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / Impact Statement (IS)" milestones (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR). | Section 9 Section 14 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix AA |
| AroFN-10 | The EA will clearly describe and document all uncertainties and assumptions made in the assessment. A precautionary approach will be included as part of MFFN's Project Management Principles for the Project. The Project will meet the requirements of both the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the federal Impact Assessment Act. Therefore, the highest and most rigorous requirements between the two assessment processes will be documented in the coordinated EA / IS Report. That is, MFFN will apply the precautionary principle in line with the federal impact assessment process. | Section 8 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| AroFN-11 | MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, including Aroland First Nation, agencies and interested person to obtain feedback and input on the alternatives. MFFN will contact Aroland First Nation during the EA to understand concerns about alternative methods being considered for the Project in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures. The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects. In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. In accordance with the TISGs, the EA will include the consideration of cumulative effects to the rights of Indigenous peoples and cultures. | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| AroFN-15, AroFN-29 | <p>MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with Indigenous communities as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program for the Project. MFFN will strive to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to find mutually beneficial solutions where possible. MFFN agrees to continued community-to-community discussions throughout the Project and will continue to discuss the Project with Aroland First Nation according to the Consultation and Engagement Program outlined in Appendix B of the ToR. MFFN will consult with Aroland First Nation during the EA to understand the community's concerns regarding the Project and the potential impact on their Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> <p>MFFN has committed to engaging with Aroland First Nation to develop a custom consultation process in lieu of an MOU between the Nations.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| AroFN-17 | <p>Approved waste facilities in the vicinity of the Project will be considered and identified during the EA (Section 5.2.2). MFFN will confirm whether the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) Hanover Tower Road Waste Disposal Site is still operational and, if warranted, will seek to identify alternate sites. Section 9.1.1 of the ToR indicates that MFFN will engage with the waste site operator and the Municipality of Greenstone to understand what waste disposal options will be available to the Project. Should it be necessary, MFFN will engage other municipalities regarding waste disposal options.</p> <p>MFFN will discuss waste facility options with Aroland First Nation during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 7.2.3 Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| AroFN-21 | <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, including Aroland First Nation, agencies and interested person to obtain feedback and input on the alternatives. MFFN will contact Aroland First Nation during the EA to understand concerns about alternative methods being considered for the Project in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| AroFN-27 | <p>Aroland First Nation's comments and MFFN's response that the EA will consider potential effects on spring water resources have been documented as part of the ToR and therefore is committed for inclusion in the EA. MFFN will consult with Aroland First Nation to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 9.3.4 Appendix H Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| AroFN-31 | <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies and characterization of existing conditions. Therefore, MFFN confirms that information shared will inform the planning, development and implementation of future field studies as appropriate. In addition, the results of field studies will be shared throughout the EA and will be documented in the EA Report.</p> <p>MFFN will notify Indigenous communities of opportunities to participate in baseline studies for the Project. A commitment has been made to MFFN community that Indigenous monitor positions for field work in support of the Project would first be filled by MFFN. In circumstances when MFFN is not available to participate in a baseline study, MFFN will contact neighbouring Indigenous communities, including Aroland First Nation, for interest in participating in the program.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| AroFN-32 | <p>The EA will assess effects on the alternative methods, which may be adjustment throughout the environmental planning process as a result of the advancement of design, technical and environmental investigations and studies, information available through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and feed back from consultation activities. All water crossings will be assessed from the air and approximately 50% of the water crossings, across both Alternative 1 and Alternative 4, will be assessed during ground-based surveys. All surveys will be done within the appropriate flow conditions and under the requirements of Department of Fisheries and Oceans and MNR.</p> <p>Timing windows and other relevant impact management measures will be identified in the EA.</p> | <p>Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G</p> |
| AroFN-33 | <p>Project documentation (e.g., the EA Report) will identify the status of land use planning identified by Aroland First Nation.</p> | <p>Section 8.3.9 Section 9.5.7 Appendix U</p> |
| AroFN-40 | <p>The Project Team responded to Aroland's Oct 20, 2020, letter and committed to engaging with Aroland First Nation to develop a custom consultation process in lieu of an MOU between the Nations.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--|--|---|
| AroFN-42 | For the preparation of the EA Record of Consultation and Engagement, MFFN will review the manner in which consultation is documented to better facilitate the review of the Record of Consultation by Indigenous Communities. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| AroFN-43 | MFFN will prepare documentation that summarizes corrected information for the ToR Record of Consultation. Consultation and engagement on the Project are ongoing. Aroland First Nation will continue to be provided with opportunities to participate in consultation and engagement for the EA. | Appendix X Milestone #1, #2, #3 and #4 Progress Reports for Aroland First Nation. |
| AroFN-50 | As noted in Section 3.4 of the Indigenous Knowledge Program Guidance Document that was shared with Indigenous communities, including Aroland First Nation, in November 2020, community-specific protocols, traditional channels of authority, and levels of approval within each participating Indigenous community will be followed and respected. As noted in Section 6.1 of the Indigenous Knowledge Program Guidance Document, MFFN would like to reiterate the importance of selecting a range of participants in consideration of Gender-based Analysis Plus. This revised language has been noted so that, moving forward, it will be referred to accurately in Project documentation (e.g., the EA Report). | Section 3.5 Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| Aroland First Nation – March 29, 2021 (Letter dated March 26, 2021) | | |
| AroFN-55 | The EA will assess the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Interests. As noted, MFFN has committed to engaging with Aroland First Nation to develop a custom consultation process. | Section 9.5.2 Appendix O Section 11 Appendix X |
| Attawapiskat First Nation – December 15, 2020 | | |
| AttaFN-1 | MFFN will be reaching out to hire a local Community Coordinator who will be the primary contact from Attawapiskat First Nation and act as a liaison to provide coordination between Attawapiskat First Nation and MFFN during the EA, including advising on appropriate ways to engage with Attawapiskat First Nation during COVID-19. | Section 11 Appendix X Milestone #1, #2, #3 and #4 Progress Reports for Attawapiskat First Nation |
| AttaFN-4 | The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. The activities that will be considered in the EA for the cumulative effects assessment include, but not limited to, the list of projects provided by Attawapiskat First Nation. | Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| AttaFN-5 | The potential effects of the Project on climate change, and the potential effects of the environment (i.e., climate change) on the Project will be assessed as part of the EA. The climate change assessment will be assessed per the requirements set out in Sections 15.5 and 23.2 of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) developed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency). A Climate Change Resilience Assessment will be undertaken to assess the potential effects of climate change, such as climate change effects on temperatures patterns and seasonality, including the onset of freeze / thaw events and changes in freeze / thaw cycles, will be evaluated for their effects on the Project and the Project's surrounding physical environment. The proposed methods for climate change will be consulted on during the EA during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone. | Section 12 Appendix Y |
| AttaFN-12 | As mentioned in Section 7.2.10 of the ToR, the EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects. In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. The Project is also subject to the Federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> and currently in the Impact Statement Phase. Therefore, the cumulative effects assessment will also be assessed per the requirements set out in Section 22 of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) developed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency). In accordance with the TISGs, the EA will include the consideration of cumulative effects to the rights of Indigenous peoples and cultures. The Proponent will strive to respectfully collaborate with Indigenous communities on how Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests may be impacted cumulatively. MFFN will engage with Indigenous communities through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and the Consultation and Engagement Program. Where Indigenous communities do not wish to participate in the cumulative effects assessment, a preliminary draft of the assessment will be provided for review and feedback prior to finalizing the EA Report. | Section 7.2.3 Section 9 Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|------------------|--|--|
| AttaFN-24 | <p>The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on the atmospheric environment.</p> <p>The EA will also assess the effects of temporary infrastructure, including quarries, borrow areas and aggregate source areas. The potential indirect effects of the anticipated dust emissions from these activities on other environmental disciplines, including vegetation, wildlife, caribou and surface water will be identified and assessed in the EA.</p> <p>The ToR also commits to develop plans for environmental monitoring during the EA process (Section 9.2). Environmental monitoring will verify the potential environmental effects predicted in the EA, evaluate the effectiveness of impact management measures, identify the process MFFN will follow if impact management measures are not effective, and determine compliance with applicable environmental legislation, industry standards, permits and commitments made in the ToR, EA and <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> approval. The need for specific monitoring activities will be informed by the results of the effects assessment and input received through consultation and engagement.</p> | <p>Section 8.3.7 Section 9.5.4 Appendix S</p> |
| AttaFN-25 | <p>Potential effects to habitat availability, distribution, species presence and population state, and predator-prey dynamics for both ungulates (e.g., Caribou) and fur bearers (e.g., Wolverine) will be assessed in the EA (Appendix A) and documented in the EA Report. This includes assessment of changes to ranges, migratory routes, and food sources.</p> <p>The potential effects of the Project on climate change, and the potential effects of the environment (i.e., climate change) on the Project will be assessed as part of the EA. The proposed methods for climate change will be consulted on during the EA during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone.</p> | <p>Section 9.4.5 Appendix M Section 12 Appendix Y</p> |
| AttaFN-26 | <p>Additional data source provided by Attawapiskat First Nation (i.e. Chetkiewicz, C.-L.B., Carlson, M., O'Conn or, C.M., Edwards, B., Southee, F.M., and M. Sullivan. 2017. <i>Assessing the Potential Cumulative Impacts of Land Use and Climate Change on Freshwater Fish in Northern Ontario</i>. Wildlife Conservation Society Canada. Toronto, Canada.) will be reviewed as applicable when identifying and assessing effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat during the EA.</p> | <p>Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G</p> |
| AttaFN-27 | <p>The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on surface and groundwater, which will include looking at changes in quantity (e.g., water levels, flow regimes) and quality (i.e., water chemistry). The EA will also assess the indirect effects of the Project, such as how changes in surface water and groundwater could indirectly effect fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>If construction of the CAR (e.g., ground disturbance or placement of materials) has potential to result in surface water and / or groundwater quality issues, impact management measures and monitoring measures will be identified.</p> <p>The EA will consider whether changes in diet due to exposure to contaminants may result in effects to human health. This will be determined as part of a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). An early step of an HHRA is the problem formulation, which is conducted to identify chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), operable exposure pathways, human receptors and other issues or concerns that relate to human exposure to chemical substances in relation to the Project. Should the problem formulation identify COPCs (predicted Project emissions and / or expressed human health-related concerns) that have the potential to accumulate within country food items, such as fish, potential effects to human health from exposure to COPCs in country foods will be evaluated further as part of the HHRA.</p> | <p>Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 9.3.3 Appendix G Section 9.3.4 Appendix H Section 9.5.6 Appendix T</p> |
| AttaFN-30 | <p>MFFN has requested general caribou habitat mapping from the MECP and will be incorporating information informed by the mapping into the baseline reporting and effects assessment of the EA, as applicable.</p> | <p>Section 8.2.7 Appendix M</p> |
| AttaFN-31 | <p>The Ontario Caribou Screening Tool will be used to assess past, present, and future effects (including cumulative impacts) of the Project.</p> <p>The list of projects provided by Attawapiskat First Nation in this comment (i.e. (1) construction of upgrades to the Anaconda/Painter Lake Forestry Road; (2) construction and operation of the Northern Road Link; (3) a potential East-West Road; (4) the Eagle 's Nest Mine; (5) mining activities associated with the following deposits: Black Thor, BlackBird, Big Daddy, Black Label; (6) increased winter road traffic during Operations and Maintenance by future mining proponents and (7) advanced mineral exploration activities in the Ring of Fire area) will be considered for inclusion in the assessment of cumulative effects in the EA.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| AttaFN-33 | <p>Attawapiskat First Nation will receive Project statutory notices at key milestones via registered mail and email.</p> <p>Information related to upcoming consultation opportunities to receive targeted input outlined in Table 4-2 of the ToR will be provided directly to Attawapiskat First Nation with advanced notice. MFFN will keep Attawapiskat First Nation up to date well in advance of the milestone end dates and to notify of upcoming consultation and engagement opportunities.</p> <p>MFFN will also be reaching out to hire a local Community Coordinator who will be the primary contact for Attawapiskat First Nation and act as a liaison to provide coordination between Attawapiskat First Nation and MFFN during the EA, including advising on appropriate ways to engage with Attawapiskat First Nation.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
|--|--|--|
| Constance Lake First Nation – December 18, 2020 | | |
| CLFN-1, CLFN-3 | MFFN will be reaching out to hire a local Community Coordinator who will be the primary contact from Constance Lake First Nation and act as a liaison to provide coordination between Constance Lake First Nation and MFFN during the EA, including advising on appropriate ways to engage with Constance Lake First Nation during COVID-19. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| CLFN-5 | The information (i.e. our tribal council's appropriate name is 'Matawa First Nations Management) has been noted so that, moving forward, it will be referred to accurately in Project documentation (e.g., the EA Report). | Section 11 Appendix X |
| CLFN-7 | The EA will recommend impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs and MFFN will conduct consultation and engagement on these issues during the EA. MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on these aspects during the consultation milestones "Effects Assessment Methods," "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Constance Lake First Nation during the EA to understand their concerns in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs. | Section 9 Section 11 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X |
| CLFN-8 | The EA will include an assessment of potential effects of the Project on the social, cultural, economic, built and natural environments, thereby capturing Constance Lake First Nation's interest in effects to the land, water, air, plants and wildlife. The sharing and use of Indigenous Knowledge will be governed by Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements established between MFFN and Indigenous communities. | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| CLFN-12 | The EA will assess the potential effects of the Project due to traffic related incidents on the CAR during the operations and maintenance phase. The safety features of the Project will be addressed through the design and engineering of the road. Where possible, bridges will be designed to avoid effects to waterway navigability. Additional information on water crossing and potential effects to navigability will be provided in the EA. | Section 7.2.5 Appendix W |
| CLFN-14 | Potential effects to wildlife (including moose) as a result of the Project will be identified and assessed in the EA. Potential effects to moose due to increased human traffic and tourism will be assessed in the EA by considering how Project activities, may affect moose population and behaviours. The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples in terms of changes in the availability and / or quality of resources including potential changes associated with increased access by non-Indigenous land users, which may, in turn, influence Indigenous land and resource use activities in the area of the Project; and changes to the experience of being on the land. Furthermore, Indigenous Knowledge and documented concerns of Indigenous communities, the findings of the effects assessments on the natural environment (including moose and caribou) will serve as important data sources to be used to assess the potential effects to the availability of lands and resources for traditional activities. MFFN will contact Constance Lake First Nation during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures. | Section 9.4.5 Section 11 Appendix M Appendix X |
| CLFN-15 | The EA will recommend impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs and MFFN will conduct consultation and engagement on these issues during the EA. MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on these aspects during the consultation milestones "Effects Assessment Methods", "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Constance Lake First Nation during the EA to understand their concerns in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs. | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) As noted in Constance Lake First Nation's Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Draft Impact Assessment Report, proposed mitigation measures include the collaboration with local existing environmental advisory committees to support the development and implementation of all environmental monitoring programs. The objective is to include Indigenous interests and perspectives, particularly concerning resources utilized for rights-based purposes. In the absence of an existing advisory committee with an aligned mandate to Marten Falls First Nation, a Terms of Reference between relevant agencies and Constance Lake First Nation will be established. |

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| CLFN-19 | <p>MFFN is committed to including the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Constance Lake First Nation to understand their concerns and obtain feedback on the methods to assess cumulative effects, including but not limited to the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| CLFN-20 | <p>The potential effects of the Project on climate change (ToR Section 7.2.2), and the potential effects of the environment (i.e., climate change) on the Project will be assessed as part of the EA.</p> <p>The climate change assessment will be assessed per the requirements set out in Sections 15.5 and 23.2 of the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines developed by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada. A Climate Change Resilience Assessment will be undertaken to assess the potential effects of climate change, such as climate change effects on temperatures patterns and seasonality, including the onset of freeze / thaw events and changes in freeze / thaw cycles, will be evaluated for their effects on the Project and the Project's surrounding physical environment. The proposed methods for climate change will be consulted on during the EA during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone.</p> | <p>Section 12 Appendix Y</p> |
| CLFN-21 | <p>The EA will provide additional information about the regulations applicable to the Project as more information becomes available and permitting / approval requirements are confirmed. MFFN will consult with Constance Lake First Nation during the EA to discuss regulations that may be applicable to the Project.</p> | <p>Section 5</p> |
| Constance Lake First Nation – June 23, 2021 | | |
| CLFN-26 | <p>MFFN will contact Constance Lake First Nation to discuss the development of a custom plan.</p> | <p>Section 11 Milestone #1 Progress Report, Milestone #2 Progress Report, for Constance Lake First Nation Appendix X</p> |
| CLFN-34 | <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Follow-up monitoring measures will be consulted on during the milestones Effects Assessment Methods, Identification of Preferred Alternatives, and Review of Draft EA / IS. Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies, characterize existing conditions, recommend impact management measures and identify opportunities for Indigenous peoples during development of the Project. In addition, the results of field studies will be shared throughout the EA and will be documented in the EA Report.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| CLFN-45 | <p>Planning for the Project will consider the provincial and federal approach to caribou habitat protection.</p> <p>The spatial files for caribou GHD acquired from the MECP will be spatially analyzed in relation to the Project route alternatives, the local study area (LSA), and regional study area (RSA), which considers the Nipigon, Missisa, Ozhiski and Pagwachuan ranges,) to gain an understanding of how the Project may affect each category type at varying spatial scales. The three categories of habitat have different construction restrictions (e.g., timing windows), which will be followed by the Project.</p> | <p>Section 8.2.7 Section 9.4.5 Section 10.3.5 Appendix M</p> |
| Fort Albany First Nation – December 15, 2020 | | |
| FAFN-3, FAFN-9 | <p>The number of vehicles will be determined during the EA and documented in the EA Report along with other anticipated vehicle use information that can be reasonably obtained. MFFN understands that the number of construction fronts and number of vehicles that use the CAR could affect the prediction of potential Project effects, and therefore will include a conservative estimate of both numbers in the EA.</p> | <p>Appendix W</p> |
| FAFN-5, FAFN-42 | <p>MFFN commits to having peatlands as a discrete environmental discipline that will be characterized and assessed separately from vegetation.</p> <p>The EA will assess how potential effects of the Project on peatlands may indirectly affect surface water, vegetation and climate change.</p> <p>As noted in Section 11 of the ToR, MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with neighbouring Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons. MFFN has developed a Consultation and Engagement Program for the EA and will work with Indigenous communities, including Fort Albany First Nation, through that process to consult and engage in a robust and deep manner. Fort Albany First Nation is encouraged to continue to share information on their traditional use of peatlands and MFFN will continue to consult with Fort Albany First Nation to better understand their concerns.</p> | <p>Section 8.1.8 Section 9.3.5 Section 10.2.5 Appendix I Section 11 Appendix X Milestone #1, #2, #3 and #4 Progress Reports for Fort Albany First Nation</p> |

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| FAFN-10 | Where uncertainty exists, a precautionary approach will be applied generally, and specifically to the number of construction fronts assumed in the effects assessment. MFFN agrees with Fort Albany First Nation that the number of construction fronts could affect the prediction of potential Project effects and therefore will include a conservative estimate of construction fronts in the EA. | Section 7.2.3 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| FAFN-12 | The ToR commits to incorporating information provided by Indigenous communities into both the baseline and effects assessment for each discipline, including the Acoustic Environment. The EA will identify and assess the indirect effects of, such as to human health, land and resource use, and wildlife for example. These indirect effects will be informed by input received through the Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement programs. The MFFN Project Team will continue to engage with interested Indigenous communities to determine receptor locations for future noise assessment modelling work to be completed as part of the EA. MFFN will consult with Fort Albany First Nation to better understand questions and concerns related to the Project and the noise assessment. | Section 8.3.5 Section 9.5.3 Appendix P Section 11 Appendix X |
| FAFN-18 | The EA will include information on socio-economic conditions within Fort Albany First Nation and other Indigenous communities. The EA will also predict the potential beneficial and adverse socio-economic effects of the Project and will provide commentary on the anticipated level of benefit / effect by Indigenous community. | Section 8.3.8 Section 9.5.6 Section 10.4.7 Appendix T |
| FAFN-41 | General habitat assessment will consider ecological habitat for important insect species. In addition, the EA will assess potential effects on pollinating insects, as well as how the potential introduction of invasive species may affect wildlife and vegetation. | Section 9.4.3 Appendix K |
| Fort Albany First Nation – March 31, 2021 | | |
| FAFN-45 | The MFFN Project team will be available to assist (collection and documentation of IK), if and as requested. The sharing and use of Indigenous Knowledge will be governed by Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements established between MFFN and Indigenous communities. The EA will include information on socio-economic conditions within Fort Albany First Nation. The EA will also predict the potential beneficial and adverse socio-economic effects of the Project and will provide commentary on the anticipated level of benefit / effect by Indigenous community. The social environment study areas will be informed by feedback received from Indigenous communities and interested persons. Indigenous communities and interested persons will be consulted on their interest, concern and perceptions regarding the potential for social effects to their community. Consultation on discipline-specific study areas will be undertaken during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone of the EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan (Appendix B of the ToR). Information on the socio-economic data collection program will also be consulted on during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone. | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| FAFN-47 | We will continue to support your efforts and explore ways to engage with your leadership, technical consultants, and community about the Project. The Project Team will be in contact to discuss opportunities to meet with Fort Albany First Nation leadership and technical advisors regarding the responses to your ToR comments and to discuss next steps for engagement and consultation with Fort Albany First Nation. We will continue to advocate for additional capacity and resources for our neighbouring communities in order for them to engage with our Project. We will also continue to work with communities to find respectful and meaningful ways to engage and consult on the Project as we move forward with the EA process. Should information from the Regional Assessment that is relevant to the Project become available during preparation of the EA, it will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment for the Project. MFFN will maintain contact with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (the Agency) contacts for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire so that relevant information can be shared between MFFN and the Agency where appropriate. | Section 11 Appendix X Milestone Progress Reports #1, #2, #3 and #4 for Fort Albany First Nation We acknowledge the importance of the Regional Assessment and the broader context in which the Community Access Road project exists. However, it is important to clarify that the Regional Assessment is being led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and is outside the scope of the Community Access Road, which is being conducted under a separate and established regulatory process. While we recognize that the Community Access Road is one of the components of potential future development in the region and as of January 20, 2026, the Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire is not available to the public. The regional assessment working group only submitted the interim report to the Chiefs of Partner First |

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| | | Nations and to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature. |
| FAFN-48 | <p>The EA will include a list of relevant studies, including other EAs, reviewed to inform the potential effects as a result of the CAR. Where existing studies have been used to inform information in the EA, they will be appropriately referenced such that the content in the EA and the connection to the existing study is transparent.</p> <p>During the EA, other Projects, such as the Tłı̄chq̄ All-season Road Project, will be reviewed to inform the list of potential Project-related effects to be assessed.</p> | <p>Section 16 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| FAFN-49 | <p>The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in population and access to the Far North for recreational activities (e.g., fishing and hunting) may alter the ability of Indigenous communities to access country foods. • Changes to recreation and commercial land uses due to changes in access, wildlife, vegetation or water resources. These changes may affect the enjoyment of these activities, which may affect the tourism sector such as potential negative effects due to public access, and / or enabling new tourism, including cultural tourism, through improved access. • Changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects. New access may allow industry opportunities to become more feasible thereby allowing for an increase in existing and new development. <p>The EA will also consider changes in the availability and / or quality of resources, including potential changes associated with increased access by non-Indigenous land users as a result of the Project, that may influence Indigenous land and resource use activities (e.g., hunting, harvesting, gathering) within the area of the Project.</p> <p>In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects.</p> <p>The EA will identify, at a high-level, the likely types of induced development, such as mineral exploration, that may occur due to new access provided by the CAR.</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| FAFN-50 | <p>The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on surface and ground water, which will include looking at changes in quantity (e.g., water levels, flow regimes) and quality (i.e., water chemistry). The EA will also assess the indirect effects of the Project, such as how changes in surface and groundwater could indirectly affect fish and fish habitat.</p> <p>If construction of the CAR (e.g., ground disturbance or placement of materials) has potential to result in surface water and / or groundwater quality issues, impact management and monitoring measures will be identified.</p> <p>Should a Project-environment interaction identify the potential for methyl-mercury mobilization it will be identified and assessed in the EA.</p> <p>The EA will consider whether changes in diet due to exposure to contaminants may result in effects to human health. This will be determined as part of a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). An early step of an HHRA is the problem formulation, which is conducted to identify chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), operable exposure pathways, human receptors and other issues or concerns that relate to human exposure to chemical substances in relation to the Project. Should the problem formulation identify COPCs (predicted Project emissions and / or expressed human health-related concerns) that have the potential to accumulate within country food items, such as fish, potential effects to human health from exposure to COPCs in country foods will be evaluated further as part of the HHRA.</p> | <p>Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 9.3.3 Appendix G Section 9.3.4 Appendix H Section 9.5.6 Appendix T</p> <p>The problem formulation was completed for the Final EA/IS (Attachment A to Appendix T Technical Support Document). The pathways detailed in Table 9-1 of the Final Attachment A were deemed complete. The Community Well-Being Technical Support Document was prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. The completion of a quantitative human health risk assessment is not required based on the problem formulation completed and furthermore is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not completed as part of the Final EA/IS.</p> |
| FAFN-51 | <p>The EA Report will include a high-level discussion outlining the previous decisions made for the Project to be a road and identify why other alternatives to are not considered appropriate / viable options for reliable, all-season access to MFFN.</p> | <p>Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B</p> |

