



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

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

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

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

June 21, 2023

Sent by email

Correspondence to Federal Review Team

Anik Guertin, Indigenous Services Canada
Brent Lundy, FedNor
Brianna Wyn, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Constantine Tikhonov, Indigenous Services Canada
Wesley Plant, Environment and Climate Change Canada
Dan McDonnell, Environment and Climate Change Canada
David Zeit, Transport Canada
Deborah Campbell, Infrastructure Canada
Jason Maurice, Employment and Social Development Canada
Kitty Ma, Health Canada
Lina Letiecq, Indigenous Services Canada
Meng Koh, Infrastructure Canada
Robert Clavering, Environment and Climate Change Canada

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Request for Federal Authority Advice on Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and Draft Permitting Plan for the Northern Road Link Project, by July 21, 2023

On May 23, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) announced that an impact assessment is required for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) proposed by Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (the Proponent). The Agency has developed the following draft documents:

- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (the Guidelines)
- Permitting Plan
- Cooperation Plan
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Public Participation Plan

.../2

The Agency has commenced a comment period, inviting the public, Indigenous communities, and other jurisdictions to provide feedback on the above draft documents.

As per paragraph 23(a) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Agency requests that your department or agency provide specialist or expert information or knowledge to support the development of the draft Guidelines and the draft Permitting Plan for the Project by **July 21, 2023**. The draft Guidelines and draft Plans are available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry page¹ (Reference #84331).

Your department or agency is requested to provide the following:

- With a view to maximizing efficiency of assessment processes, indicate if any corrections, additions, or removals should be made to the draft Guidelines, using the enclosed comment form;
- Verify all regulatory instruments under the authority of your department in the draft Permitting Plan that are anticipated to be required to allow the Project to proceed;
- Verify that the information provided in the draft Permitting Plan regarding the regulatory instruments is correct and up to date; and
- Indicate whether your department or agency has identified any power that it will be unable to exercise to allow the Project, in whole or in part.

For more information, see subsection 17(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

When providing feedback, the Agency requests that you consider the approach to tailoring the Guidelines outlined in the Operational Policy Statement: Development of Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines².

More specifically, the Guidelines should focus on key issues, effects and factors anticipated to be material and relevant to a public interest decision, and requirements should be clear and specific. Federal expert advice should be commensurate to the situational context of the Project, and informed by risk-based prudence, with a strong reliance on well-understood mitigation measures, existing guidance, and regulatory instruments that will manage effects.

.../3

¹ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331?culture=en-CA>

² <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/operational-policy-statement.html>

All comments should be submitted via the **Submit a Comment** feature available on the Project's Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website³ (Reference #84331). Documents can be uploaded using this feature. If you have any difficulties submitting this way, please contact the Agency at *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*. We encourage you to use the attached comment form.

Your department or agency is also invited to start considering potential complementary measures in respect to the potential adverse effects of the Project. Complementary measures are additional authorities of federal Ministers or federal programs that may be used to mitigate effects that may be beyond the care and control of the Proponent.

The Minister's decision regarding whether the Project is in the public interest would consider complementary measures. The Agency will work with your department or agency during the impact assessment process to identify relevant policies and programs and develop a list of potential complementary measures for the Project.

Next steps

The Agency is required to issue the Guidelines and plans by day 180 of the planning phase (August 20, 2023). The Agency may request further support from your department or agency in finalizing sections of the planning phase products pertaining to your department or agency's authority and expertise.

Important note: Please note that any information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment will be made publicly available as part of the project file and may be posted online via the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (Reference #84331) subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy⁴ describes which submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private.

.../4

³ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>

⁴ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

For further information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice⁵. If you do not want your comment posted on the Registry website, please contact the Agency at *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 416-669-2775 or *NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

Weisbrot, Ely <original signed by>

Ely Weisbrot,
Project Manager, Ontario Region

Enclosure: Comment Form – Draft Permitting Plan and Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines – Federal Review Team

c.c.: Amandeep Chohan, Employment and Social Development Canada
Anica Madzarevic, Natural Resources Canada
Carsten Slama, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dae Lee Young, Health Canada
Debra Nkusi, Indigenous Services Canada
Doris Odjick, Indigenous Services Canada
Elizabeth Blanchette, Indigenous Services Canada
Jan Triska, Indigenous Services Canada
Jessica Bialek, Women and Gender Equality Canada
Joeveen Dhari, Women and Gender Equality Canada
Julia Gregory, Indigenous Services Canada
Justin Hoffman, Infrastructure Canada
Kelsey Lucyk, Public Health Agency of Canada
Linda Beaulieu, Transport Canada
Megan Kirby, Women and Gender Equality Canada
Tara Schweitzer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tracey Forsyth, FedNor
Umme Akhtar, Health Canada
Venita Harry, Environment and Climate Change Canada

⁵ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection>