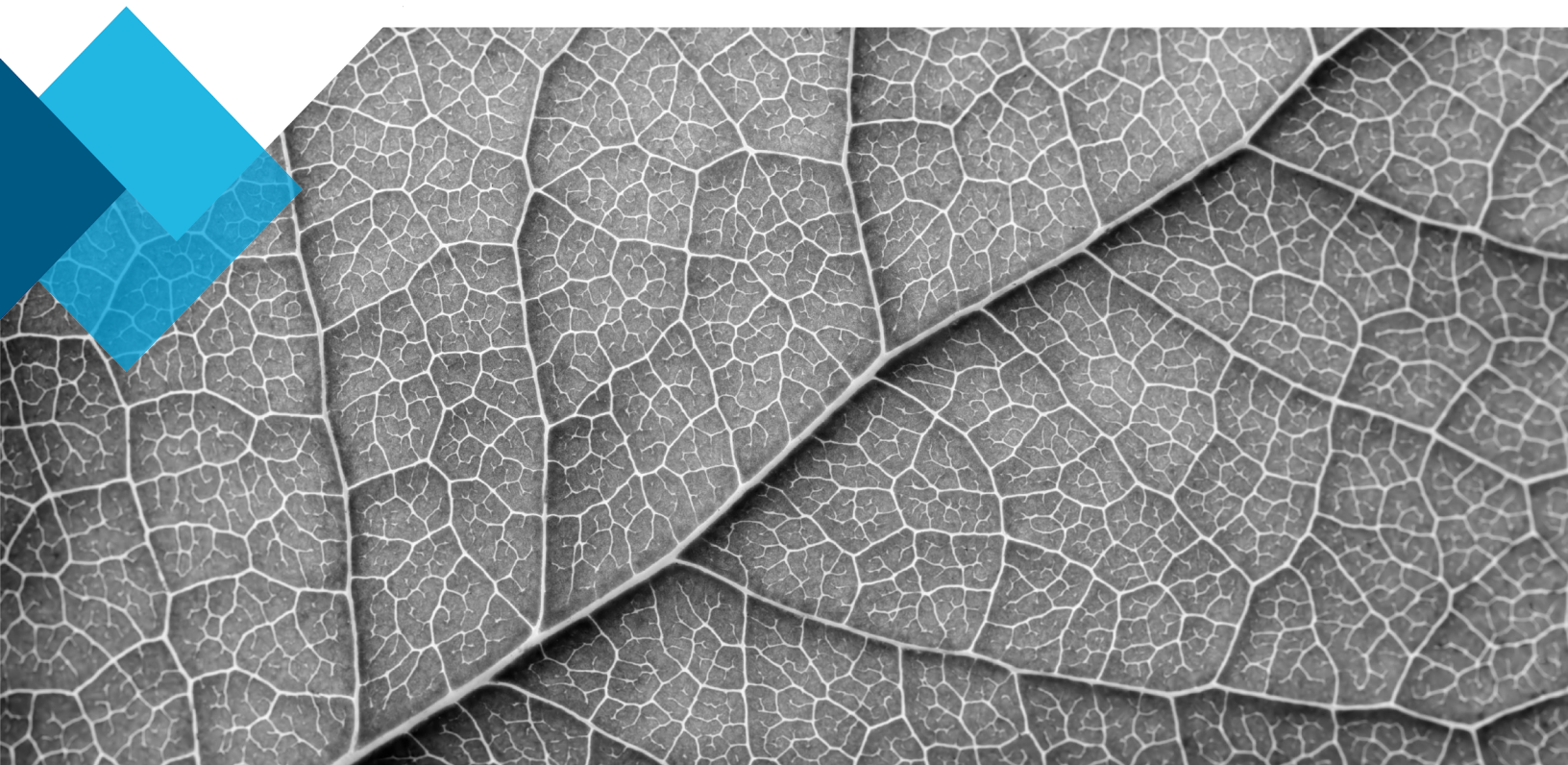




Northern Road Link

Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary

Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation



May 1, 2023

679878

NRL001-NRL-PR-RT-0012
NRL-DPD English Plain Language Summary-2023-05-01

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| Term | Definition |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AADT | Annual Average Daily Traffic |
| AAQC | Ontario's Ambient Air Quality Criteria |
| AFN | Aroland First Nation |
| ANSI | Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest |
| ARD/ML | Acid rock drainage/metal leaching |
| ARU | Acoustic recording unit |
| ASCRS | All-Season Community Road Study |
| ATFN | Attawapiskat First Nation |
| ATRI | Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests |
| AZA | Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation |
| BTEX | benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene |
| CAAQS | Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards |
| CBLUP | Community-Based Land Use Plan |
| CCME | Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment |
| CCPs | Comprehensive Community Plans |
| CO | carbon monoxide |
| CO ₂ | carbon dioxide |
| CO ₂ e | carbon dioxide equivalent |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus disease |
| CSA | Canadian Standards Association |
| Dillon | Dillon Consulting Limited |
| DFO | Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada |
| DPD | Detailed Project Description |
| DPM | Diesel Particulate Matter |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EA Act | Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> |
| EA/IA | Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment |
| EAR | Environmental Assessment Report |
| EASR | Environmental Activity and Sector Registration |
| ECA | Environmental Compliance Approval |
| ECCC | Environment and Climate Change Canada |
| eDNA | Environmental DNA |
| ELC | Ecological Land Classification |
| END | Endangered |
| ENDM | Ontario Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines (now Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Northern Development, and MINES) |
| ESA | <i>Endangered Species Act</i> |

| Term | Definition |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ESC | Erosion and Sediment Control |
| FNFNES | Ontario First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environmental Study |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| HADD | harmful alteration, disruption or destruction |
| IA | Impact Assessment |
| IAA | <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> |
| IAR | Impact Assessment Report |
| ICE | Indigenous and Community Engagement |
| IK | Indigenous Knowledge |
| ILRU | Indigenous Land and Resource Use |
| IS | Impact Statement |
| ISO | International Organization for Standardization |
| KBM | KBM Resources Group |
| KWG | KWG Resources |
| LED | Light-emitting diode |
| LHINs | Local Integrated Health Networks |
| LIDAR | Light Detection and Ranging |
| LIO | Land Information Ontario |
| LRIA | <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i> |
| LSA | Local study area |
| LUP | Land Use Plans |
| MBCA | <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> |
| MCM | Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism |
| MIA | Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs |
| MECP | Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks |
| MFCAR | Marten Falls Community Access Road |
| MFFN | Marten Falls First Nation |
| MHSTCI | Ontario Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries (now MTCS and MCM) |
| MINES | Ontario Ministry of Mines |
| MNDMF | Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry (now MINES and MNRF) |
| MNO | Métis Nation of Ontario |
| MNRF | Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry |
| MOE | Ontario Ministry of the Environment (now MECP) |
| MOECC | Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (now MECP) |
| MOI | Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MTCS | Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport |
| MTO | Ontario Ministry of Transportation |
| NAPS | National Air Surveillance Program |
| NDMNRF | Ontario Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (now Ministry of Northern Development, MINES and MNRF) |
| NoC | Notice of Commencement |
| NO _x | nitrogen oxides |
| NRL | Northern Road Link |
| the Project | the Northern Road Link Project |
| NSA | Noise Sensitive Areas |
| NSR | Noise Sensitive Receptors |
| OBBN | Ontario Benthic Biomonitoring Network |
| OPSS | Ontario Provincial Standard Specification |
| PDEM | Provincial Digital Elevation Model |
| POR | point of reception |
| PTO | Provincial Territorial Organizations |
| PTTW | Permit to Take Water |
| RoC | Record of Consultation |
| ROW | right-of-way |
| RSA | Regional study area |
| RSMIN | Red Sky Métis Independent Nation |
| RSO | Revised Statutes of Ontario |
| SAR | Species at Risk |
| SARA | <i>Species at Risk Act</i> |
| SC | Species of Concern |
| SNC-Lavalin | SNC-Lavalin Inc. |
| SOR | Statutory Orders and Regulations |
| SO ₂ | sulphur dioxide |
| SPT | Standard Penetration Testing |
| SWH | Significant Wildlife Habitat |
| SWOT | strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats |
| TAC | Transportation Association of Canada |
| the Agency | Impact Assessment Agency of Canada |
| THR | Threatened |
| TISG | Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |
| TSP | total suspended particulate – particulate matter of aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 30 microns |
| TSS | Total suspended solids |

| Term | Definition |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|
| UOI | Union of Ontario Indians |
| US EPA | United States Environmental Protection Agency |
| USFWS | United States Fish and Wildlife Service |
| VC | Valued Component |
| VNS | Visual Nature Studio |
| WFN | Webequie First Nation |
| WSR | Webequie Supply Road |

List of Units

| Term | Definition |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| % | percent |
| d | day |
| dB | decibel |
| dba | A-weighted decibels |
| Ga | giga-annum |
| h | hour |
| ha | hectare |
| km | kilometre |
| km ² | square kilometre |
| km/h | kilometre per hour |
| Kt | kilotonne |
| L | litre |
| L/d | litre per day |
| m | metre |
| mm | millimetre |

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Preface

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN), collectively ‘the proponent’ of the Northern Road Link Project (the Project), submitted an Initial Project Description for the proposed Project to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) on February 2, 2023. The Agency accepted the Initial Project Description on February 17, 2023.

The Agency posted the Initial Project Description on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #84331) and conducted a public review period on the document from February 21 to March 23, 2023, to invite Indigenous communities and groups, federal and provincial authorities, and the public and other participants, to provide their perspectives on the matters that they consider relevant to the Project. Following this comment period, the Agency consolidated all the comments received and provided a Summary of Issues to the proponent on March 31, 2023.

The proponent has reviewed the Summary of Issues as well as the original submissions from commenters posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry. In accordance with subsection 15(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), the proponent has prepared a Detailed Project Description, which incorporates the matters identified in the Summary of Issues and includes the information requirements described in the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, SOR/2019-283, and the *Guide to Preparing an Initial Project Description and a Detailed Project Description* (the Agency, 2020).

The Detailed Project Description and the proponent’s Response to the Summary of Issues will be used to inform the Agency’s decision as to whether an Impact Assessment (IA) is required for the Project.

This document is a summary of the Detailed Project Description. For additional information on the Project, readers are encouraged to consult the project-specific Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website (<https://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84331>) and the Northern Road Link project website (<https://northernroadlink.ca/>).

Part A: General Information

This document is a summary of the Detailed Project Description submitted by Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) for the proposed Northern Road Link Project (the Project). Under the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA), S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1, an Impact Assessment may be required for designated projects.

The Detailed Project Description was prepared in accordance with the Agency's Guide to Preparing an Initial Project Description and a Detailed Project Description under the Federal IAA (the Agency, 2020). A Concordance Table to this guidance is provided in Appendix A of the Detailed Project Description.

The Project is also subject to an environmental assessment (EA) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E. 18¹ (EA Act).

Part A provides updated general information on the proposed Project.

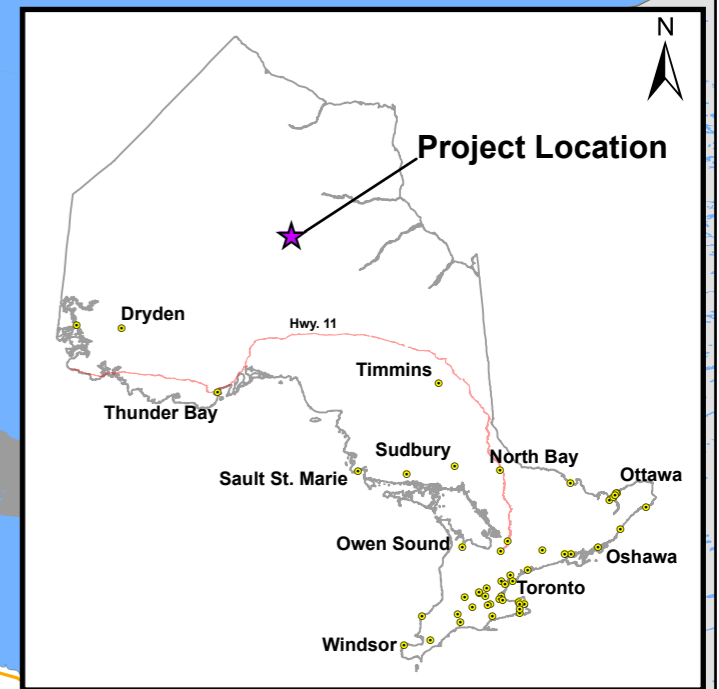
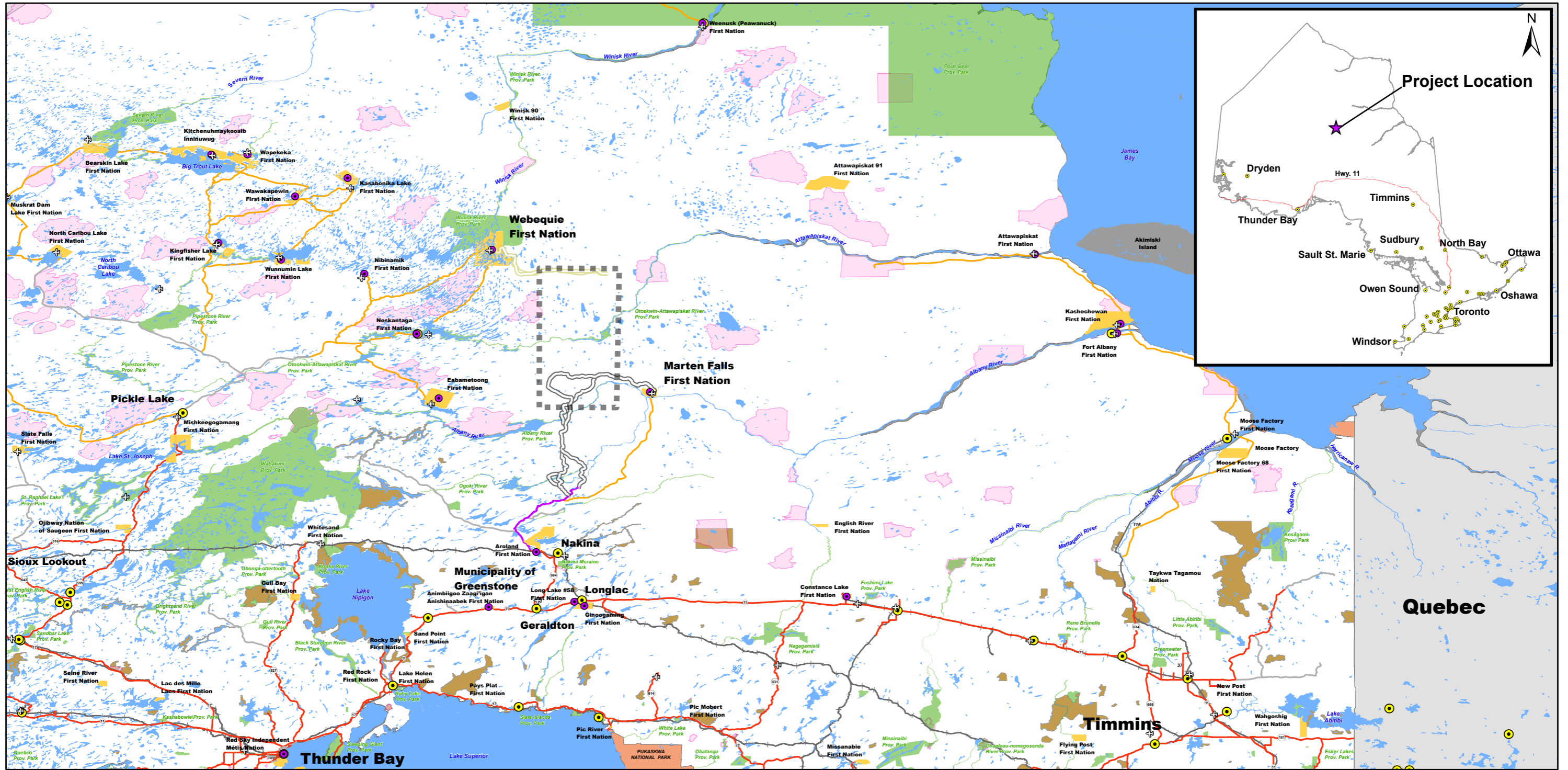
¹ In addition to requirements under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E. 18, it is anticipated that the Project will be subject to an Impact Assessment (IA) under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*, S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1. The term "EA/IA" has been included to account for a joint provincial/federal process. The provincial/federal EA/IA reporting would be combined into a single provincial Environmental Assessment Report (EAR)/federal Impact Statement (IS) to create a single document for review. The term "EAR/IS" has been included to account for this possibility.

1 Project Name, Sector and Location

Project Name: Northern Road Link Project

Sector: Transport (All-season Road)

Proposed Location: The Project is a proposed multi-use all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR, as shown on **Figure 1-1**. The south end of the Project is approximately 150 km north of the Municipality of Greenstone, 480 km northeast of Dryden, 400 km northeast of Thunder Bay, 510 km northwest of Timmins and 1,040 km northwest of Toronto. The north end of the Project is approximately 386 km northwest of Hearst, 300 km northeast of the Township of Pickle Lake, 283 km north of Nakina, and 260 km south of Peawanuck.



Legend:

- Project Location
- Airport
- Cities/Towns
- First Nation Reserve
- Indigenous Community Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project
- Proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (CAR) Alternatives
- Proposed Webeque Supply Road (WSR) Alternatives
- All-Season Road
- Winter Road
- Local Road
- Anaconda Road and Painter Lake Road
- Rail
- Federal National Park
- Provincial Park
- Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)
- Conservation Reserve
- Waterbody

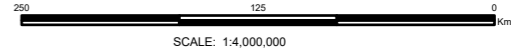


NOTES

1. Coordinate System: GCS North American 1983 CSRS.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information, and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://github.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Northern Road Link

Project Location and Context

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 1-1 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |
| | | APP | ND |

2 The Proponent

The proponents of the Project’s Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) and preliminary design are MFFN and WFN, referred to collectively as ‘the proponent’ in this document. Proponent options for road ownership, operation/maintenance activities and liability are being considered in ongoing discussions with the Province of Ontario. These discussions will evolve during the development of the EA/IA.

It is recognized that should there be a change in Project proponenty (i.e., a proponent other than MFFN and WFN takes ownership of the Project), all Project conditions, commitments and responsibilities agreed upon during EA/IA Planning Phase and the EA/IA, including proposed mitigation, would be transferred to the successor who would be the new proponent. A change in proponent has no bearing on type and level of detail of the information and studies required in documentation and submissions prepared for the EA/IA process.

Funding for the costs of the EA/IA for this Project is being provided by the Province of Ontario.

Table 2-1 provides general contact information for the Proponent and contact information for the purposes of this Detailed Project Description.

Table 2-1: Proponent Contact Information

| Proponent | General Contact Information | Contact Information for Purposes of the Detailed Project Description |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Marten Falls First Nation | Chief Bruce Achneepineskum General Delivery Ogoki Post ON P0T 2L0 807-349-2509 bruce.achneepineskum@gmail.com | Qasim Saddique Project Co-Lead Indigenous Engagement and Consultation 699 Mountain Road Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1C1 416-830-6544 info@northernroadlink.com |
| Webequie First Nation | Chief Cornelius Wabasse Webequie First Nation P.O. Box 268 Webequie, ON P0T 3A0 807-353-6531 corneliusw@webequie.ca | Michael Fox Project Co-Lead Indigenous Engagement and Consultation 699 Mountain Road Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1C1 807-472-6147 info@northernroadlink.com |
| Consulting Team | Angela Brooks Project Manager SNC-Lavalin Inc. 191 The West Mall Toronto, ON M9C 5K8 416-346-0111 angela.brooks@snclavalin.com | Angela Brooks Project Manager SNC-Lavalin Inc. 191 The West Mall Toronto, ON M9C 5K8 416-346-0111 angela.brooks@snclavalin.com |

The Project website is www.northernroadlink.ca

Part B: Planning Phase Results

Part B provides a summary of and the results of any engagement undertaken with any jurisdictions or other party, including a description of how the proponent intends to address the issues raised in the summary referred to in subsection 14(1) of the IAA (i.e., Summary of Issues).

3 Consultation and Engagement with Jurisdictions and Other Parties

This section identifies jurisdictions or other parties consulted during the development of the Project, and summarizes consultation and engagement undertaken with jurisdictions or other parties including the public, to date, as of April 18, 2023. The summary provides the results of consultation and engagement activities, including consultation and engagement during the development of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provincial EA process, the key issues raised during the ToR stage, the issues raised during the public review period for the Initial Project Description (see **Section 5**), and future planned engagement activities moving forward.

It is noted that since the Project's provincial EA process started (i.e., Term of Reference stage), the names of several Ontario ministries have changed, some multiple times. The most current names of the ministries are used throughout the document for consistency unless it changes the context of the narrative².

3.1 Jurisdictions and Other Parties Identified for Consultation and Engagement

The following government agencies have been consulted during the preparation of the provincial ToR, the Initial Project Description, and the Detailed Project Description:

- › Provincial Agencies:
 - Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
 - Ontario Ministry of Mines;
 - Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;
 - Ontario Ministry of Northern Development;
 - Ontario Ministry of Transportation;
 - Ontario Ministry of Indigenous Affairs;
 - Ontario Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade;
 - Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing;
 - Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism;
 - Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport; and
 - Ontario Provincial Police.
- › Federal Authorities:
 - The Agency;
 - Environment and Climate Change Canada;
 - Fisheries and Oceans Canada;
 - Indigenous Services Canada; and
 - Transport Canada.

² Cited documents will use the name of the ministry at the time of the publication of the document.

The following municipalities have been consulted during the preparation of the provincial ToR, the Initial Project Description, and the Detailed Project Description:

- › City of Thunder Bay;
- › City of Timmins;
- › Municipality of Greenstone;
- › Municipality of Sioux Lookout; and
- › Township of Pickle Lake.

The following stakeholders have been consulted during the preparation of the provincial ToR, the Initial Project Description, and the Detailed Project Description:

- › Residents of the cities and municipalities of Greenstone, Thunder Bay, Timmins, Township of Pickle Lake, and Sioux Lookout;
- › Those with recreational interests (e.g., hikers, campers, hunters, fishers, boaters);
- › Environmental groups (e.g., non-Governmental organizations);
- › Camp operators and outfitter businesses;
- › Other interested businesses (e.g., recreational tourism businesses, trappers);
- › Resource users (e.g., forestry, trappers, mining and mineral tenure holders in the area, including Ring of Fire Metals);
- › Other interests (e.g., Chamber of Commerce); and
- › Interested persons who ask to be added to the Project contact list.

3.2 Summary of Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date and Key Issues Raised

Table 3-1 provides a summary of consultation and engagement activities that have been completed to date with jurisdictions and other parties, including the public. Appendix C of the Detailed Project Description provides additional information on consultation and engagement with jurisdictions and other parties.

Table 3-1: Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date | Stakeholder |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Website – set-up and updates | Website | April 2021 – ongoing | General public |
| Social media pages – set-up and updates | Social Media | May 2021 – ongoing | General public |
| Regular Environmental Assessment (EA) Coordination Meetings with provincial Agency and federal authorities | Online Meetings | Commenced February 2021 and will occur for the duration of EA and Impact Assessment (IA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › MECP › NDMNRF (now MINES and MNRF) › MTO › The Agency |
| Newsletter #1 | Website and Email | April 19, 2021 | › General public and Project Contact List |
| Notice of Commencement of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provincial EA process | Mail and Social Media | May 4, 2021 | Complete list of recipients provided in Appendix B of the Detailed Project Description |

Table 3-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date | Stakeholder |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Notice of Commencement of the ToR for the provincial EA process | Newspaper Ads (Anishinabek News [online], Geraldton Times Star, Northern Ontario Business [online], Sioux Lookout Bulletin, TBNews Watch, Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Thunder Bay Source, Timmins Daily Press, Wawatay News [online], and Windspeaker [online]) | May 4, 5, 6 and 8, 2021 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Introduction to the ToR | Virtual and Radio | June 2, 2021 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Contents of the ToR | Virtual and Radio | June 16, 2021 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – ToR Consultation Plan | Virtual and Radio | June 30, 2021 | General public |
| Notice of Public Open House #1 | Email and Social media | August 31, 2021 | General public |
| Notice of Public Open House #1 | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout Bulletin, Geraldton Times Star, Thunder Bay Source, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business) | September 7, 8 and 9, 2021 | General public |
| Newsletter #2 | Website and Email | September 1, 2021 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Public Open House #1 – included newsletter, survey, panels for discussion and presentation – for upcoming release of the Draft ToR | In-person (Thunder Bay) and Virtual | September 14 and 15, 2021 | General public |
| Public Open House #1 Surveys | Via SurveyMonkey application and hardcopy at the Open House | September 2021 | General public |
| Newsletter #3 | Website and Email | November 15, 2021 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Notice of Draft ToR for Review | Mail and Social Media | November 24, 2021 | General Public |
| Notice of Draft ToR for Review | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | November 24, 2021 | General Public |

Table 3-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date | Stakeholder |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comment period on Draft ToR | N/A | November 24, 2021 to January 31, 2022 | Provincial agencies and federal authorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Agency › Health Canada › Indigenous Services Canada › MECP › ENDM (now MINES) › MNRF › MTO › MHSTCI (now MCM and MTCS) Stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Wildlands League › Mineral Rights Holder |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Draft ToR Review Sessions | Virtual and Radio | December 13, 2021 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Draft ToR Review – Where are we in the ToR and what comes next? | Virtual and Radio | January 19, 2022 | General public |
| Newsletter #4 | Website and Email | January 25, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Themes of Comments Received | Virtual and Radio | February 2, 2022 | General public |
| Notice of Public Open House #2 | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Thunder Bay Source, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | February 9, 2022 | General public |
| Public Open House #2 Virtual Room | Virtual | February 9, 2022 | General public |
| Notice of Public Open House #2 | Email and Social Media | February 11, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio show – Federal Process | Virtual and Radio | February 16, 2022 | General public |
| Public Open House #2 | Virtual | February 23 and 24, 2022 | General public |

Table 3-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date | Stakeholder |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Public Open House #2 Surveys | Via Online Surveys in Virtual Reality Open House | February 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – The Initial Project Description and Detailed Project Description (DPD) | Virtual and Radio | March 2, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – DPD | Virtual and Radio | March 16, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed ToR | Virtual and Radio | March 30, 2022 | General public |
| Radio Show – Submission of the Proposed ToR | Radio | April 13, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream – Northern Road Link (NRL) Announcement with Premier Doug Ford and Minister Rickford | Virtual and Radio | April 14, 2022 | General public |
| Notice of Proposed ToR | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | April 27, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Geology, Terrain and Soils | Virtual and Radio | April 27, 2022 | General public |
| Notice of Proposed ToR | Mail and Social Media | April 29, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Waterfowl and Breeding Birds | Virtual and Radio | May 11, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Fish and Fish Habitat | Virtual and Radio | May 25, 2022 | General public |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Groundwater and Surface Water | Virtual and Radio | June 8, 2022 | General public |
| Newsletter #5 | Website and Email | June 10, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |
| NRL Showcase at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada | In-Person (Toronto) | June 14-15, 2022 | Conference attendees |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Air, Noise and Vibration | Virtual and Radio | June 22, 2022 | General public |
| Newsletter #6 | Website and Email | August 24, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |

Table 3-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date | Stakeholder |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Newsletter #7 | Website and Email | September 23, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed EA ToR comments- Climate Change and Water | Virtual and Radio | October 17, 2022 | General public |
| Newsletter #8 | Website and Email | October 27, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed EA ToR comments- EA Process and EA Higher-Level Comments | Virtual and Radio | October 31, 2022 | General public |
| Newsletter #9 | Website and Email | December 21, 2022 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Newsletter #10 | Website and Email | February 7, 2023 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Forum | In-Person (Thunder Bay) | February 8-9, 2023 | Forum attendees |
| NRL Showcase at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada | In-Person (Toronto) | March 6-7, 2023 | Conference attendees |
| Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment | Website and Email | April 1, 2023 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Newsletter #11 | Website and Email | April 18, 2023 | General public and Project Contact List |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – The EA ToR is Approved What happens next? | Virtual and Radio | April 18, 2023 | General public |

Detailed consultation records on all consultation and engagement with jurisdictions, other parties and the public will be included in the Record of Consultation for the EA/IA.

Appendix A summarizes key issues raised to date during the ToR stage of the provincial EA process and the proponent’s responses to these issues as following:

- › **Table A-1** summarizes key issues raised by provincial agencies and federal authorities, including:
 - Assessment Methods;
 - Assessment of Alternative Mean/Methods;
 - Attawapiskat River;
 - Class Environmental Assessments;
 - Climate Change;
 - Commitments;
 - Community Safety;
 - Consultation and Engagement;
 - Cultural Heritage Resources;

- Cumulative Effects;
- Gender Based Analysis Plus;
- Indigenous Knowledge;
- Parks and Protected Areas; and
- Species at Risk.

› **Table A-2** summarizes key issues raised by stakeholders and the public, including:

- Alternatives to the Project;
- Assessment Themes;
- Climate Change Resilience;
- Consultation and Engagement;
- Cumulative Effects;
- Project Splitting;
- Proponent;
- Purpose;
- Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area; and
- Traffic.

The key issues raised during the circulation of the Draft ToR were documented in the Proposed ToR as appropriate and applicable. Additional key issues raised were raised during the review of the Proposed ToR submitted to MECP. Together, the issues raised will be taken into consideration in the future planning and development of the Project. Detailed information describing consultation and engagement activities is available in the Project's Record of Consultation (RoC) (MFFN and WFN, 2022 – Appendix A [Record of Consultation³]). The RoC was prepared to support the provincial EA process and was submitted to MECP as Appendix A of the Proposed ToR.

3.3 Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement

The proponent will continue to engage with provincial agencies, federal authorities, stakeholders and the public at an appropriate level. To date, there has been interest by all parties in being engaged on the Project and continually updated; however, limited feedback has been received as the Project is still within the early stages of formal engagement.

Consultation and engagement activities planned in the future will be tailored to the public, stakeholders and government agencies whose input is required, with many of the activities running concurrently as outlined in **Section 6**. A Consultation and Engagement Plan for the provincial EA is included in the Proposed ToR. It is anticipated that this Consultation and Engagement Plan will evolve as the provincial EA is undertaken and if a federal IA is required.

³ The Record of Consultation is available at the Northern Road Link Project website – https://northernroadlink.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/NRL-TOR_Appendix-A.pdf

4 Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Groups

This section identifies Indigenous communities and groups that may be affected by the Project, and summarizes engagement undertaken with Indigenous communities and groups to date, as of April 18, 2023. This section also summarizes the results of consultation and engagement activities, including consultation and engagement during the development of the ToR for the provincial EA, the key issues raised during the ToR stage, the issues raised during the public review period for the Initial Project Description (see **Section 5**), and future planned engagement activities moving forward.

4.1 Indigenous Communities and Groups Identified for Consultation and Engagement

The MECP, MINES and the Agency have identified Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations that may be potentially affected by the Project or may have an interest in the Project, as following (MECP, 2020a, 2021a)⁴:

- › Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek*
- › Aroland First Nation*
- › Attawapiskat First Nation*
- › Constance Lake First Nation*
- › Eabametoong First Nation*
- › Fort Albany First Nation*
- › Ginoogaming First Nation*
- › Kasabonika Lake First Nation*
- › Kashechewan First Nation*
- › Kingfisher Lake First Nation
- › Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation*
- › Long Lake #58 First Nation*
- › Marten Falls First Nation*
- › Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2
- › Neskantaga First Nation*
- › Nibinamik First Nation*
- › Red Sky Independent Métis Nation
- › Wapekeka First Nation
- › Wawakapewin First Nation
- › Webequie First Nation*
- › Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation*
- › Wunnumin Lake First Nation*

These Indigenous communities are shown on **Figure 4-1**.

⁴ The Agency provided a list of Indigenous communities and organizations whose Aboriginal and/or treaty rights may be affected by the Project or who may have an interest in the Project (17 communities). These communities and organizations are identified with an asterisk.

As well, the following Tribal Councils and Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTO) have been notified of the Project to determine their interest in participating in the assessment process:

Tribal Councils

- › Independent First Nations Alliance
- › Independent Métis Nation
- › Matawa Tribal Council
- › Mushkegowuk Council
- › Nokiiwin Tribal Council
- › Shibogama Council
- › Windigo First Nation Council

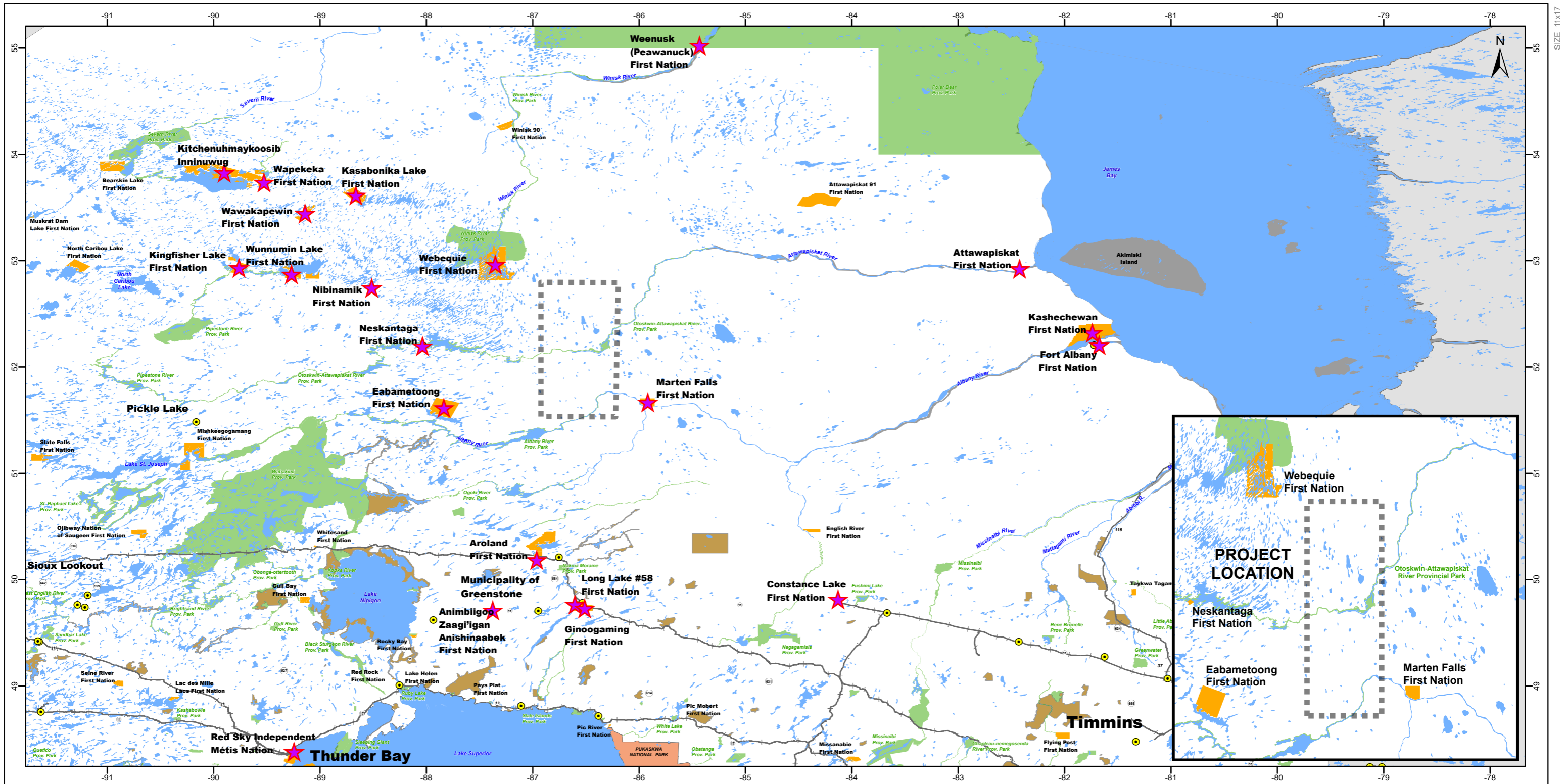
Provincial Territorial Organizations

- › Nishnawbe Aski Nation (also known as Grand Council Treaty 9)
- › Anishinabek Nation (also known as the Union of Ontario Indians)
- › Métis Nation of Ontario
- › Chiefs of Ontario

The proponent acknowledges that according to Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*:

(1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.

(2) In this Act, aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.



Legend:

- Indigenous Communities to be Engaged
- Cities/Towns
- Federal National Park
- All-Season Road
- Provincial Park
- Resource Road
- First Nation Reserve
- Winter Road
- Conservation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Project Location
- Rail

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: GCS North American 1983 CSRS.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information, and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geohub.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Northern Road Link

Indigenous Communities to be Engaged

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 4-1 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |

4.2 Summary of Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date and Key Issues Raised

Table 4-1 provides a summary of consultation and engagement activities that have been completed to date with all Indigenous communities identified in **Section 4.1**. Appendix E of the Detailed Project Description summarizes consultation and engagement by each Indigenous community or group and the results of these activities.