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| Ginoogaming First Nation – December 18, 2020 | | |
| GFN-1, GNF-3 | To help facilitate engagement in the EA, MFFN will be reaching out to hire a local Community Coordinator who will be the primary contact from Ginoogaming First Nation and act as a liaison to provide coordination between the community and MFFN during the EA, including advising on appropriate ways to engage with the community during COVID-19. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| GFN-6 | The information (our tribal council's appropriate name is 'Matawa First Nations Management') has been noted so that, moving forward, it will be referred to accurately in Project documentation (e.g., the EA Report). | Table 11-1 |
| GFN-10 | <p>Species of importance to Indigenous communities, such as blueberries and moose, will be identified through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and Consultation and Engagement Program. The identified species will be provided to the appropriate environmental disciplines (i.e., vegetation, wildlife) for consideration in the discipline-specific effects assessment. The environmental discipline will predict and assess potential effects to these species and provide the findings to the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interest discipline, who will then assess how the changes to these species predicted by the environmental disciplines may result in effects to its traditional use by Indigenous communities.</p> <p>The EA will recommend impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs and MFFN will conduct consultation and engagement on these issues during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on these aspects during the consultation milestones "Effects Assessment Methods," "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / Impact Statement (IS)". MFFN will engage with Ginoogaming First Nation during the EA to understand their concerns in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs.</p> <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Follow-up monitoring measures will be consulted on during the milestones Effects Assessment Methods, Identification of Preferred Alternatives, and Review of Draft EA / IS. Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies, characterize existing conditions, recommend impact management measures and identify opportunities for Indigenous peoples during development of the Project. In addition, the results of field studies will be shared throughout the EA and will be documented in the EA Report.</p> <p>The MFFN Project Team will share Ginoogaming First Nation's comment regarding the desire for complementary data collection and monitoring between communities as part of broader regional initiatives, which are outside the scope of this Project, with MFFN Chief and Council.</p> | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 9.4.2 Appendix J Section 9.4.3 Appendix K Section 11 Appendix X |
| GFN-20 | <p>The EA will consider the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking, which includes the quarries, borrow areas and aggregate source areas. A preliminary identification of potential aggregate source areas in the area of the Project is shown on Figure 7-3; however, the locations that will be considered and assessed will be identified in the EA. This will include information on the amounts of aggregate required during construction and operations (Section 7.1.4.4), whether new pits / quarries are planned (Section 7.1.4.4), and whether any sources will require decommissioning following construction (Section 5.2.2).</p> <p>MFFN will consult with Ginoogaming First Nation to better understand their concerns. In addition, the Indigenous Knowledge Program provides additional opportunities for this information to be shared in greater detail.</p> | Section 4 Appendix A Appendix B Section 7.1.2.3 Section 11 Appendix X |
| GFN-21 | <p>MFFN is committed to including the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Ginoogaming First Nation to understand their concerns and obtain feedback on the methods to assess cumulative effects, including but not limited to the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> | Section 10 Table 10-1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X |
| GFN-22 | <p>The EA will assess how potential effects of the Project on surface water (i.e., flow) may indirectly affect navigation.</p> <p>Where possible, bridges will be designed to avoid effects to waterway navigability. Additional information on water crossing and potential effects to navigability will be provided in the EA.</p> | Section 7.2.3.5 |

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| Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuweg First Nation – December 18, 2020 (phone) | | |
| KitchFN-1 | As part of the Environmental Assessment (EA), targeted caribou surveys will be conducted. Final details of this survey program will be determined in consultation with federal and provincial regulator. the EA will consider how the Project may alter the ability of Indigenous communities to access country foods such as caribou. Marten Falls First Nation will contact Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuweg First Nation during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures. | Section 8.2.7 Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |
| Kasabonika Lake First Nation – December 14, 2020 (email) – Comment received from Eno Anderson as individual community member | | |
| KasabFN-1 | MFFN will continue to communicate with both provincial and federal agencies throughout the Environmental Assessment to identify any emerging land claims that may need to be considered (Section 9.1.1 of the ToR). | Section 11 Appendix X |
| Long Lake #58 First Nation – December 18, 2020 | | |
| LL58-1, LL58-3 | To help facilitate engagement in the EA, MFFN will be reaching out to hire a local Community Coordinator who will be the primary contact from Long Lake #58 First Nation and act as a liaison to provide coordination between the community and MFFN during the EA, including advising on appropriate ways to engage with the community during COVID-19. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| LL58-5 | The information (i.e. 'we are not a signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850') has been noted so that, moving forward, it will be referred to accurately in Project documentation (e.g., the EA Report). | Section 8.3.6 Appendix Q Table 11-1 |
| LL58-7 | The EA will recommend impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs and MFFN will conduct consultation and engagement on these issues during the EA. The EA / Impact Statement (IS) Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on these aspects during the consultation milestones "Effects Assessment Methods," "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Long Lake #58 First Nation during the EA to understand their concerns in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures and follow-up monitoring programs. MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Follow-up monitoring measures will be consulted on during the milestones Effects Assessment Methods, Identification of Preferred Alternatives, and Review of Draft EA / IS. Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies, characterize existing conditions, recommend impact management measures and identify opportunities for Indigenous peoples during development of the Project. In addition, the results of field studies will be shared throughout the EA, and will be documented in the EA. The MFFN Project Team will share Long Lake #58 First Nation's comment regarding the desire for complementary data collection and monitoring between communities as part of broader regional initiatives, which are outside the scope of this Project, with MFFN Chief and Council. | Section 9 Section 11 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Appendix X Section 14 Appendix AA-1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) As noted in Long Lake #58 First Nation's Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Draft Impact Assessment Report, proposed mitigation measures include the collaboration with local existing environmental advisory committees to support the development and implementation of all environmental monitoring programs. The objective is to include Indigenous interests and perspectives, particularly concerning resources utilized for rights-based purposes. In the absence of an existing advisory committee with an aligned mandate to Marten Falls First Nation, a Terms of Reference between relevant agencies and Long Lake #38 First Nation will be established. |
| LL58-9 | Long Lake #58 First Nation is encouraged to share further information on the cultural and spiritual significance of the lands and waters, Indigenous Knowledge, and information on traditional uses of land and resources. This information can be shared through both the Consultation and Engagement Program and the Indigenous Knowledge Program. Species of importance to Indigenous communities, such as sweet flag, white cedar and sage, will be identified through these programs. The identified species will be provided to the appropriate environmental disciplines (i.e., vegetation) for consideration in the discipline-specific effects assessment. The environmental discipline will predict and assess potential effects to these species and provide the findings to the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interest discipline, who will then assess how changes to these species predicted by the environmental disciplines may result in effects to its traditional use by Indigenous communities. The MFFN Project team will be available to assist (i.e. collection and documentation of their Indigenous Knowledge), if and as requested. The sharing and use of Indigenous Knowledge will be governed by Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreements established between MFFN and Indigenous communities. MFFN looks forward to finalizing the Indigenous Knowledge Sharing Agreement with Long Lake #58 First Nation. | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.2.1 Section 8.2.4 Appendix J Section 9.5.2 Appendix O |

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| LL58-13 | <p>Potential effects to wildlife (including moose) as result of the Project will be identified and assessed in the EA. Potential effects to moose due to increased human traffic and tourism will be assessed in the EA by considering how Project activities may affect moose population and behaviour.</p> <p>The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples in terms of changes in the availability and / or quality of resources including potential changes associated with increased access by non-Indigenous land users, which may, in turn, influence Indigenous land and resource use activities in the area of the Project; and changes to the experience of being on the land. Furthermore, Indigenous Knowledge and documented concerns of Indigenous communities, the findings of the effects assessments on the natural environment (including moose and caribou) will serve as important data sources to be used to assess the potential effects to the availability of lands and resources for traditional activities.</p> <p>Baseline studies for moose will be completed as part of the larger wildlife program that includes remote camera surveys, observations in the field and habitat mapping.</p> <p>MFFN will contact Long Lake #58 First Nation during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 8.2.5 Appendix K Section 9.4.5 Appendix M Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| LL58-16 | <p>EA will consider the alternative methods of carrying out the undertaking, which includes the quarries, borrow areas and aggregate source areas. A preliminary identification of potential aggregate source areas in the area of the Project is shown on Figure 7-3; however, the locations that will be considered and assessed will be identified in the EA. This will include information on the amounts of aggregate required during construction and operations (Section 7.1.4.4), whether new pits / quarries are planned (Section 7.1.4.4), and whether any sources will require decommissioning following construction (Section 5.2.2).</p> <p>MFFN recognizes Indigenous Knowledge as a critical component of the EA process and is committed to working with Indigenous communities to respectfully collaborate on how Indigenous Knowledge will be utilized in identifying indicators, informing baseline conditions, predicting potential effects of the Project, and helping to determine appropriate impact management measures and monitoring methods. MFFN will consult with Long Lake #58 First Nation to better understand their concerns.</p> | <p>Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 7.1.2. Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| LL58-17 | <p>MFFN is committed to including the effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. Section 7.2 of the ToR identifies that the Northern Road Link is anticipated to be considered for inclusion in the assessment of cumulative effects in the EA.</p> <p>MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Long Lake #58 First Nation to understand their concerns and obtain feedback on the methods to assess cumulative effects, including but not limited to the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| Marten Falls First Nation – December 23, 2020 | | |
| MFFN-2 | <p>EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project as a result of changes due to increased access (Sections 7.2.1, 7.2.8, 7.2.9 and 7.2.10). Specifically, the ToR indicates that the EA will consider the concerns noted in the comment as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 7.2.1: Changes in the availability and / or quality of resources, including potential changes associated with increased access by non-Indigenous land users as a result of the Project, that may influence Indigenous land and resource use activities (e.g., hunting, harvesting, fathering) within the area of the Project; • Section 7.2.8: The CAR will provide year-round access to the Far North, which is likely to increase access for recreational and traditional resource use. This has the potential to result in an increase in hunting pressure and predation due to increased sightlines along linear corridors... • Section 7.2.9: The CAR will provide year-round access to the Far North, which is likely to increase access to waterbodies for recreational and traditional resource use. This has the potential to result in an increase in angling pressure to fish populations • Section 7.2.10: Changes to recreation and commercial land uses due to changes in access, wildlife, vegetation or water resources. These changes may affect the enjoyment of these activities, which may affect the tourism sector such as potential negative effects due to public access, and / or enabling new tourism, including cultural tourism, through improved access. • Section 7.2.10: Changes in population and access to the Far North for recreational activities (e.g., fishing and hunting) may alter the ability of Indigenous communities to access country foods. • Section 7.2.10: Effects to human health by altering public safety (including potential increased illicit activities, conflicts and other potential harms to communities and their members), public health, diet and mental health. These changes may be facilitated by additional access to and from southern communities year-round. • Section 7.2.10: Changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects. New access may allow industry opportunities to become more feasible thereby allowing for an increase in existing and new development. | <p>Section 9.5.7 Section 10.4.8 Appendix U</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. Section 7.2 of the ToR identifies that the Northern Road Link is anticipated to be considered for inclusion in the assessment of cumulative effects in the EA. As part of this process, both the potential benefits and negative effects will be identified. | |
| Matawa First Nations Management – December 21, 2020 | | |
| MFNM-6 | MFFN will consult with government agencies throughout the EA process to understand changes and to confirm the requirements applicable to the Project. The Project will meet the requirements of legislation in place at the time of completing the EA based on consultation with government agencies and identify any grandfather exemptions applied to the Project should they occur. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| Mushkegowuk Council – December 16, 2020 | | |
| MkgwC-1 | The Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire is an assessment independent of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Community Access Road (CAR); however, should information from the regional assessment that is relevant to the Project become available during preparation of the EA, it will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment for the Project. Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) will maintain contact with the Agency's contacts for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire so that relevant information can be shared between MFFN and the Agency where appropriate. | Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X |
| MkgwC-6 | MFFN will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on wetlands (e.g., peatlands). Information about the atmospheric, climate change, physiography, geology, terrain and soils, surface water, groundwater, vegetation, Indigenous and social disciplines will be used to characterize peatlands by their type, classification, hydrology, quantification of carbon storage and gas exchange rates. This will be based on a combination of desktop information and the results of field-based studies completed in support of the Project. Field data will be largely collected within the Local Study Area and will be supplemented with desktop information across the Regional Study Area. Furthermore, the EA will assess potential effects of the Project on peatland availability, distribution, composition, and function (e.g., as habitat and carbon sink). This effects assessment will consider both direct and indirect effects to capture both local and regional changes that may occur as a result of the Project. At this time there are no anticipated Project components which would create exposure pathways for methyl-mercury formation or bioaccumulation. Should these be identified as part of the ongoing Project design, sampling programs will be conducted to establish baseline levels in select areas, and an effects assessment will be completed. | Section 9.3.5 Appendix I |
| MkgwC-8 | The Project is currently in the early planning phase; therefore, specifics such as the number of vehicles that will use the CAR have not yet been determined. However, the number of vehicles will be determined during the EA and documented in the EA Report. The EA will also include any other anticipated vehicle use information that can be reasonably obtained. | Appendix W |
| MkgwC-9 | Where uncertainty exists, a precautionary approach will be applied generally, and specifically to the number of construction fronts assumed in the effects assessment. MFFN agrees with Mushkegowuk Council that the number of construction fronts could affect the prediction of potential Project effects and therefore will include a conservative estimate of construction fronts in the EA. | Section 7.2.3 |
| MkgwC-11 | The EA will identify and assess the indirect effects of changes to the acoustic environment on Indigenous use of land and resources and Indigenous experience of being on the land. These indirect effects will be informed by input received through the Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement programs. The MFFN Project Team will continue to engage with interested Indigenous communities to determine receptor locations for future noise assessment modelling work to be completed as part of the EA. MFFN will consult with the Mushkegowuk Council to better understand questions and concerns related to the Project and the noise assessment. | Section 8.3.5 Section 9.5.3 Appendix P |
| MkgwC-12, MkgwC-15 | MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities on the study approach for water crossings and to incorporate shared Indigenous Knowledge and values into the EA where appropriate. | Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1 Appendix F |
| MkgwC-17 | Each of the Indigenous communities identified in Table 10-1 of the ToR will be profiled in in the EA Report. Detailed socio-community profiles will be developed for communities located within the local study area (LSA) of the social environment and will be informed by primary data collection. The regional study area (RSA) for the social environment will be profiled in less detail based on secondary data sources plus information obtained from general engagement activities. Statistics collected on the RSA for the social environment will focus on larger regional areas such as unorganized regional districts. | Section 9.5.2 Aboriginal Treat and/or Rights and Interest Reports for each Indigenous Community Appendix O Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| | <p>Study areas will be informed by feedback received from Indigenous communities and interested persons. Consultation on discipline-specific study areas will be undertaken during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone of the EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan (Appendix B of the ToR). Information on the socio-economic data collection program will also be consulted on during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone.</p> <p>The EA will assess potential positive and negative effects of the Project on the Social, Economic and Built Environment, and include impact management measures where applicable.</p> | |
| MkgwC-18 | <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, on baseline and effects assessment methods of the Project, which includes visual aesthetics, per the EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR. Consultation will be conducted to better understand Indigenous communities' concerns and obtain feedback and input on the proposed methods.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.8 Appendix V</p> |
| MkgwC-19 | <p>The EA will include a list of relevant studies, including other EAs, reviewed to inform the potential effects as a result of the CAR. Where existing studies have been used to inform information in the EA, they will be appropriately referenced such that the content in the EA and the connection to the existing study is transparent.</p> | <p>Section 16</p> |
| MkgwC-20, MkgwC-21 | <p>The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Mushkegowuk Council to understand their concerns and obtain feedback on the methods to assess cumulative effects, including but not limited to the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>The Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire is an assessment independent of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Community Access Road (CAR); however, should information from the regional assessment that is relevant to the Project become available during preparation of the EA, it will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment for the Project. Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) will maintain contact with the Agency's contacts for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire so that relevant information can be shared between MFFN and the Agency where appropriate.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X</p> <p>We acknowledge the importance of the Regional Assessment and the broader context in which the Community Access Road project exists. However, it is important to clarify that the Regional Assessment is being led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and is outside the scope of the Community Access Road, which is being conducted under a separate and established regulatory process.</p> <p>While we recognize that the Community Access Road is one of the components of potential future development in the region and as of January 20, 2026, the Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire is not available to the public. The regional assessment working group only submitted the interim report to the Chiefs of Partner First Nations and to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature.</p> |
| Neskantaga First Nation – December 21, 2020 | | |
| NeskFN-4, NeskFN-5, NeskFN-7, NeskFN-8, NeskFN-9, NeskFN-10 | <p>The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects.</p> <p>In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. It is anticipated that Eagle's Nest mine will also be considered for inclusion in the cumulative effects assessment in the EA.</p> <p>MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, including Neskantaga First Nation, agencies and interested person to obtain feedback and input on the alternatives. MFFN will contact Neskantaga First Nation during the EA to understand concerns about alternative methods being considered for the Project in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 9 Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| NeskFN-12 | <p>MFFN will work with Neskantaga First Nation to provide information as available and applicable.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X Milestone #1 Progress Report for Neskantaga First Nation (Pages 234 to 235)</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| NeskFN-13 | The EA will include information related to preliminary cost estimates based on information available at the time. These costs will be considered preliminary and subject to change through detailed design and post-EA work in support of the Project. | Section 4.4 |
| NeskFN-18 | The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project to wetlands (i.e., peatlands, bogs, fens, swamps and marshes), and will provide recommendations for impact management measures, such as compensation if appropriate, based on the predicted effects. | Section 9.3.5 Appendix I Section 9.4.2 Appendix J |
| NeskFN-19 | MFFN will consult with Neskantaga First Nation to better understand the location of important features. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| NeskFN-20 | MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities on the study approach for water crossings and to incorporate shared Indigenous Knowledge and values into the EA where appropriate. The EA will assess effects of the alternative methods, which may be adjusted throughout the environmental planning process as a result of the advancement of design, technical and environmental investigations and studies, information available through the Indigenous All water crossings will be assessed from the air and approximately 50% of the water crossings, across both Alternative 1 and Alternative 4, will be assessed during ground-based surveys. Program and feed back from consultation activities. | Section 4 Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1 Appendix F |
| NeskFN-22 | The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on the atmospheric environment. The EA will consider how changes in air quality from dust resulting from road traffic could indirectly effect fish and fish habitat. | Section 9.5.4 Appendix S |
| NeskFN-25 | The EA is to include data collection activities to assess the extent to which Indigenous country food harvesting activities may be affected by the Project. The need for longer-term monitoring of the potential effect will also be examined in the EA and if necessary, recommendations made for any monitoring activities related to country food harvesting. | Section 9.5.6 Appendix T |
| NeskFN-26 | The number of vehicles will be determined during the EA and documented in the EA Report. The EA will also include any other anticipated vehicle use information that can be reasonably obtained. | Appendix W |
| NeskFN-28 | Air emissions (i.e., quantities) will be modelled and documented in the EA for each phase of the Project as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction phase: equipment and earth moving activities (such as drilling, blasting and aggregate productions); • Operations and maintenance phase: dust and other emissions from community use of the CAR and maintenance activities; and • Cumulative effects during the operations phase of the Project: dust and other emissions from community use of the road and maintenance activities, as well as industrial use of the road (such as transportation of mined material from development in the Ring of Fire). | Section 9.5.4 Section 10.4.6 Appendix S |
| NeskFN-29, NeskFN-30 | The EA will identify and assess the potential effects of the Project due to dust emissions, which in turn will inform the appropriate impact management measures and monitoring measures that will be recommended. Road construction and maintenance will follow typical Ministry of Transportation (MTO) standards and requirements (e.g., potential substances that may be applied for dust suppression [Section 5.2.2]) and recommendations for impact management measures and monitoring measures will be based on these requirements as well as input received through the consultation and engagement program. MFFN will contact Neskantaga First Nation during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures. | Section 9.5.4 Section 10.4.6 Appendix S Section 11 Appendix X |
| NeskFN-31, NeskFN-35, NeskFn-36 | The number of vehicles will be determined during the EA and documented in the EA Report along with other anticipated vehicle use information that can be reasonably obtained. The EA will include the effects of potential accidents and malfunctions, which will look at the failure of certain works or incidents involving road users caused by technological malfunctions, human error or exceptional natural events (e.g., flooding, earthquake, forest fire). This will be inclusive of vehicle accidents and associated spills near / at watercourse crossings that could release diesel or other material into water. | Section 7 Section 13.1 |
| NeskFN-37 | A geochemistry study is proposed to characterize the soil and bedrock materials to produce acid-rock-drainage and / or metal leaching that could affect water quality in surface water and / or groundwater (with potential indirect effects to fish, wildlife and humans). This study will be informed by the review of detailed terrain mapping, a review of geotechnical work completed for the Project during the pre-EA period, and a field reconnaissance program focused on collecting data in areas with potential for metal leaching and acid rock drainage that may be disrupted by construction. | Section 9.4.6 Appendix N |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| Neskantaga First Nation – April 6, 2021 (Letter dated March 31, 2021) | | |
| NeskFN-46 | The trail information has been shared with our Archaeological and Cultural Heritage team and will help to inform the baseline knowledge of the area for the cultural heritage reporting (2021-2022) and the Stage II archaeological field program that is planned for 2022-2023. The proposed Archeological and Cultural Heritage Local and Regional Study Areas are currently being defined, and we will share them with Neskantaga First Nation once drafted. All archaeological work will be conducted to meet the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism, and Culture Standards and Guidelines. | Section 8.3.6 Section 955 Appendix Q Appendix R |
| NeskFN-48 | The MFFN CAR EA will consider other development from a cumulative effects perspective. | Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| Neskantaga First Nation – August 25, 2021 (email dated August 13, 2021) | | |
| NeskFN-52 | MFFN will follow the methods of the federal recovery strategy for boreal caribou (ECCC 2020) and the provincial Integrated Range Assessments (MNR 2014) for quantifying project disturbance (i.e., 500 m buffer to account for indirect habitat loss as a result of sensory disturbances). We will qualitatively consider the results of other research and peer-reviewed literature in our assessment. | Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |
| NeskFN-53 | MFFN is committed to doing ZOI analysis during baseline (pre-disturbance phase) to inform the characterization of baseline conditions and the assessment of the Project. Should the Project be approved, and pending permit conditions, MFFN will consider follow-up monitoring including additional ZOI analysis of different development phases. MFFN will work with Neskantaga First Nation to schedule a meeting to discuss ZOI modeling for this project and clarify any ongoing questions about this analysis. | Section 9 Section 14 Appendix AA All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X As noted in Neskantaga First Nation’s Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Draft Impact Assessment Report, proposed mitigation measures include the collaboration with local existing environmental advisory committees to support the development and implementation of all environmental monitoring programs. The objective is to include Indigenous interests and perspectives, particularly concerning resources utilized for rights-based purposes. In the absence of an existing advisory committee with an aligned mandate to Marten Falls First Nation, a Terms of Reference between relevant agencies and Neskantaga First Nation will be established. |
| NeskFN-56 | MFFN is proposing to include a qualitative assessment of eastern migratory caribou in the IA/EA, whereby peer reviewed literature and data from collars would be summarized to describe the seasonal use and potential impacts by the Project based on known threats in their winter range (note that eastern migratory caribou travel corridors and summer use range are outside the scope of the Project based on the Project’s geographic location). MFFN will provide opportunities for Neskantaga First Nation to share Indigenous Knowledge through the Project’s Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement Programs. | Section 6.1 Section 8.2.1 Section 8.2.9 Section 9.4.5 Section 10.3.5 Appendix M Section 11 Appendix X |
| NeskFN-57 | MFFN will consider marten home range size and peer-reviewed literature to determine an appropriate buffer size for indirect effects. Existing marten habitat suitability models developed to guide forestry operations in Ontario (Elkie et al. 1999, 2009) will be reviewed (if made available), with consideration to the applicability of the model given there is no timber harvest in the wildlife study area. Similarly, MFFN will consider other peer-reviewed literature but where possible, will rely on research that has been conducted in regions with similar baseline conditions. MFFN will take into consideration Neskantaga First Nation’s suggestion to use a 500 m buffer around the proposed Project footprint to calculate indirect effects of the Project on furbearers. | Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| Nibinamik First Nation – March 31, 2021 (Letter dated February 26, 2021) | | |
| NibFN-2 | <p>The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects.</p> <p>MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / Impact Statement (IS) Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the Terms of Reference (ToR) identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". MFFN will engage with Nibinamik First Nation to understand their concerns and obtain feedback on the methods to assess cumulative effects, including but not limited to the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment.</p> <p>Should information from the Regional Assessment that is relevant to the Project become available during preparation of the EA, it will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment for the Project. MFFN will maintain contact with the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's (the Agency's) contacts for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire so that relevant information can be shared between MFFN and the Agency where appropriate.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X</p> <p>We acknowledge the importance of the Regional Assessment and the broader context in which the Community Access Road project exists. However, it is important to clarify that the Regional Assessment is being led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and is outside the scope of the Community Access Road, which is being conducted under a separate and established regulatory process.</p> <p>While we recognize that the Community Access Road is one of the components of potential future development in the region and as of January 20, 2026, the Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire is not available to the public. The regional assessment working group only submitted the interim report to the Chiefs of Partner First Nations and to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature.</p> |
| NibFN-3 | <p>MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with Indigenous communities as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program for the Project. MFFN will strive to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to find mutually beneficial solutions where possible. MFFN will continue to discuss the Project with Nibinamik First Nation according to the Consultation and Engagement Program outlined in Appendix B of the ToR and is available to discuss a community-specific consultation plan should Nibinamik First Nation wish to set one up for the Project.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X Milestone #1, #2, #3 and #4 Progress Reports for Nibinamik First Nation</p> |
| NibFN-5 | <p>The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| NibFN-9 | <p>MFFN is committed to creating and sustaining constructive dialogue and relationships with Indigenous communities as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program for the Project. MFFN will strive to work collaboratively with Indigenous communities throughout the EA process to find mutually beneficial solutions where possible. MFFN will continue to discuss the Project with Nibinamik First Nation according to the Consultation and Engagement Program outlined in Appendix B of the ToR and is available to discuss a community-specific consultation plan should Nibinamik First Nation wish to set one up for the Project.</p> | <p>Section 11 Appendix X Milestone #1, #2, #3 and #4 Progress Reports for Nibinamik First Nation</p> |
| Red Sky Métis Independent Nation – October 29, 2020 (Phone) – MFFN Project Team provided a response via email to Donelda DeLaRonde on December 10, 2020 | | |
