



Ontario Region
600-55 York Street
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

Région de l'Ontario
600-55, rue York
Toronto (Ontario) M5J 1R7

March 31, 2023,

Sent by email

Chief Theresa Nelson
204 Main Street
P.O. Box 120
Beardmore ON P0T 1G0
<email address removed>

Dear Chief Theresa Nelson:

Subject: Next Steps in the Planning Phase for the Potential Federal Impact Assessment of the Proposed Northern Road Link Project

On behalf of the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency), I wish to thank Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek for providing comments on the proposed Northern Road Link Project (the Project) and the Proponent's Summary of the Initial Project Description. The Agency has developed a Summary of Issues related to the Project, based on input received from Indigenous communities, federal authorities, provincial ministries, municipalities, and the public during the comment period. The Summary of Issues was provided to the Proponent and will be made available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

Anticipated Timelines for the Planning Phase

The Agency expects to receive the Proponent's Detailed Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues on April 30, 2023. Once received, the Agency will consider the Detailed Project Description including how the Proponent plans to address the issues raised in the Summary of Issues, and will then determine whether a federal impact assessment is required pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*. The notice of decision, and the reasons for it, will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site.

If an impact assessment is required, the Agency would prepare the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, taking into account comments you have provided, and would invite your community to comment on these draft documents.

.../2

-2-

If an impact assessment is not required, the Agency would follow up with your community to share how comments received from your community were factored into the Agency's decision.

Please note that the Proponent may notify the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Agency that it wishes to suspend the legislated time limit for the planning phase, to provide itself more time to prepare the Detailed Project Description and response to the Summary of Issues. If such a request is received and accepted, the Agency would post a notice on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet Site for the Project and would notify your community about any updates to the anticipated timelines.

More information on Indigenous participation opportunities can be found in the *Practitioner's Guide to Federal Impact Assessments* on the Agency's website.¹ If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

Weisbrot, Ely <original signed by>

Ely Weisbrot
A/Project Manager

c.c.: Joe Donio, Development Manager, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Kyla Morrisseau, Consultation Coordinator,
Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Brad Nayanookeesic, Councillor, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Claudette Rody, Councillor, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Harvey Nayanookeesic, Councillor, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Irvin Shawayahamish, Councillor, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
Mary Blakely, Councillor, Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek

¹ <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/guidance-indigenous-participation-ia.html>