Table 4-1: Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Website – set-up and updates | Website | Ongoing |
| Social media pages – set-up and updates | Social Media | Ongoing |
| Newsletter #1 | Website and Email | April 19, 2021 |
| Introduction/Environmental Assessment (EA) process presentation with Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN)/ Webequie First Nation (WFN) | Virtual | April 22, 2021 |
| Notice of Commencement of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the provincial EA process | Mail and Social Media | May 4, 2021 |
| Notice of Commencement of the ToR for the provincial EA process | Newspaper Ads (Anishinabek News [online], Geraldton Times Star, Northern Ontario Business [online], Sioux Lookout Bulletin, TBNews Watch, Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal, Thunder Bay Source, Timmins Daily Press, Wawatay News [online], and Windspeaker [online]) | May 4, 5, 6 and 8, 2021 |
| Live Stream event featuring MFFN Chief and Council | Virtual | May 4, 2021 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Introduction to the ToR | Virtual and Radio | June 2, 2021 |
| Meeting with MFFN re: Attawapiskat River crossings | Virtual | June 15, 2021 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Contents of the ToR | Virtual and Radio | June 16, 2021 |
| Virtual community meeting with WFN to introduce project and explain that there are three separate projects (Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR), Northern Road Link (NRL) and Webequie Supply Road (WSR)) | Virtual | June 25, 2021 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – ToR Consultation Plan | Virtual and Radio | June 30, 2021 |
| Meeting with MFFN re: Attawapiskat River crossings | Virtual | August 18, 2021 |
| Notice of Open House #1 | Email and Social media | August 31, 2021 |
| Newsletter #2 | Website and Email | September 1, 2021 |

Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Notice of Open House #1 | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout Bulletin, Geraldton Times Star, Thunder Bay Source, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business) | September 7, 8 and 9, 2021 |
| Update meeting with MFFN | Virtual | September 10, 2021 |
| Open House #1 – included newsletter, survey, panels for discussion and presentation – for upcoming release of the Draft ToR | In-person (Thunder Bay) and Virtual | September 14 and 15, 2021 |
| Open House #1 Surveys | Via SurveyMonkey application and hardcopy at the Open House | September 2021 |
| Newsletter #3 | Website and Email | November 15, 2021 |
| Notice of Draft ToR for Review | Mail and Social Media | November 24, 2021 |
| Notice of Draft ToR for Review | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | November 24, 2021 |
| Comment period on Draft ToR | N/A | November 24, 2021 to January 31, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Draft ToR Review Sessions | Virtual and Radio | December 13, 2021 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Draft ToR Review – Where are we in the ToR and what comes next? | Virtual and Radio | January 19, 2022 |
| Newsletter #4 | Website and Email | January 25, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Themes of Comments Received | Virtual and Radio | February 2, 2022 |
| Notice of Open House #2 | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Thunder Bay Source, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | February 9, 2022 |
| Notice of Open House #2 | Email and Social media | February 11, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Federal Process | Virtual and Radio | February 16, 2022 |
| Open House #2 | Virtual | February 23 and 24, 2022 |
| Open House #2 Surveys | Via Online Surveys in Virtual Reality Open House | February 2022 |

Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Live Stream/Radio Show – The Initial and Detailed Project Descriptions (DPD) | Virtual and Radio | March 2, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – DPD | Virtual and Radio | March 16, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed EA ToR | Virtual and Radio | March 30, 2022 |
| Radio Show – Submission of the Proposed ToR | Radio | April 13, 2022 |
| Live Stream – NRL Announcement with Premier Doug Ford and Minister Rickford | Virtual | April 14, 2022 |
| Notice of Proposed ToR | Mail and Social Media | April 29, 2022 |
| Notice of Proposed ToR | Media advertising (Thunder Bay Chronicle, Timmins Daily Press, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton Times Star, Anishinabek News, Northern Ontario Business, Wawatay News, Windspeaker) | April 29, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Geology, Soils and Terrain | Virtual and Radio | April 27, 2022 |
| Comment period on Proposed ToR | N/A | April 29, 2022 – June 28, 2022 Additional time provided to Indigenous communities to December 14, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Waterfowl and Breeding Birds | Virtual and Radio | May 11, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Field Studies: Fish & Fish Habitat | Virtual and Radio | May 25, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Groundwater and Surface Water | Virtual and Radio | June 8, 2022 |
| Newsletter #5 | PDAC Conference Handout | June 13, 2022 |
| NRL Showcase at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada | Conference | June 14-15, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Air, Noise and Vibration Studies | Virtual and Radio | June 22, 2022 |
| Newsletter #6 | Website and Email | August 26, 2022 |
| Newsletter #7 | Website and Email | September 23, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed EA ToR comments- Climate Change and Water | Virtual and Radio | October 17, 2022 |
| Newsletter #8 | Website and Email | October 27, 2022 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – Proposed EA ToR comments- EA Process and EA Higher-Level Comments | Virtual and Radio | October 31, 2022 |
| Community meeting for MFFN and WFN members in Thunder Bay | In-person (Thunder Bay) | November 30, 2022 |
| Newsletter #9 | Website and Email | December 21, 2022 |
| Newsletter #10 | Website and Email | February 7, 2023 |

Table 4-1 (Cont'd): Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities

| Activity | Delivery Method | Date |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Forum | In-Person (Thunder Bay) | February 8-9, 2023 |
| NRL Showcase at Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada | In-Person (Toronto) | March 6-7, 2023 |
| Notice of Commencement of Environmental Assessment, ToR approval, and request for consultation protocols and guidelines | Website and Email | April 1-7, 2023 |
| Newsletter #11 | Website and Email | April 18, 2023 |
| Live Stream/Radio Show – The EA ToR is Approved What happens next? | Virtual and Radio | April 18, 2023 |

Detailed consultation records on all consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities or groups will be included in the Record of Consultation for the EA/IA.

Appendix A, Table A-3 summarizes key issues raised to date by each Indigenous community or group, during the ToR stage of the provincial EA process and the proponent's responses to these issues, including:

- › Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests;
- › Alternatives Means/Methods;
- › Climate Change Assessment;
- › Consultation and Engagement;
- › Cumulative Effects;
- › Guiding Principles for Consultation and Engagement;
- › Human Health;
- › Indigenous Input;
- › Indigenous Knowledge;
- › Lake Sturgeon;
- › Peatlands;
- › Project Splitting;
- › Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area;
- › Study Areas;
- › Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat; and
- › Women and Girls' Specific Analysis.

The key issues raised during the review of the Draft ToR were documented in the Proposed ToR as appropriate and applicable. Additional key issues were raised during the review of the Proposed ToR submitted to MECP. Together, the issues raised will be taken into consideration in the future planning and development of the Project, Detailed information describing consultation and engagement activities is available in the Project's RoC, which is included as Appendix A of the Proposed ToR (MFFN and WFN, 2022 – Appendix A [Record of Consultation]). The RoC was prepared to support the provincial EA process and was submitted to MECP as Appendix A of the Proposed ToR.

4.3 Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement

The proponent will continue to engage with Indigenous communities, organizations and groups at an appropriate level. To date, there has been interest by all parties in being engaged on the Project and continually updated; however, limited feedback has been received as the Project is still within the early stages of formal engagement.

Consultation and engagement activities planned in the future will be tailored to Indigenous communities, organizations and groups whose input is required, with many of the activities running concurrently as outlined in **Section 6**. A Consultation and Engagement Plan for the provincial EA is included in the Proposed ToR. It is anticipated that this Consultation and Engagement Plan will evolve as the provincial EA is undertaken and if a federal IA is required.

Through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program (see Section 17.4.2 of the Detailed Project Description), the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods. The proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during multiple stages of the EA/IA through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program.

5 Response to the Summary of Issues

As described in the **Preface**, the Agency posted the Initial Project Description on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #84331) on February 21, 2023, hence starting the 180-day Planning Phase of the Project's IA process. The Agency conducted a public review period on the Initial Project Description from February 21 to March 23, 2023, to invite Indigenous communities and groups, federal and provincial authorities, and the public and other participants, to provide their perspectives on the matters that they consider relevant to the Project. Following this comment period, the Agency consolidated all the comments received, and provided a Summary of Issues to the proponent on March 31, 2023. The proponent's Response to the Summary of Issues is provided in **Appendix B**, and includes the following issue topics:

- › Accidents and Malfunctions;
- › Acoustic Environment;
- › Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project;
- › Alternatives to the Project;
- › Assessment Type;
- › Atmospheric Environment;
- › Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- › Country Foods;
- › Cumulative Effects;
- › Effect and Impact Assessment Methodology;
- › Fish and Fish Habitat;
- › Geology, Topography, Soil and Sediments;
- › Health Conditions of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples;
- › Indigenous and Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation;
- › Indigenous Knowledge;
- › Indigenous Peoples' Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes;
- › Indigenous Peoples' Spiritual, Physical, and Cultural Heritage;
- › Indigenous Peoples' Exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights;
- › Migratory Birds, Other Birds and Their Habitats;
- › Navigation and Navigable Waters;
- › Need for the Project;
- › Project Activities, Components and Design;
- › Project's Contribution to Sustainability;
- › Riparian Environments and Wetlands (e.g., Peatlands);
- › Social and Economic Conditions of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples;
- › Species at Risk, Terrestrial Wildlife and Their Habitats;
- › Structures, Sites, Things of Historical, Archaeological, Paleontological, or Architectural Significance to Indigenous Peoples;
- › Surface Water and Groundwater; and
- › Vulnerable Population Groups (Gender-Based Analysis Plus).

6 EA/IA Consultation and Engagement

This section provides a summary of the planned consultation and engagement for the EA and if an IA is required. Further detail is available in the Project's Environmental Assessment Consultation and Engagement Plan (SNC-Lavalin and Dillon, 2022), which is provided as Appendix B of the Proposed ToR (MFFN and WFN, 2022). If an IA is required for the Project, the proponent's requirements for engagement with members of the public and the record of engagement would be outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) and accompanying Public Participation Plan and Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan. If a TISG and accompanying plans were to be issued, the proponent may need to augment the proposed engagement activities outlined below.