| RSMIN-1 | <p>These potential effects (e.g. increased number of transport truck-related accidents, increased drug use, etc.) will be considered in the social impact assessment holistically. Changes in community well-being will consider changes in socio-economic structures and changes in community cohesion, the assessment of these changes will incorporate other socio-economic criteria and indicators to provide a holistic assessment of potential effect on community well-being.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.6 Section 10.4.7 Appendix T</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| Red Sky Métis Independent Nation – March 26, 2021 (Phone) | | |
| RSMIN-4 | <p>MFFN will consider the potential benefits identified by Red Sky Métis Independent Nation when undertaking the assessment of potential benefits from the Project.</p> <p>Positive benefits of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better and safer access to the community • Reduced travel costs • Youth have better access to services and education • Better access to medical service and care • Tourism and ecotourism opportunities | <p>Section 8.3.8 Section 9.5.6 Appendix T</p> |
| RSMIN-5 | <p>MFFN will consider the potential negative effects identified during the EA when undertaking the assessment of potential effects of the Project.</p> <p>Negative impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative effects with other development in the north (e.g., mines) • Impacts on neighbouring communities (i.e., RSMIN territory and communities like Thunder Bay and Geraldton) on increased ease of access • Increase and different types of crime in community and in neighbouring communities • Impacts local and regional health care services | <p>Section 9 Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| Other Interested Persons | | |
| Twin Lakes Outfitters and Wilderness Camps – October 29, 2020 | | |
| TLOWC-1 | <p>The EA will assess potential effects of the alternative routes on tourism operators by evaluating predicted changes on the basis of the 'Recreation and Tourism' criterion (see Appendix A of the Terms of Reference). As part of the assessment, impact management measures will be recommended to avoid and / or minimize the predicted effects.</p> <p>MFFN will contact Twin Lakes Outfitters & Wilderness Camps during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.7 Section 10.4.8 Appendix U Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| Leuenberger Air Services – December 21, 2020 | | |
| LAS-1 | <p>This information (location of their operations) will be considered in the effects assessment and route evaluation work. The EA will assess potential effects of the alternative routes on tourism operators by evaluating predicted changes on the basis of the 'Recreation and Tourism' criterion (see Appendix A of the Terms of Reference). As part of the assessment, impact management measures will be recommended to avoid and / or minimize the predicted effects.</p> <p>MFFN will contact Leuenberger Air Services during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.7 Section 10.4.8 Appendix U Section 11 Appendix X</p> |
| LAS-2 | <p>The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in population and access to the Far North for recreational activities (e.g., fishing and hunting) may alter the ability of Indigenous communities to access country foods. • Changes to recreation and commercial land uses due to changes in access, wildlife, vegetation or water resources. These changes may affect the enjoyment of these activities, which may affect the tourism sector such as potential negative effects due to public access, and / or enabling new tourism, including cultural tourism, through improved access. <p>MFFN will contact Leuenberger Air Services during the EA to understand the concern in more detail and to share information to allow both parties to better understand potential effects and impact management measures.</p> <p>Access restrictions (for hunting, fishing and resource use during the key tourism season on Anaconda Road and road systems north of Anaconda Road) will be identified in the EA.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.7 Section 10.4.8 Appendix U Section 11 Appendix X</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| Noront Resources Ltd. – December 21, 2020 | | |
| NOR-7 | The EA will provide information on operational use of the CAR and whether any access restrictions related to time of use are planned to be in place. | Section 7.2.5 |
| Wildlife Conservation Society – December 21, 2020 | | |
| WCS-2 | The EA will consider the potential effects of the Project due to changes to industry and resource extraction activities such as mining, aggregate, forestry, linear infrastructure and energy projects. The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. | Section 9 Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| WCS-4, WCS-5 | The Project will meet the requirements of both the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act and the federal Impact Assessment Act. Therefore, the highest and most rigorous requirements between the two assessment processes will be documented in the coordinated EA / Impact Statement (IS) Report. The EA Report will provide information on how the provincial and federal EA processes for the CAR are being coordinated. The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment. Should information from the regional assessment that is relevant to the Project become available during preparation of the EA, it will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment for the Project. MFFN will maintain contact with the Agency's contacts for the Regional Assessment of the Ring of Fire so that relevant information can be shared between MFFN and the Agency where appropriate. | Final EA/IS and its appendices Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X |
| WCS-6, WCS-7, WCS-8 | MFFN will consult and engage on discipline-specific local and regional study areas during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on study areas during the consultation milestone "Effects Assessment Methods." Comments received through consultation and engagement on the ToR, including this comment from the Wildlife Conservation Society, are being taken into consideration during study plan development. MFFN will attempt to obtain the unpublished results of the Centre for Northern Forest Ecosystem Research investigation undertaken for the Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project. Should the results be shared with MFFN, information from the investigation will be reviewed to inform the EA where appropriate and as applicable. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| WCS-9 | The EA will include a description of historical land use and an assessment of the likelihood of encountering contaminated soils and sediments. Details on any known or suspected soil contamination areas that could be re-suspended, released or otherwise disturbed as a result of the Project will also be documented. | Section 8.2.8 Section 9.4.6 Appendix N |
| WCS-10 | The EA will identify locations that may have ecological receptors that are sensitive or vulnerable to acidification. | Figure 8-49 Section 8.2.8.7.5 Appendix N |
| WCS-11 | The EA will describe permafrost conditions including detailed mapping of landscape features such as areas of permafrost degradation. | Section 8.2.8.5.4 Appendix N |
| WCS-12 | The EA will describe permafrost conditions including detailed mapping of landscape features such as areas of permafrost degradation. The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS" their concerns and obtain feedback on, but not limited to, the study area, and past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects, and effects to be considered in the cumulative effects assessment. | Section 8.2.8.5.4 Appendix N Section 10 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) Section 11 Appendix X |
| WCS-13 | The EA will identify which primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary watersheds the Project is predicted to effect and include maps illustrating the surface water study areas. | Section 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| WCS-14 | The EA will include figures of mapped and unmapped waterbodies crossed by the Project. These figures will also provide documented or inferred estimates of the characteristic flow regime (i.e., ephemeral, intermittent, and permanent). | Section 8.1.7 Appendix H |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| WCS-15, WCS-16 | The baseline studies for the EA will include the compilation and presentation of long-term, historical streamflow and lake level records from nearby gauge stations (operated by Water Survey of Canada or other). These continuous hydrometric records (presented as hydrograph and stage-discharge plots) will be used to evaluate the characteristic variability of flows and water levels in the local and regional surface water system on a seasonal and inter-annual basis. Information from site-specific, spot flow measurements and water level readings at water crossing locations (obtained during field campaigns for the Project in 2020 and 2021) will also be used to provide added context for the natural variations in discharge and water levels during periods of low and high flow conditions. | Section 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| WCS-17 | The description of the environment will include information from a conceptual site model of the hydrogeological environment, including a discussion of geomorphic, hydro stratigraphic, hydrologic, climatic and anthropogenic controls on groundwater flow. | Section 8.1.7 Appendix H |
| WCS-18 | The Project has committed to include an assessment of land use changes (e.g., wetlands or peatlands) and the resultant net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), as required by the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) for the Project, and stated in Section 7.1.4.2 of the ToR, "desktop information regarding the extent that peatlands and other landcover types that are within the study area act as carbon sinks will also be compiled." MFFN has committed to studying peatlands as a discrete environmental discipline and will assess how potential effects of the Project on peatlands may indirectly affect surface water and / or climate change. The EA will also characterize peatlands by their type, classification, hydrology, quantification of carbon storage and gas exchange rates. Furthermore, the EA will assess impacts to peatland availability, distribution, composition, and function (e.g., as habitat and carbon sink). We continue to refine our approach to studying broader climate change trends, stored carbon and sequestration benefits and will consider your comments as part of that process. The cumulative effects assessment will build on the results of the Project effects assessment and will consider the incremental changes that are predicted to have a likely residual adverse effect on a criterion. | Section 8.1.8 Section 9.3.5 Section 10.2.5 Appendix I |
| WCS-19 | The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project to wetlands (e.g., peatlands). Information about the atmospheric, climate change, physiography, geology, terrain and soils, surface water, groundwater, vegetation, Indigenous and social disciplines will be used to characterize peatlands by their type, classification, hydrology, quantification of carbon storage and gas exchange rates. Furthermore, the EA will assess potential effects of the Project on peatland availability, distribution, composition, and function (e.g., as habitat and carbon sink). In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on cumulative effects assessment methods during the consultation milestones "Identification of Preferred Alternatives" and "Review of Draft EA / IS". | Section 8.1.8 Section 9.3.5 Appendix I |
| WCS-21 | The current level of both anthropogenic and natural disturbance of vegetation will be identified assessed in the EA to determine the level of habitat fragmentation, historical and current fire disturbance, and any proximate activities that have resulted in changes to fires regimes in order to predict changes in forest fire risk as a result of the Project. The EA commits to using the Ontario Far North Land Cover Mapping tool for delineation of vegetation communities. | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |
| WCS-22 | Available information will be reviewed to describe and map the ecozones, ecoregions and ecodistricts per Ontario's Ecological Landscape Classification. In addition, a pre-Project characterization of the shoreline, banks, current and future flood risk areas, wetland catchment boundaries, and watershed boundaries will also be included documented in the EA. The current level of both anthropogenic and natural disturbance associated with vegetation will be included with a description of the level of habitat fragmentation, historical and current fire disturbance, and any proximate activities that have results in changes to fires regimes. Section 5.2.2 of the ToR indicates that Project activities will include removal of timber and grubbing. While the EA will identify and assess areas of vegetation loss, the quality and quantity of tree removals will be refined during detail design and at the time of construction planning. | Section 8.2.4 Section 9.4.2 Appendix J |
| WCS-23 | The EA will describe Ontario's commitment to biodiversity. Biodiversity metrics as well as biotic and abiotic indicators that are used to characterize baseline biodiversity for terrestrial wildlife will be identified and discussed as part of the rationale for their selection. The EA will provide a rationale for selection of these metrics. | Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K |
| WCS-24 | Although not specifically listed in the ToR as a potential data source for the Project, MFFN will review this data source (Data associated with Ontario's Far North Biodiversity Project including information on plants, invertebrates, bats, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes, and some mammals should be included in the impact assessment [http://sobr.ca/the-far-north-biodiversity-project/]).and include relevant information in the EA. | Section 8.2.4 Section 9.4.2 Appendix J Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| WCS-26 | The EA will include a review of important biodiversity, ecologically and culturally sensitive areas and all designated natural features known to occur within area of the Project. MFFN will review these data sources and include relevant information in the EA. | Section 8.2.4 Appendix J |
| WCS-30 | MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies and characterization of existing conditions. MFFN will notify Indigenous communities of opportunities to participate in baseline studies for the Project. A commitment has been made to MFFN community that Indigenous monitor positions for field work in support of the Project would first be filled by MFFN. In circumstances when MFFN is not available to participate in a baseline study, MFFN will contact neighbouring Indigenous communities for interest in participating in the program. | Section 11 Appendix X |
| WCS-31 | The EA will describe migration, stopover / staging, breeding, feeding and resting sites used by migratory birds. | Section 8.2.6 Appendix L |
| WCS-32 | MFFN will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on species at risk (SAR), including Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk in the EA. This will include considering how changes in their habitat (including wetlands), including the creation of new habitat types, such as clearings and fires, may affect these species. | Section 8.2.6 Section 9.4.4 Appendix L |
| WCS-33 | Autonomous Recording Devices will be used to detect crepuscular species at risk. Timing of acoustic surveys for Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk will follow the MNRF Draft Survey Protocol for Whip-poor-will in Ontario (MNRF 2014) and the MNR Eastern Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk Survey Protocol (MNRF 2013), respectively. MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies and characterization of existing conditions. | Section 8.2.6 Appendix L Section 6.1 Section 8.2.1 |
| WCS-34 | The EA will consider temporal sources of variation of the bird criteria listed in Appendix A, including among seasons (e.g., spring migration, breeding season, late summer / fall migration, and late winter). | Section 8.2.6 Section 9.4.4 Appendix L |
| WCS-35 | MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, agencies and interested persons on baseline field studies during the Effects Assessment Methods milestone identified in Table 4-2 of Appendix B (EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan). Input and feedback received through the Consultation and Engagement Program will be used to inform baseline studies and characterization of existing conditions. MFFN will notify Indigenous communities of opportunities to participate in baseline studies for the Project. A commitment has been made to MFFN community that Indigenous monitor positions for field work in support of the Project would first be filled by MFFN. In circumstances when MFFN is not available to participate in a baseline study, MFFN will contact neighbouring Indigenous communities for interest in participating in the program. | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| WCS-37 | MFFN will consult and engage on discipline-specific local and regional study areas during the EA. The EA / IS Consultation and Engagement Plan appended to the ToR identified that MFFN will consult with Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons on study areas during the consultation milestone "Effects Assessment Methods." Comments received through consultation and engagement on the ToR, including this comment from the Wildlife Conservation Society, are being taken into consideration during study area development. The EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The Project is also subject to the Federal Impact Assessment Act and currently in the Impact Statement Phase. Therefore, the cumulative effects assessment will also be assessed per the requirements set out in Section 22 of the TISGs developed by the Agency. In accordance with the TISGs, the EA will include the consideration of cumulative effects to caribou. | Section 11 Appendix X Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |
| WCS-38 | The EA will identify and assess effects to wolverine through the criterion fur bearers for wildlife. An initial description of existing wolverine conditions is provided in the ToR in Section 7.1.4.8, and will be described in greater detail within the EA. Although not specifically listed in the ToR as potential data sources for the Project, MFFN will review the Ontario Wolverine Recovery Strategy (2013), Government Response Statement and Ray et al. (2018) and include relevant information in the EA. | Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K |
| WCS-39 | The EA will assess the potential effects of increased sightlines to wildlife, including the predation risk of wolves on caribou, and this will be informed by a proposed remote camera monitoring program that will be focused on detecting wolves and caribou. Although not specifically listed in the ToR as a potential data source for the Project, MFFN review Kittle et al. (2017) and include relevant information in the EA. | Section 8.2.7 Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| WCS-40 | More information on the existing conditions and potential effects of the Project on Moose will be provided in the EA. Availability and distribution of moose habitat will be estimated and mapped using Ontario Land Cover Compilation v. 2.0 (OLCC) (LIO 2020), which is a compilation of Far North Land Cover v 1.4 and Provincial Land Cover 2000 Edition in ArcMap. Habitat categorization for moose will follow an HSI model approach, and good quality habitats will be defined according to a threshold representing the minimum value below which the habitat is not suitable for reproduction and survival (Ackakaya et al. 2004). The standard threshold value is typically 0.5, which will be used in this assessment. | Section 8.2.7 Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |
| WCS-41 | Caribou occupancy models produced by Poley et al. (2014) illustrate the probability of occupancy of these species across the Far North. The models will be acquired from MECP and will be examined at the Missisa, Ozhiksi, Nipigon and Pagwachuan Ranges level. The range level will also be used to understand existing conditions and potential effects at smaller geographic extent (i.e., the area where direct effects of the Project are anticipated). | Section 8.2.7 Section 9.4.5 Appendix M |
| WCS-42 | Longnose dace (<i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i>) will be added to the list of species with potential to occurring in the area of the Project where suitable habitat is present in the EA. | Section 8.1.6 Appendix G |
| WCS-44 | The EA will assess effects on the alternative methods, which may be adjusted throughout the environmental planning process as a result of the advancement of design, technical and environmental investigations and studies, information available through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and feed back from consultation activities. All water crossings will be assessed from the air and approximately 50% of the water crossings, across both Alternative 1 and Alternative 4, will be assessed during ground-based surveys. Ground-based surveys are designed to meet Department of Fisheries and Oceans and MNRF requirements. | Section 4 Section 6.1 Section 8.1.1 Section 8.1.5 Appendix F |
| WCS-45 | The baseline studies for the EA will include the compilation and presentation of long-term, historical streamflow and lake level records from nearby gauge stations (operated by Water Survey of Canada or other). These continuous hydrometric records (presented as hydrograph and stage-discharge plots) will be used to evaluate the characteristic variability of flows and water levels in the local and regional surface water system on a seasonal and inter-annual basis. Information from site-specific, spot flow measurements and water level readings at waterbody crossing locations themselves (obtained during field campaigns for the Project in 2020 and 2021) will also be used to provide added context for the natural variations in discharge and water levels during periods of low and high flow conditions. The EA will include figures of mapped and unmapped waterbodies crossed by the Project. These figures will also provide documented or inferred estimates of the characteristic flow regime (i.e., ephemeral, intermittent, and permanent). Ecological processes will be evaluated for potential susceptibility to adverse effects from the Project, such as considerations for: patterns and connectivity of habitat patches, continuation of key natural disturbance regimes. | Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |
| WCS-47 | Potential net effects, if any following implementation of impact management measures (such as the Department of Fisheries and Ocean's Guidelines for Blasting in or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters), as a result of construction activities including vibration and blasting will be described in the EA. | Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |
| WCS-48 | Currently MFFN is proposing the following biodiversity metrics for the fish and fish habitat discipline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution in space; • Frequency of occurrence; • Patterns of occurrence and abundance in time; • Abundance and, if possible, density; and • Associate habitat types and strength of associations. The EA will provide a rationale for selection of these metrics. | Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G |
| WCS-49 | Where information is available, dwellings, including for example permanent residences and seasonal cabins, in the study area will be identified, mapped and considered in the EA Report. | Section 8.3.8 Appendix T |
| WCS-50 | As noted in Section 3.4.2 of the ToR, Indigenous Knowledge will be gathered through the Indigenous Knowledge Program and integrated into the baseline description for each discipline as appropriate. This will include the Indigenous Knowledge on locations of sensitive receptors, such as spring water sources that may have value to Indigenous peoples. | Section 6.1.1 Section 8.1.1, Section 8.2.1 and Section 8.3.1 Section 9 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V) |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| WCS-51 | <p>In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. MFFN will consult and engage on cumulative effects assessment methods during the EA.</p> <p>The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The Project is also subject to the Federal Impact Assessment Act and currently in the Impact Statement Phase. Therefore, the cumulative effects assessment will also be assessed per the requirements set out in Section 22 of the TISGs developed by the Agency.</p> | <p>Section 10 All Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| WCS-56 | <p>The EA Report will include a glossary for the Indigenous names for plants, fish and wildlife in the EA.</p> | <p>Appendix Z</p> |
| WCS-57 | <p>The EA will consider whether exposure to contaminants in dust as a result of the Project may result in effects to human health. This will be determined as part of a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA). An early step of an HHRA is the problem formulation, which is conducted to identify chemicals of potential concern (COPCs), operable exposure pathways, human receptors and other issues or concerns that relate to human exposure to chemical substances in relation to the Project. Should the problem formulation identify COPCs (predicted Project emissions and / or expressed human health-related concerns) in dust, potential effects to human health from exposure to COPCs in dust will be evaluated further as part of the HHRA.</p> | <p>Section 9.5.6 Appendix T</p> <p>The problem formulation was completed for the Final EA/IS (Attachment A to Appendix T Technical Support Document). The pathways detailed in Table 9-1 of the Final Attachment A were deemed complete. The Community Well-Being Technical Support Document was prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. The completion of a quantitative human health risk assessment is not required based on the problem formulation completed and furthermore is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not completed as part of the Final EA/IS.</p> |
| WCS-60, WCS-61 | <p>The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on surface and groundwater, which will include looking at changes in quantity (e.g., water levels, flow regimes) and quality (i.e., water chemistry). The EA will also assess the indirect effects of the Project, such as how changes in surface and groundwater could indirectly effect fish and fish habitat. If construction of the CAR (e.g., ground disturbance or placement of materials) has potential to result in surface water and / or groundwater quality issues, impact management measures and monitoring measures will be identified.</p> <p>In addition to assessing the potential effects of the Project, the EA will identify and assess the Project's potential for cumulative effects. The cumulative effects assessment will include reviewing publicly available data sources for projects in the mining, forestry, telecommunication, electrical, energy and road development sectors that should be considered in the assessment.</p> | <p>Section 8.1.5 Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 8.1.6 Section 9.3.3 Appendix G Section 8.1.7 Section 9.3.4 Appendix H Section 10 and all Technical Support Documents (Appendix F to V)</p> |
| WCS-58, WCS-62 | <p>The EA will characterize the baseline conditions of the physiography, geology, terrain and soils discipline, and this will include mapping of eskers that are crossed by the Project (CAR, temp infrastructure for construction, quarries, borrow areas and aggregate sources area).</p> <p>The EA will look at the indirect effects on how changes in terrain, topography and soil may affect wildlife habitat, including use of eskers by wildlife.</p> | <p>Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K Section 8.2.8 Section 9.4.6 Appendix N</p> |
| WCS-63 | <p>The ecological significance of contiguous boreal forest habitat will be documented within the EA.</p> | <p>Section 8.2.5 Section 9.4.3 Appendix K</p> |

