



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 ON M5J 1R7

August 18, 2023

Sent by email

Correspondence to Municipalities

James McPherson, Municipality of Greenstone
Penny Lucas, Township of Pickle Lake
Ken Boshcoff, City of Thunder Bay
Vicki Blanchard, Municipality of Sioux Lookout
Doug Lawrence, Municipality of Sioux Lookout

Dear All,

Subject: Notice of Commencement of the Impact Assessment for the Northern Road Link Project

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) is writing to inform you of the commencement of the impact statement phase for the Northern Road Link Project (the Project) under the *Impact Assessment Act*. The following documents were posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website¹ (Registry #84331) and they will inform the impact assessment process:

- Notice of Commencement
- Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines
- Public Participation Plan
- Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan
- Cooperation Plan
- Permitting Plan

The Agency thanks those municipalities that provided comments on the draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and plans.

.../2

¹Canada Impact Assessment Registry website: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>

In the coming months, the Agency will share with you information about the next steps in the federal impact assessment process, and a summary table with the comments received during the planning phase, with the Agency's responses that describe how the comments were taken into account in finalizing the Guidelines and plans. This table also will inform the Proponent's work while preparing its Impact Statement.

The Agency is of the view that the Project does not warrant a referral to a review panel, after considering the factors in subsection 36(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*. Please note that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change has until 45 days after the Notice of Commencement to make a final determination on whether to refer the impact assessment to a review panel.

Under subsection 19(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, the proponent of a designated project must provide, to the Agency's satisfaction, any information or studies required by the Agency within three years after the day on which a copy of the Notice of Commencement is posted on the Registry website.

While preparing the Impact Statement to meet the requirements outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines for the Project, the Proponent, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation, may request input from your municipality.

Upon receipt of the Proponent's Impact Statement for the Project, the Agency will hold a public comment period. Notification of the comment period will be sent to the contacts provided to the Agency for its public participation distribution list.

Please contact me, with any questions or requests for inclusion on the contact list, at 416-669-2775 or NorthernRoad-RouteDuNord@iaac-aeic.gc.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Ely Weisbrot
Acting Project Manager

c.c.: Vicky Budge, Municipality of Greenstone
Matthew Donovan, Municipality of Greenstone
Carmen Gagnon, Municipality of Greenstone
Haley Garvie, Municipality of Greenstone
Fran Koning, Municipality of Greenstone
Elaine Mannisto, Municipality of Greenstone
Alan Ouellet, Municipality of Greenstone
Eric Pietsch, Municipality of Greenstone
Claudette Trottier, Municipality of Greenstone
Chris Walterson, Municipality of Greenstone
Mark Wright, Municipality of Greenstone
Michael Fox, Northern Road Link Project Team
Qassim Saddique, Northern Road Link Project Team