6.1 Purpose

The purpose of consultation and engagement is to promote effective two-way communication between the proponent and members of potentially affected Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations, provincial agencies and federal authorities, the public and other stakeholders; to present and receive information and to identify and address issues and concerns related to the Project through mitigation and/or accommodation. Furthermore, in accordance with the applicable Codes of Practice (MOE, 2014a, 2014b, 2014c), consultation is intended to:

- › Identify Indigenous communities and other stakeholders who may be affected by or have an interest in the undertaking;
- › Share relevant information about the proposed Project;
- › Receive guidance on the EA/IA;
- › Identify information, concerns and opportunities to be considered in the EA/IA;
- › Support the development of commitments by the proponent;
- › Encourage the submission of requests for further information and analysis early in the EA/IA; and
- › Enable MECP to make a fair and balanced decision on the EA/IA⁵.

Additionally, the MECP provided consultation requirements in a letter dated November 3, 2020 (MECP, 2020a). While outlining that the Project must adhere to the ToR Code of Practice (MOE, 2014a) and the EA Code of Practice (MOE, 2014b), the MECP also indicated the following minimum requirements for the consultation program:

- › Notification to the public about the Project at key milestones;
- › Provide information about the Project;
- › Consider and provide responses to comments; and
- › Maintain a RoC for each community/organization.

The RoC must contain all related non-confidential communications including letters/emails (outgoing and incoming), publication of notices, meetings (i.e., agendas, meeting summaries), issues raised and how they have been addressed/considered.

⁵ MECP is responsible for decisions regarding the provincial EA process only, not the federal IA process.

6.2 Objectives

Consultation and engagement with Indigenous communities and organizations, stakeholders, provincial agencies and federal authorities, and the public is integral to creating and maintaining relationships and open communication. The Crown has a legal obligation to consult with Indigenous people where it contemplates decisions or actions that may adversely impact asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. The proponent's consultation and engagement efforts will provide opportunities for Indigenous peoples as well as stakeholders, provincial agencies, federal authorities, and the public to be meaningfully engaged, as well as share IK/ILRU so that it that may be incorporated into the EA/IA.

The proponent is committed to conducting a comprehensive, and meaningful consultation and engagement process for the Project. The process has been developed, and will be executed in respect of the following:

- › General engagement principles;
- › MFFN Elders' Guiding Principles;
- › WFN's Three-Tier approach to Indigenous community consultation and engagement; and
- › Requirements of applicable legislation, policies and guidelines.

6.3 Guiding Principles

6.3.1 General Engagement Principles

Consultation and engagement activities will embrace the following general engagement principles:

- › **Meaningful** – The proponent will link participation and engagement directly to the Project objectives to inform the EA/IA. The engagement process will provide meaningful opportunities for early involvement of Indigenous communities and organizations, provincial agencies and federal authorities, the public and stakeholders to support their continued participation throughout all stages of the EA/IA. This includes engagement that allows for back-and-forth discussion about issues and responding to concerns and questions raised about the Project through certain venues such as written documentation and open houses (virtual and in-person), surveys, Live Stream sessions, and radio call-in shows. The proponent may respond to some comments by updating of frequently asked questions on the Project's website and will respond in writing to all comments received in writing where the name and contact information of the commenter is provided. This will be documented in the RoC.
- › **Transparent** – Opportunities to participate will be communicated through multiple channels to share information appropriately and effectively. Feedback received will be documented and the proponent will demonstrate how the input from Indigenous communities and organizations, provincial agencies and federal authorities, the public and stakeholders were used and incorporated into the EA/IA and documented in the RoC.
- › **Inclusive and Accessible** – The proponent will provide different opportunities for diverse members of Indigenous communities and organizations, the general public and interested stakeholders to learn about and be involved in the Project. This includes providing and reasonably adjusting timeframes where necessary to consider working schedules, community meetings, in-person engagements as well as call-in options for those without a computer or reliable internet connection. Documents and materials will use language that is easy to understand and free of technical jargon and, where feasible, key documents/presentations may be translated into the Indigenous language of participating communities.
- › **Flexible** – The proponent will be responsive to issues and concerns that are expressed and will consider this input in the decision-making process related to this Project in a manner that will minimize adverse effects and maximize benefits.

- › **Collaborative** – The proponent will work closely with their communities (MFFN and WFN) and other potentially affected Indigenous communities and organizations, provincial agencies and federal authorities, the public and stakeholders to leverage opportunities for collaboration, and share best practices and lessons learned, wherever possible.

6.3.2 Guiding Principles for Engagement

The proponent will adhere to a combination of mutual guiding principles of MFFN and WFN.

Elders from both communities have provided guidance to the proponent so that consultation and engagement for the EA/IA is conducted in a respectful manner that reflects their culture and traditions of MFFN and WFN as Indigenous proponents of the Project.

All EA/IA-related consultation and engagement activities will be inclusive of the following guiding principles:

- › Mutual recognition of inherent rights;
- › Mutual recognition of ancestral knowledge;
- › Mutual recognition of traditional knowledge and practices;
- › Mutual recognition of clan families and relationships;
- › Mutual recognition of sustainable livelihood; and
- › Mutual recognition of traditional protocols.

Early in the process, we will reach out to Indigenous communities to request information and direction on consultation and engagement principles, protocols and practice. When visiting Indigenous communities, the proponent will respect their protocols and principles as appropriate. Additionally, consultation and engagement activities will include some of the key elements of consultation as outlined in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Handbook on Consultation in Natural Resource Development (Nishnawbe Aski Nation, 2007) so that consultation is:

- › A continuous process;
- › About exchanging information;
- › About building relationships;
- › About getting feedback;
- › About exchanging additional information, as required;
- › About identifying issues;
- › About accommodation and reconciliation;
- › About fairness; and
- › About negotiating with the right attitude.

6.3.3 Marten Falls First Nation Elders' Guiding Principles

To honour the traditional lands in which this Project will be developed and to respect the traditional teachings, the following Guiding Principles (MFFN, 2020) have been endorsed by both communities (MFFN and WFN) and will be used throughout the engagement process. These were originally prepared for the draft Marten Falls Community-Based Land Use Plan (CBLUP) currently in development:

1. “Kezhikanawabajkateg kaye ji tepwaaniwaang kekikinozhiwemakaang.”

“Everything on our land and water is living and needs to be respected.”

The land and all of its living creatures are viewed by the Anishinabek as integral to the circle of life and integral to the survival and balance and harmony of the environment that Anishinabek is only one part of.

2. “Kawininitojikateg nikan onajikewining ineke.”

“The Anishinabek relationship to the land should be seen as a cultured landscape; also an area that is continuously being used by the Anishinabek as a habitation and as a resource.”

The Anishinabek are of the land; their customs, identity, and cultures are tied intricately to the land and its resources.

3. “Kakina ji wiinda mawa nowaht anishinabek ka onjiwatch.”

“Engage the Anishinabek on all issues that affect our shared and communal lands.”

All Anishinabek should be treated with respect and therefore, are to be engaged on matters that affect their lives directly.

4. “Jih ishi kanawejikatey kakina kekon.”

“Respect the natural and Anishnawbe customs and teachings at all times.”

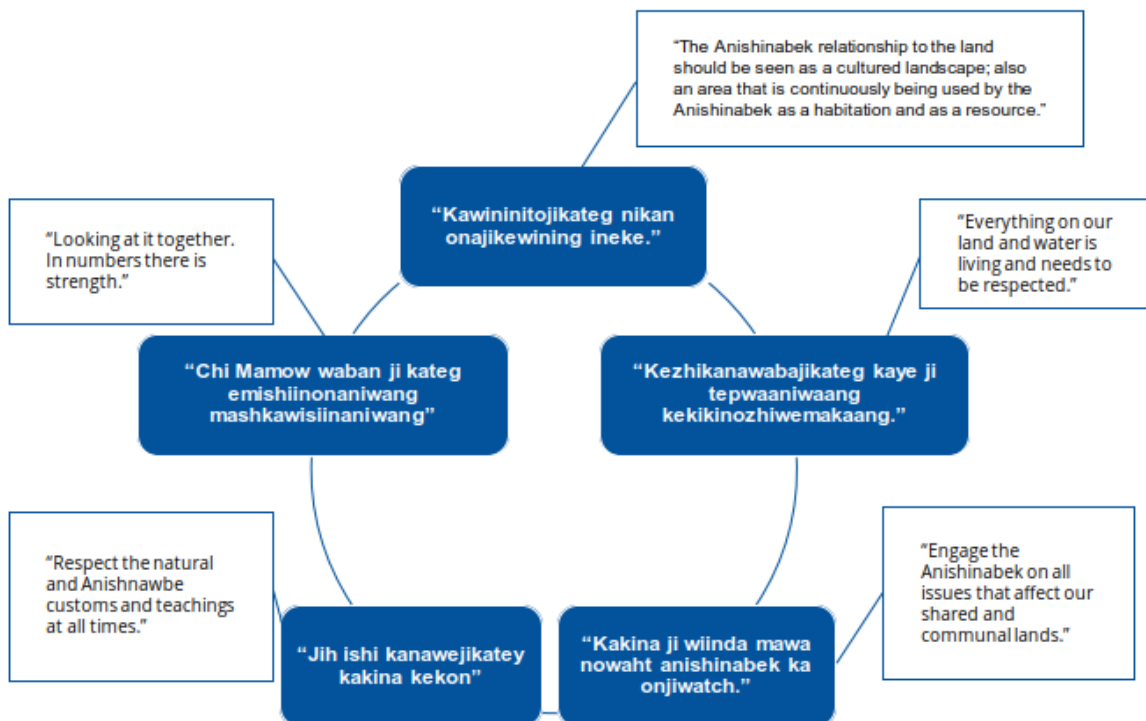
The Creator put Anishinabek on these lands as stewards of the land to take care of the lands and use the lands and its resources indefinitely. The only conditions were to adhere to the natural and traditional teachings of the Elders.