| ID # | Commitment | Locations in the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement (EA / IS) Unless Otherwise Noted |
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| WCS-66 | <p>The EA will include a description of historical land use and an assessment of the likelihood of encountering contaminated soils and sediments. Details on any known or suspected soil contamination areas that could be re-suspended, released or otherwise disturbed as a result of the Project will also be documented.</p> <p>The EA will identify and assess potential effects of the Project on surface, which will include looking at changes in quantity (e.g., water levels, flow regimes) and quality (i.e., water chemistry). The EA will also assess the indirect effects of the Project, such as how changes in surface water could indirectly effect fish and fish habitat. If construction of the CAR (e.g., ground disturbance or placement of materials) has potential to result in surface water and / or groundwater quality issues, impact management measures and monitoring measures will be identified.</p> | <p>Section 8.1.5 Section 9.3.2 Appendix F Section 8.1.7 Section 9.3.4 Appendix H Section 8.2.8 Section 9.4.6 Appendix N</p> |
| WCS-67 | <p>The archaeological assessments will be completed to meet the Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (2011). As part of the Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment, a Cultural Landscape Study will be undertaken. Where available, Indigenous Knowledge will be incorporated to ensure information on trapping and harvest areas (plant, fish and other wildlife), camp and campsites, spiritual / sacred places, travel routes, historical sites and historical villages, burials, and other important areas of interest are incorporated into the archaeological assessments and Cultural Heritage Report.</p> | <p>Section 8.3.6 Section 9.5.5 Appendix Q Appendix S</p> |

References

Chetkiewicz, C.-L.B., Carlson, M., O'Connor, C.M., Edwards, B., Southee, F.M., and M. Sullivan, 2017. *Assessing the Potential Cumulative Impacts of Land Use and Climate Change on Freshwater Fish in Northern Ontario*. Wildlife Conservation Society Canada. Toronto, Canada.

Appendix C4

Dataset Summary



C4 Summary Tables for Appendix C5 and C6

C4.1 Indigenous Communities

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
|---|--|
| Cumulative Effects and Regional Development | |
| <p>Ring of Fire development is foreseeable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA / IS is noted for <i>excluding known mining proposals</i>. They argue that exploration, not just active mining applications, creates landscape disturbance. Stakeholders reject the “not reasonably foreseeable” classification. They consider the MFFN CAR and Northern Road Link as a coordinated industrial road system to the Ring of Fire. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EA / IS and the Technical Support Documents were prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. As outlined in Section 10 of the Final EA / IS, “The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Government of Canada, 2017b) requires that each Environmental Assessment of a project take into account any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with the environmental effects of other physical activities that have been or will be carried out.” In alignment with this requirement, the cumulative effects assessment was prepared in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference for the Community Access Road. Notably, the Project Inclusion List (Table 10-1 of the Final EA / IS) identifies infrastructure projects with spatial or temporal overlap with the Community Access Road, based on publicly available sources. Where applicable, the Project Inclusion List was updated to address comments received on the Draft EA / IS. |
| <p>Lack of regional integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ring of Fire Regional Assessment Hydroelectric legacy impacts Forestry disturbance history Upstream and downstream river system interactions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EA / IS and the Technical Support Documents were prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. Both the temporal boundary (time period during which the project effects occur) and the spatial boundary (physical location of those effects) are defined in the discipline-specific study plans. It is important to clarify that the Regional Assessment is being led by the IAAC and is outside the scope of the Community Access Road, which is being conducted under a separate and established regulatory process. Furthermore, as of January 20, 2026, the Regional Assessment for the Ring of Fire is not available to the public. The regional assessment working group only submitted the interim report to the Chiefs of Partner First Nations and to the Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Nature. |

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| <p>Cultural cumulative effects are unassessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of intact land for traditional practices accumulates over time Community well-being is tied to land integrity EA / IS treats cultural impacts as “secondary” rather than core determinants of well-being | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the Indigenous communities located within the Local Study Area (Marten Falls First Nation and Aroland First Nation), we recognize that several Indigenous communities within the Regional Study Area also maintain traditional practices—such as hunting, fishing, and travel on waterways—that may have a potential pathway for effect within the Local Study Area of the Community Access Road. To make sure this is accurately reflected, the effects assessment methodology has been updated to include Indigenous communities where a clear pathway for potential impact exists. This approach makes sure that potential effects on traditional land use, culturally important sites, and broader cultural practices are appropriately and systematically assessed. To determine whether a pathway for effect exists, we relied on each community’s Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Impact Assessment report. The Draft ATRI Reports were provided to Indigenous communities in the summer of 2025, with the Final ATRI Reports scheduled for release in the spring of 2026. These ATRI reports, while confidential, identify each community’s Areas of Interest. These Areas of Interest were compared against the Local Study Area to identify any overlap. Where overlap was present—and a reasonable pathway for effect was identified—the community was included in the assessment. Where potential effects were identified, corresponding mitigation measures have been proposed. |
| <p>Access-induced cumulative effects underestimated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access roads bring outsiders, not just locals Increased recreational hunting pressure is predictable and historically documented | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and ownership are not within the scope of the Final EA / IS, however it is a matter that will require further dialogue between the communities and the Province. The Final EA / IS has been updated to precautionarily assume that the increase in hunter harvest could reach unsustainable levels and lead to decreased resilience and maintenance of the self-sustaining and ecologically effective regional population for certain Valued Component (i.e. moose). |
| <p>Wildlife: Caribou, Moose, Wolverine, and Birds</p> | |
| <p>Caribou concerns are extensive and highly technical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA / IS contradictions about caribou avoidance behavior Lack of modeling of movement corridor fragmentation Overreliance on limited collar data Avoidance buffers should exceed 1–5 km, not meters Linear density thresholds (0.26 km/km²) are already high for SAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final EA / IS and Appendix M has been updated to address Indigenous Communities concerns regarding Caribou. Potential effects that could result in changes in wildlife movement (i.e., linear barriers), an increase in habitat fragmentation (i.e., habitat alteration) and a decrease in habitat connectivity (i.e., linear barriers, habitat loss, habitat alteration) were identified and assessed for construction and operation of the Community Access Road. Mitigations were described to avoid and minimize effects. The Final EA / IS and Appendix M have been updated to include additional collar data now available. Buffers used in the Final EA / IS align with federal and provincial guidance documents. |

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery area sensitivity windows inadequately respected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We acknowledge that the construction of the Community Access Road will increase the linear density for certain Valued Component (i.e. caribou). Detailed information on the current understanding of wildlife responses to linear features and the predicted impacts of the Community Access Road on habitat connectivity is provided in the associated Technical Support Documents. It is acknowledged that the Community Access Road activities that cannot be avoided during the sensitive timing windows will likely require authorization under the Endangered Species Act or the Species Conservation Act. |
| <p>Critique of mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures framed as “generalized,” not location-specific No evidence crossings are sized for migratory vs. local movement patterns Fencing absent from design despite proven necessity elsewhere No scenario modeling for predator-mediated impacts (wolves + deer dynamics) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once potential effects were identified, the effects assessment explored technically and economically feasible mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the identified negative effects and enhancement measures to increase positive effects, beyond those that are already inherent to design. These measures consist of industry-standard practices, federal and provincial standard specifications, regulator-mandated measures, best management practices, Indigenous and community recommendations and recommendations from industry and scientific publications, experience and professional judgement. At the current phase (EA/IA) of the Community Access Road, measures are described at a level appropriate to the current design (preliminary design). As the design of the Community Access Road progresses, these measures will be refined during the detail design phase. Wildlife crossings will be further determined in detail design following the detailed micrositing of the route alignment, bridges and other features. At this stage of the Community Access Road, it is not possible to provide detailed information about the wildlife crossings because the route alignment, bridges, and other features are still being microsited. Further, any proposed wildlife crossing will be considered in combination with wildlife fencing. This detail design phase is crucial as it allows us to identify the most effective locations for wildlife crossings based on the finalized route and infrastructure layout. Post construction monitoring will additionally inform where crossings may be effective, or where they are ineffective. The expansion of deer populations and subsequent increase in predators is a potential effect of the Community Access Road. The relationship between ungulate species in the existing environment is described in the Threats to Survival section for moose (Section 5.2.3.2 of Appendix M [Ungulates]). A potential increase in deer populations, particularly in the southern part of the Ungulate Local Study Area, is considered in the assessment of Community Access Road effects. |
| <p>Moose habitat concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moose rely on contiguous wetlands Informal access roads facilitate poaching | <p>Comments provided by Indigenous communities on the Draft EA / IS were considered and incorporated, as appropriate, in the preparation of the Final EA / IS, including, but not limited to, the following examples:</p> |

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moose-tag systems do not prevent culturally disruptive pressures • EA / IS claims stability of moose populations contradict regional experiences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 8.2.7.2 of the Final EA / IS has been updated to summarize Section 5.2.2 of Appendix M (Ungulates) which outlines the Moose Habitat Distribution within the Local Study Area. • The Final EA / IS as well as Section 9 in Appendix M (Ungulates) have been updated to include an Indigenous monitor for ground-based pre-clearing surveys. • Ongoing monitoring commitments for caribou and moose during construction and operation have been proposed and described in Section 9 of Appendix M (Ungulates). This includes putting collars on caribou and moose to monitor movement and identify seasonally important habitat areas and travel corridors. Information from those studies may inform mitigation measures and adaptive management. • The direct loss of moose habitat in the Construction Disturbance Area represents a 1.1% decrease of potential quality habitat in the Local Study Area, and a 0.1% decrease of potential quality habitat in the Regional Study Area, compared to the existing conditions. There is expected to be a high proportion of quality moose habitat remaining in the Local and Regional study areas after the construction of the Community Access Road. In addition, much of the habitat should remain well distributed and connected in the Regional Study Area. These changes are not expected to result in a measurable influence on the regional abundance of moose and are predicted to support a self-sustaining and ecologically effective population. • An increase in access is predicted to occur after the construction of the Community Access Road, which may result in a measurable increase in public access to areas that were largely inaccessible under existing conditions. An increase in mortality risk is expected for moose that occupy habitat within or surrounding the Local Study Area due to increased non-Indigenous (including illegal harvest) and Indigenous hunting pressures. As a result of concerns expressed by Indigenous communities, the assessment of effects on moose has been changed to significant in the Final EA / IS because of uncertainty about increased harvest pressure. |
| <p>Wolverine vulnerability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely low densities near Hudson Plains / Boreal Shield ecotone • Females highly sensitive to noise, vibration, and road proximity • EA should avoid construction within at least 4 km of potential denning areas • Communities argue the EA underestimates wolverine disappearance risk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acknowledged that wolverine will be impacted by the Community Access Road. Detail design features of the road such as consideration for accommodating wildlife-friendly crossings will be considered during the detail design phase. During the upcoming detail design phase, decisions about mitigations (including whether wildlife over and under passes could be constructed, and if so, where) will take into account best practices from Ministry of Transportation, current understanding of wolverine habitat use and movement relative to the road alignment, recommendations received from comments on the EA / IS, and feasibility/constructability based on environmental conditions. |

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| <p>Cumulative effects methodology</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have carefully considered the TISG in development of the EA / IS, including the assessment of cumulative effects. As outlined in Section 10 of the Final EA / IS, “The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (Government of Canada, 2017b) requires that each Environmental Assessment of a project take into account any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with the environmental effects of other physical activities that have been or will be carried out.” In alignment with this requirement, the cumulative effects assessment was prepared in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference for the Community Access Road. Notably, Table 10-1 of the Final EA / IS identifies infrastructure projects with spatial or temporal overlap with the Community Access Road, based on publicly available sources that describe or predict specific effects for those projects. |
| <p>Hydrology and Water System Impacts</p> | |
| <p>Insufficient predictive modeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze–thaw cycle modeling under climate change projections Ice-jam flooding risk for Albany River Multi-season flow modeling Scenarios for altered water table under peat compression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent changes (based on worst case scenario) at selected assessment points were estimated for large watersheds (0.07% to 0.17% with mean of 0.1%), medium watersheds (0.37% to 1.77% with mean of 0.7%) and small watersheds (0.32% to 4.22% with mean of 2.35%). Considering that the changes are within 5%, impacts to surface water were anticipated to be negligible. Road construction and water crossings are not expected to change the thermal regime of the waterbodies, and the freeze thaw cycle will not be impacted as the water level and flows will not change under normal conditions. Under high water events, water levels upstream of the water crossings may increase slightly, however these will be short lived and will recede on a timeline similar to natural conditions. Therefore, additional hydrological modeling or analysis of changes to ice formation, freeze-thaw timing, or ice-jam related flooding risks in the Albany River system is not deemed necessary. |
| <p>Sediment and turbidity concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for post-first-rain monitoring (first flush events) Construction-phase sediment controls insufficient Access-road decommissioning may increase long-term sedimentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be developed during detail design and will include site-specific plans for all watercourse crossings to address setback distances, ice-damming and erosion. The development and implementation of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be the responsibility of the owner/operator of the Community Access Road. Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding the ownership and operations for the Community Access Road. |
| <p>Fish habitat connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under-sized culverts blocking fish migration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The type of water crossing to be constructed at each creek and river will be determined during detail design and will consider the Ministry of Transportation Highway Drainage Standards, January 2008. |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnow traps inadequate for presence/absence surveys • Large-bodied fish require electrofishing or net sets • Habitat maps missing spawning-specific assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As described in Appendix G (Fish and Fish Habitat), the fish community in the Albany River is well documented; therefore, fishing effort for the Project was minimal. For the purposes of the EA / IS, all fish species previously recorded through historical information for the Albany River as well from Indigenous Knowledge were considered to be present at the Albany River crossing. Large-bodied fish including Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Walleye, Lake Sturgeon, and Lake Whitefish have all been documented in the Albany River as well as several small-bodied forage fish species (e.g., Lake Chub, Brook Stickleback). Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Albany River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the EA / IS or Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing. • Habitat information was collected at each of the crossing locations surveyed as described in Appendix G (Fish and Fish Habitat). Habitat potential for spawning for fish species, such as lake sturgeon and brook trout were considered and described during surveys. Fish and fish habitat, and surface water surveys will be conducted before construction on any waterbody that has not been assessed. Additional surveys will be conducted below high-water mark to meet anticipated permitting requirements (i.e., Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) Request for Review under the Fisheries Act, permit applications to the Ministry of Natural Resources under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act). |
| Fish and Fish Habitat | |
| <p>Insufficient sampling density</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only 50% of crossings assessed • Large rivers under-sampled relative to historical records • Strong reliance on literature and IK without field verification • Lack of seasonal sampling (spring is missing entirely) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The approach of completing assessments at 50% of the water crossings for the purpose of describing the existing environment to assess effects to fish and fish habitat for the EA / IS was developed through consultation with the Agency, DFO and MNR, as the Fisheries Biologist felt that it would provide enough information to inform the existing condition of the area. • Due to the historical fish presence information and Indigenous Knowledge regarding the Albany River/ Ogoki River, no additional fish sampling is required to support the Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement or Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Ministry of Natural Resources permit applications for this crossing. |
| <p>Underestimation of access-induced fishing pressure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA assumption of low recreational access called “unrealistic” • Community fears accelerated decline of species like walleye and pike | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The residual effects of fish survival and reproduction from improved public access to recreational angling areas, including from potential for spread of invasive species, were assessed to be not significant. Residual effects were considered to be significant if they were classified as high in magnitude, at a geographic extent greater than the Construction Disturbance Area, be of longer term in duration, or they represent a substantial management concern. While the residual effects of increased fish pressure are expected outside of the Construction Disturbance Area, and to be long term in |