5. “Chi Mamow waban ji kateg emishiinonaniwang mashkawisiinaniwang.”

“Looking at it together. In numbers there is strength.”

With consultation, the more persons that are directly affected, the more need to be involved in the process; therefore, the process will need to find ways to accommodate Anishinabek people (members and other stakeholders) (MFFN, 2020). The MFFN Elders’ Guiding Principles are shown in Figure 6-1.

Figure 6-1: MFFN Elder’s Guiding Principles (MFFN, 2020)

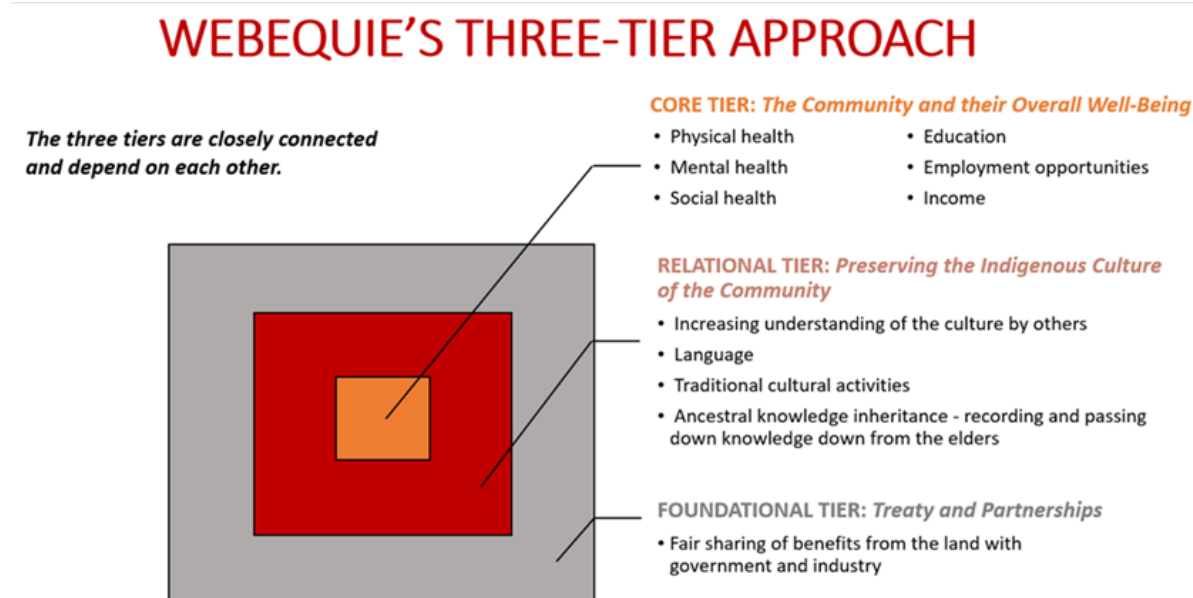


The guiding principles noted above and other general principles of consultation and engagement will be refined in accordance with protocols and principles of other Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations throughout the EA/IA.

6.3.4 Webequie First Nation Three-Tier Approach

WFN's Three-Tier approach has been endorsed both communities (MFFN and WFN) and will be used throughout the engagement process. WFN's Three-Tier approach is consistent with WFN and MFFN's traditional cultural values, customs and beliefs, as shown in **Figure 6-2** and described below (WSR, 2020).

Figure 6-2: WFN Three-Tier Approach (WSR, 2020)



This consultation approach has been inherently passed on through generations by WFN's IK Keepers and forms part of the WFN Elders' Guiding Principles that harmonize with regulatory requirements for consultation and engagement.

Core Tier – Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation

The community approach to project development and consultation is based on Bimachiowiin (life sustaining or sustainable), Ondatissiwiin (source of life) and Minobiimatissiwiin (prosperity and good life agreements).

Bimachiowiin is a result of sustainable community, which relies on the Foundational Tier. This is the tier where relationships are made with government regulators. The benefits are brought back to flow to the community.

Ondatissiwiin is the source of life. The source of livelihood depends on the relationship and benefit agreements with First Nation Partners, governments and industry, which is a benefit for the community.

The source is realized through project development or exploring and it either must be found or created. For this Project, access to the source of Bimachiowiin is a road project and, as such, must be explored and created.

Minobiimatissiwiin is the result of prosperity and good life agreements. It is measurable through baseline studies of existing social and economic conditions today.

Relational Tier – First Nations Neighbours and Government Agencies

In order to sustain its way of life, the community must breathe and the people must be able to practice their way of life with the land, as well as their languages and culture. The Relational Tier next to the core of the community is an adaptive transitional tier supporting the fixed location of the community, and relies on the land animals and wildlife to allow community members to practice the Creator-given rights to hunt and fish without having to move the family to different locations for harvesting purposes.

It is well understood that any project developed within their traditional territory could have effects on others. It is also well understood that the regulatory environment to develop projects, requires approvals and authorizations government agencies.

The Relational Tier of this approach to consultation and project development involves outreach to and involvement of other potentially affected First Nations, many of whom are home to WFN and MFFN family/clan members; and developing relationships with and working closely with provincial agencies and federal authorities. It is recognized that these relationships and connections are important to maintain in a positive way.

Foundational Tier – Social and Economic Benefits from the Land

The approach to project development and consultation is based on the overarching objective to create social and economic benefits for the members of the WFN and MFFN through the use and development of resources on their lands.

Social and economic benefits will result in a number of positive outcomes for the community, including improved standard of living through increased revenues; and self-determination – reduced reliance on provincial and federal government sources of funding, and the ability for the community to make decisions about activities and development within their traditional territory.

The social benefits of increased economic activity and revenues into the community are many, including improved housing and family well-being through reduced crowding that will also lead to improved health conditions. Creating economic activity will also increase skill levels and employment opportunities, all of which contribute to economic prosperity, which will then contribute to the improvement of all social outcomes for the community.

Economic prosperity, social well-being and self-determination are at the foundation of the Three-Tier approach. Development opportunities must, in and of themselves, also be sustainable, providing long-term benefits to the community, and not at any cost. Any development within the traditional territory of the WFN and MFFN must be respectful of and consistent with the values, traditions and culture of the community.

As can be seen, the basic guiding principles held by the two communities, while expressed differently, are very similar and intricately tied together. The Core Tier of the Three-Tier Approach, with its focus on the overall physical, mental and social well-being of the community members, is linked closely with the principle of the importance of balance and harmony of all living things. The Relational Tier is directly linked to the principle of respecting and preserving the natural and Anishnawbe customs and teachings passed down by the Elders. The Foundational Tier is underpinned by the principle that the lands are shared and communal, and, as such, the benefits from the land should also be shared with government and industry.

6.4 Key Communication and Engagement Tools

A variety of activities and materials will be used to provide information and receive input from Indigenous communities, Indigenous organizations, provincial agencies and federal authorities, the public and other stakeholders. **Table 6-1** briefly describes the tools and activities that are to take place at various stages throughout the preparation of the EA/IA and will be used and presented at milestone to facilitate and elicit important feedback at those points. Comments and questions received would be addressed through appropriate channels and noted in the RoC.

Table 6-1: Communication and Engagement Tools

| Method of Engagement | Description |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Registered Mail Notification Letters | Notification letters will be prepared and sent by registered mail to the identified Indigenous communities, Tribal Councils and PTOs (as listed in Section 4.2) to inform them of the EA/IA milestones, including: EA/IA commencement/introduction ; Draft EAR/IS for feedback and comments; and Final EAR/IS with comments incorporated. |
| Direct mail/email Notifications | A mailing list has been developed and will be maintained through the duration of the EA/IA. Those on the mailing list will be sent notices of meetings and other key milestones of the EA/IA. We plan to provide (at a minimum) quarterly updates to the Chiefs of the Indigenous communities being engaged for this Project. |
| Notices and Newspaper Advertising | <p>Notices will be issued at various points through the duration of the EA/IA to inform identified Indigenous communities/organizations and others on the stakeholder list of Project milestones and to invite attendance to Open Houses, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference › Notice of Draft Terms of Reference for Review › Notice of Submission of Proposed Terms of Reference › Notice of Commencement of the Environmental Assessment › Notice of Draft EAR/IS for Review › Notice of Submission of Final EAR/IS › Notice of Open Houses |
| Comment Forms | Comment forms will be made available at Indigenous community meetings, Open Houses, and the Project website. |
| Newsletters, videos, radio, livestream | <p>Project newsletters will be developed on a monthly basis to provide updates and summaries of project milestones. Newsletter distribution will be scheduled around the timing of the planned Open Houses and other key activities. Each newsletter will be distributed to MFFN and WFN community members, other Indigenous communities and to the public and stakeholders who have expressed an interest. Newsletters will also be made available on the Project website. Radio shows will be broadcast over Wawatay Radio, throughout the Wawatay broadcast region. These sessions will take place bi-weekly and each session will be in an open dialogue format with the proponent to allow community members to ask questions about the Project and to obtain their feedback and input.</p> <p>Livestream events will also take place bi-weekly and these livestreams will be available on the Project website, Facebook and YouTube. Invitation letters with posters are sent to the Chiefs inviting them and their membership to participate in the radio shows and the livestream events.</p> |
| Open Houses (in-person and/or virtual) | Public and Indigenous Open Houses will be conducted in-person and/or virtually. The Open Houses will each start with a presentation, followed by time to visit different stations with display boards to discuss different topics and speak to the proponent. There will be an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback via a survey during and after the Open Houses to support our consultation efforts. In addition, we will be posting a recording of the Open House presentation to the project website, and additional times are provided for question and answer to be done virtually. A Virtual Reality (VR) Open House portal will be available for viewing two weeks before the Open House as well as during the Open House period to view the display boards. Comments can also be left on each display board in the VR Open House. |