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No modeling of invasive species spread | <p>duration, the magnitude was assessed as medium, with no substantial management concerns. A high magnitude effect was not predicted, since after mitigation, it is not expected that increased access to fishing would cause death of fish to a degree that results in changes to population dynamics. As described in the Final EA / IS, a large influx of recreational anglers is not expected since recreational fishers are less likely to travel great distances to hunt and fish (average in Ontario is 225 km, Marten Falls is 430 km from Thunder Bay). However, some increase in fishing pressure is expected, with larger waterbodies with higher value fisheries being the target waters. There is the potential for management concerns through an increased public access leading to changes in angler pressure and fish harvest. However, the resources are expected to continue to be managed through the Ministry of Natural Resources and local communities for recreational and Indigenous harvest, respectively. Recreational fishing is managed by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a public resource through provincial licensing requirements and by establishing rules in terms of season length, catch limits, and catch-and-release rules for waterbodies near the Community Access Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key mitigation and enhancement measures also include using existing access roads where possible, using best management practices and regulations outlined by the Ministry of Natural Resources to reduce the spread of invasive species, and developing a policy for non-Indigenous Project personnel while on shift or at temporary construction camps in regards to any hunting, fishing, or trapping activities. Effects on fish survival and reproduction from changes to public access to recreational fishing are expected to result in minor residual effects on fish populations with effective implementation of mitigation and enhancement measures. There may be a decrease in productivity, but the populations of the Valued Component fish species (Lake Sturgeon, Walleye, Brook Trout, Northern Pike, Lake Whitefish, and Burbot) are anticipated to remain functional, self sustaining, and ecologically effective. Although the productivity of fish populations may decrease from additional fish harvesting, it is not likely to disrupt overall population dynamics; therefore, the magnitude was considered medium (decrease in productivity, potential incidental death of fish to a degree that is not likely to disrupt overall population dynamics but may affect local productivity) and the residual effect is not significant. The spread of invasive species from the Community Access Road was captured in the residual effects assessment for increased public access to recreational fishing areas. The introduction of invasive species with increased public access was recognized and identified as a potential effect (i.e., effect before mitigation) in the Final EA / IS. A key mitigation to reduce the potential spread of invasive species is by using best management practices and the regulations outlined by the Ministry of Natural Resources to reduce the spread of invasive species. |

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| Peatlands and Carbon | |
| <p>Scientific contradictions highlighted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claim that peatlands are “annual carbon sources” contradicts peer-reviewed understanding • No clear evidence floating road avoids peat oxidation • No accounting of cumulative peat disturbance (aggregate extraction, camp sites, temporary roads) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is acknowledged that the results of the GHG assessment are counterintuitive as peatlands, including bogs and fens, are typically considered carbon sinks. However, it is noted that many studies for carbon flux do not include the flux associated with non-growing seasons. The carbon sink analysis followed the guidance in the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC) Guidance on quantification of net GHG emissions, impact on carbon sinks, mitigation measures, net-zero plan, and upstream GHG assessment (August 2021). This assessment required calculating an annual carbon flux, encompassing both the growing and non-growing seasons. Literature documents that during non-growing seasons (approximately 212 days per year), bogs and fens are CO₂ emitters (sources), whereas during growing seasons (approximately 153 days per year), they are carbon accumulators (sinks). Calculating net carbon flux on an annual basis resulted in a net release of CO₂ (source). • The floating road construction methodology is designed primarily to minimize hydrological impacts by allowing groundwater movement through the permeable embankment and maintaining surface water drainage patterns with equalization culverts. Construction activities, including clearing vegetation and disturbing peat, will result in some release of stored carbon, making portions of the area a temporary carbon source rather than a sink. This effect is not unique to the floating road technique; any road construction in peatland environments would have similar implications. To mitigate this, the floating road approach is considered preferable because it reduces the depth of excavation and minimizes peat disturbance compared to conventional road-building methods. • Mineral deposits and exploration activity were included on the Project Inclusions List and considered, however, were not carried forward to discipline-specific cumulative effects assessments as they are mineral deposits and plans for future development have not been disclosed at the time of preparing the Draft and Final EA / IS Report, therefore cannot be assessed as reasonably foreseeable activities in the cumulative effects assessment. |

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| | <p>The descriptions of mineral deposits in the Project Inclusions List have updated in the Final EA / IS to clarify that the activities are not reasonably foreseeable, where applicable.</p> |
| Cultural Heritage | |
| <p>Sacred site protection inadequate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls for “no-go zones” • Need for protocols for accidental discovery of cultural sites • Requests for Indigenous-led archeological oversight | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 2 archaeological assessments (AA) are required for the Community Access Road where proposed impacts are located within areas of high archaeological potential, as identified in the Stage 1 AA report which states that all archaeological concerns within the impact areas must be addressed before any ground disturbing activities may begin. • The Final EA / IS and the Technical Support Documents were prepared to meet the requirements outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the technical discipline-specific study plans. The development of a Chance Find Protocol is not a regulatory requirement and as such was not developed as part of the Final EA / IS. However, a Chance Find Protocol will be developed and included in the Environmental Protection Plan to guide the identification and appropriate management of any previously unknown cultural, archaeological, or environmentally sensitive resources encountered during Project activities. The development and implementation of the Environmental Protection Plan will be the responsibility of the owner/operator of the Community Access Road. Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding the ownership and operations for the Community Access Road. • With the Final EA / IS being released in February 2026, no further archaeological assessment–focused engagement activities are planned. Should the Final EA / IS for the Community Access Road be approved to proceed, a consultation and engagement program will be established to guide discussions through detail design. Further archaeological investigations will be required for the Community Access Road. The resulting reports will be shared with Indigenous communities, consistent with the approach taken for previous Stage 2 assessments for the Community Access Road. |
| Governance | |
| <p>Governance and Decision-Making</p> <p>Communities request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-developed monitoring frameworks • Indigenous-led enforcement authorities • Ability to limit outsider access (gates; patrols) • Decision-making authority over road ownership and operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As noted in the Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests: Draft Impact Assessment Report, proposed mitigation measures include the collaboration with local existing environmental advisory committees to support the development and implementation of all environmental monitoring programs. The objective is to include Indigenous interests and perspectives, particularly concerning resources utilized for rights-based purposes. In the absence of an existing advisory committee with an aligned mandate to Marten Falls First Nation, a Terms of Reference between relevant agencies and interested Indigenous community will be established. |

| Indigenous Communities Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and ownership are not within the scope of the EA / IS, however it is a matter that will require further dialogue between the communities and the Province. • The request from Indigenous communities for shared ownership, decision-making and economic participation in the Project is noted. Marten Falls First Nation continues to have discussions with the Province regarding ownership and operations of the Community Access Road. These conversations are ongoing, and consultation with Indigenous communities will continue in 2026 under the coordination of the regulator. |

C4.2 Interested Persons

| Interested Persons Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| Access, Land Use and Recreation | |
| <p>Concerns regarding hunting and recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased hunting by outsiders • Overharvest pressure on moose and fish • Disruption to tourism lodges and fly-in camps • Loss of wilderness character and quiet zones • Potential harm to recreational canoe routes | <p>These concerns have been taken into consideration in the following Technical Support Documents, as well as the Final EA / IS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix G, Fish and Fish Habitat • Appendix K, Wildlife • Appendix M, Ungulates • Appendix U, Land and Resource Use |
| Wildlife and Ecology | |
| <p>Limited wildlife and water crossings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too few culverts compared to similarly northern roads • Wildlife crossings not sufficiently committed • Amphibian/reptile-specific tunnels needed • Beaver-related flooding risks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of culverts to be designed and installed continues to be assessed, and will be based upon factors including topography and wildlife crossing / fish passage considerations. • Wildlife crossings will be further determined in detail design following the detailed micrositing of the route alignment, bridges and other features. At this stage of the Community Access Road, it is not possible to provide detailed information about the wildlife crossings because the route alignment, bridges, and other features are still being microsited. The detail design phase is crucial as it allows us to identify the most effective locations for wildlife crossings based on the finalized route and infrastructure layout. Post construction monitoring will additionally inform where crossings may be effective, or where they are ineffective. |

| Interested Persons Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 9 of the draft EA/ IS in Table 9-22, beginning on page 496, includes a number of mitigations outlined for beavers (i.e., screening culverts and regularly checking water crossings for evidence of beaver activity, etc.). The design of culverts to avoid impacts to and from beavers is an element that will be considered in detailed design. |
| Governance, Access, and Enforcement | |
| <p>Governance and Decision-Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public wants clarity on who controls access Fear that mining trucks will dominate traffic Questions about whether gates can limit non-community entry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access and ownership are not within the scope of the EA / IS, however it is a matter that will require further dialogue between the communities and the Province. Industrial traffic was included in the Final EA / IS. Appendix W (Traffic Data Review) describes the traffic review undertaken of available traffic data and relevant studies for estimating future volumes, distribution and composition of traffic. We used the projected traffic volumes and travel patterns to confirm that a large volume of the heavy truck traffic on the north-south segment of Marten Falls Community Access Road will continue northward to the ROF region via the subsequent highway connection (i.e., Northern Road Link). Significantly lower volumes of trucks, and traffic in general, are shown to be headed along the east-west segment of the road connecting to Marten Falls First Nation. Based on projected mining operations associated with the ROF from the HATCH study, no mining trucks are anticipated to use the east-west segment of Marten Falls Community Access Road. A nominal amount of commercial traffic servicing Marten Falls First Nation is projected to divert to the east-west segment, representing a very small proportion of those on the north-south segment. The forecast from the HATCH study indicates that approximately 95% of truck and commercial traffic continues to ROF by way of the Northern Link Road. |

C4.3 Government Agencies

| Government Agencies Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| Monitoring and Adaptive Management | |
| <p>Concerns about monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring frequency, location, and method not sufficiently described Lack of explicit “trigger thresholds” for action Post-construction monitoring lacking duration specifics Need for alignment with DFO, MNRF, IAAC standards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring Programs: The Final EA / IS and Technical Support Documents have been updated to clarify that monitoring programs will be developed in consultation with regulators and Indigenous communities through local existing environmental advisory committees. Monitoring programs will be developed by the Owner/Operator of the Community Access Road during detail design and will include locations, frequency, methods, action levels and duration. Alignment with Standards: The Final EA / IS and Technical Support Documents have been updated to confirm alignment with provincial and federal standards. |
| Hydrology and Flood Risk | |
| <p>Request for climate scenario inclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarification around waterbody classification Need for site-specific hydraulic analyses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterbody Classifications: The Final EA / IS and Technical Support Documents have been updated to clarify that additional assessments of waterbody crossings, and hydraulic analyses will be completed at all waterbody crossing locations as part of detail design and permitting. Climate Change: The Climate Change and Resiliency Technical Support Document outlines an assessment for impacts from climate change on the Community Access Road, and in addition, each Technical Support Document has considered climate change as part of a qualitative or quantitative discussion related to each discipline. |
| Wildlife and Species At Risk Compliance | |
| <p>Species and Risk Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alignment with provincial SAR definitions Mitigation methods should be matched to species-specific needs Multi-year and multi-season baselines should be implemented, specifically for Caribou. Avoidance of Category 1 areas Wolverine denning areas identified Moose habitat types and assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species at Risk Definitions: The Community Access Road will follow all species at risk legislation including the federal Species at Risk Act and the provincial Endangered Species Act and/or the Species Conservation Act. The Community Access Road will obtain all necessary permits and meet permitting conditions under each of the species at risk Acts during detail design and permitting. Caribou Baseline Studies: Caribou collar data collected by Webequie First Nation was not available before submission of the Draft EA / IS. A data sharing agreement has since been signed between the three road projects (i.e., Marten Falls Community Access Road, Webequie Supply Road (WSR), Northern Road Link (NRL)) and Caribou collar data has been shared. The Final EA / IS and Appendix M Ungulates Technical Support Document have been updated to include the additional Caribou collar data thus expanding the dataset used for the Caribou assessment. |

| Government Agencies Input and Information | How the Development of the Final EA / IS Was Informed |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou Category 1 Areas: Mitigations for Caribou include minimizing overlap with Category 1 areas and avoiding vegetation clearing and construction activities during caribou sensitive timing windows (May 1 to September 15 for nursery areas, December 1 to March 31 for winter use areas) to the extent practical. Techniques that accelerate revegetation will also be used to maintain or improve ungulate habitat. A draft Terrestrial Biodiversity Offset Plan has been developed and is included as Appendix AB and will be implemented for the Community Access Road to achieve a net positive increase in Caribou habitat. • Wolverine Denning: The Final EA / IS and Appendix K Wildlife Technical Support Document have been updated to clarify that suitable microhabitat features for wolverine denning can be found in a wide variety of plant communities. The Final EA / IS and Appendix K also clarify that the two suspected wolverine denning areas that were identified south of the Ogoki River (Plots 7 and 26) will continue to be considered denning areas for wolverine during the development of the Community Access Road unless additional surveys are conducted to determine the areas are not used by wolverine for denning. A 4 km buffer will be applied to the two suspected wolverine denning areas within which no construction activities will be conducted during the wolverine denning period of February 1 to May 1. • Moose Habitat: The Final EA / IS and Appendix M have been updated to clarify that habitat availability for moose was presented for the winter season, including early and late winter, as winter represents a key limiting factor for moose populations due to decreased forage availability, access to forage, and movement in northern Ontario (Kelsall & Telfer, 1974). During winter, reduced access to quality forage, deep snow and extreme temperatures, can substantially influence moose habitat availability and distribution, and survival rate (Dussault et al., 2006; Priadka et al., 2022). Habitat availability and distribution for moose will continue to be informed by the winter moose Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) model (Attachment C of Appendix M). |