Table 6-1 (Cont'd): Communication and Engagement Tools

| Method of Engagement | Description |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Community Visits / Virtual Community Sessions | <p>Community visits and virtual community sessions, in the form of video teleconferences or live streaming sessions on Facebook or YouTube are planned throughout the EA/IA schedule with the most interested and potentially affected communities.</p> <p>Specific activities to be conducted during community visits may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Introduce the proponent to the Chief and Council and Elders and to provide a Project overview › Confirm key community participants and leaders to engage and consult with › Determine existing community protocols for engagement and consultation › Outline the purpose of the ToR and EA/IA, including schedule and milestones › Obtain input and feedback from community members on the ToR and EA/IA › Obtain general input from community members about the Project and information they wish to share |
| Meeting with Off-Reserve Community Members | Meetings with off-reserve Indigenous community members can take place either before or after the Open Houses when they can occur in person. In addition, members will be able to participate in either the Indigenous Open Houses or the Public Open Houses. |
| Engagement with Métis | Periodic information meetings will be held with the Métis Nation of Ontario-Region 2 and the Red Sky Métis Independent Nation throughout the ToR and EA/IA, and they will be invited to the general Indigenous community Open Houses and the Public Open Houses. |
| Engagement with Tribal Councils and Provincial Territorial Organizations (PTOs) | Tribal Councils and PTOs will be provided information and will be provided opportunities to comment throughout the ToR and EA/IA. Meetings will be held upon request. |
| Project Website & Social Media | <p>A Project website is available for the Indigenous communities/organizations, public and stakeholders to review Project related information at https://northernroadlink.ca</p> <p>The Project website will serve as a hub for all public documents. There is also a phone number to reach the proponent: 1-888-515-3607.</p> |

6.5 Issues Resolution

The proponent expects that, during the EA/IA, issues will arise that will need to be resolved. To manage these issues, all comments, questions and concerns will be documented in the RoC and responded to accordingly. The comments and responses will be included in the ToR and EAR/IS, as applicable, including how feedback will be incorporated into the EA/IA. The proponent is committed to ongoing discussion, meetings, and proposed issue resolution approaches (e.g., mediation), which will be documented to record the issue resolution process for each issue raised.

6.6 Record of Consultation

A RoC will be maintained for the Project. The proponent will maintain an electronic communication log and database to keep track of all consultation and engagement activities, such as correspondence, telephone calls, web site communications, text messages, community and stakeholder meetings, and open house sessions and any other meetings that were held. This log will also record the type of correspondence received, to whom it was addressed and when it was received, and a summary of the incoming and outgoing correspondence. The database will also document by whom and when the comments were addressed, the content of the response, and how the comment/response was incorporated into the EA/IA process.

The consultation summary and RoC will include:

- › Description of consultation and engagement activities undertaken;
- › Description of engagement with communities and interested stakeholders who were identified, notified and consulted;
- › Summary of comments and concerns raised during consultation events and during the EA/IA and the proponent's responses to comments and how concerns were considered and/or incorporated into the EA/IA;
- › Description of concerns and responses;
- › Summaries from meetings held;
- › Copies of written comments received from interested groups and responses provided; and
- › All related non-confidential communications, including letters/emails, publication of notices, meetings, and issues raised and how they have been addressed/considered.

6.7 Schedule of Consultation and Engagement Activities

Table 6-2 outlines the Project's regulatory milestones and the proposed consultation and engagement activities proposed for each milestone. Virtual meetings may be needed in replacement of in-person meetings based on challenges related to the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Table 6-2: Consultation Milestones

| Milestone | Consultation and Engagement Activity | Outcome |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Notice of Commencement of EA/IA (Provincial Task) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Circulate Notice of Commencement of EA; › Letter to Chiefs and Councils; and › Meet Chiefs and Councils. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify interest to participate; and › Consolidate/update initial Indigenous and Stakeholder Contact List. |
| Baseline Data Collection, Identification of Alternatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indigenous Open Houses/Community Meetings to introduce the Project and seek input on baseline data collection and identification of alternatives; › Open House for WFN and MFFN Members in Thunder Bay; › Non-Indigenous communities, public and stakeholder Open House (Thunder Bay); › Website; and › Newsletters (to be posted on the website). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Input to study plans (e.g., scope of baseline studies, effects assessment); › Input to Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan; › Input to alternatives (e.g., routing, ancillary infrastructure – aggregate sources); › Input to criteria and indicators; › Input to baseline information; and › Gather IK/ILRU to characterize existing conditions and identify Project features and resources that are of value to the community. |
| Evaluation of Alternatives, Selection of Preferred Methods, Preliminary Effects Assessment, and Cumulative Effects Assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indigenous Open Houses/Community Meetings to receive input on the evaluation of alternatives and preliminary effect assessment results; › Website; › Newsletters (to be posted on Website); and › Circulation of EA/IA materials. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Input to evaluation of alternatives; › Input to effects assessment, including mitigation and monitoring; and › Incorporate IK/ILRU into evaluation of alternatives and effects assessment. |

Table 6-2 (Cont'd): Consultation Milestones

| Milestone | Consultation and Engagement Activity | Outcome |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Review of Draft EAR/IS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indigenous Open House/Community Meetings to discuss and present the Draft EAR/IS, seek comments on the Draft EAR/IS, and solicit additional information for inclusion in the Final EAR/IS; › Non-Indigenous communities, public and stakeholder open house (Thunder Bay); › Website; › Newsletters (to be posted on Website); › Circulation of Draft EAR/IS; › Post document at Indigenous community Administration offices and participating municipal offices and libraries (document will be provided via email; hardcopy will be provided upon request); and › Follow-up calls to confirm receipt of document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Incorporate IK/ILRU obtained into Final EAR/IS; › Input to evaluation of alternatives; › Input to effects assessment, including residual and cumulative; › Input to mitigation measures; › Respond and address to comments on Draft EAR/IS; and › Update Stakeholder Contact List for notices on Final EAR/IS. |
| Review of Final EAR/IS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Circulate Notice of Submission of Final EAR/IS; › Letter to Chiefs and Councils; › Website; › Newsletters (to be posted on Website); › Distribution of Final EAR/IS; › Post document at Indigenous community Administration offices and participating municipal offices and libraries (document will be provided via email; hardcopy will be provided upon request); › Indigenous community Open Houses, upon request or as necessary to resolve issues; and › Follow-up calls to confirm receipt of document. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Receive comments on EAR/IS; and › Prepare responses to comments on EAR/IS. |

Table 6-3 summarizes the anticipated schedule of consultation and engagement activities through the development of the Project.

Table 6-3: Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule

| Activity | Estimated Dates |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference (ToR) (Provincial EA Process) | May 4, 2021 ^(a) |
| Public Open House #1 and Indigenous Open House #1 | September 14 and 15, 2021 ^(a) |
| Circulation and Notice of Draft ToR | November 24, 2021 ^(a) |
| Responses to Stakeholders Comments on Draft ToR | January to April 2022 ^(a) |
| Public Open House #2 and Indigenous Open House #2 | February 23 and 24, 2022 ^(a) |
| Submission of Proposed ToR to MECP (Provincial EA Process) | April 29, 2022 ^(a) |
| Submission of Initial Project Description (Federal IA Process) | February 2, 2023 ^(a) |
| Minister's Decision on Proposed ToR (Provincial EA Process) | March 3, 2023 ^(a) |
| Notice of Commencement of EA (Provincial EA Process) | April 1, 2023 |
| Submission of Detailed Project Description with Response to the Summary of Issues (Federal IA Process) | May 1, 2023 ^(a) |
| Public Open House #3 and Indigenous Open House #3 ^(b) | 2023 |
| The Agency issues final Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) and planning documents (Cooperation Plan, Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, Permitting Plan, and Public Participation Plan), along with the Notice of Commencement of an Impact Assessment (Federal IA Process) | Summer 2023 |
| Technical EA/IA studies | 2022 to 2026 |
| Alternatives Evaluation | 2023 to 2024 |
| Public Open House #4 and Indigenous Open House #4 ^(b) | 2024 |
| Public Open House #5 and Indigenous Open House #5 ^(b) | 2025 |
| Submission and Notice of Draft EAR/IS | 2026 |
| Submission of Final EAR/IS | 2027 |
| Minister issues Decision on EA (Provincial EA Process) | 2027 |
| The decision-maker (Minister or Governor in Council) issues a Decision Statement with the reasons for the determination and any conditions (Federal IA Process) | 2028 |

Notes:

(a) Date the activity was completed.

(b) Open Houses are anticipated to be located in Thunder Bay and Geraldton once these can occur in-person. Dates are tentative and subject to change.

The EAR/IS will summarize the Project-related consultation and engagement activities completed and/or planned by the proponent with the public, Indigenous communities and groups, provincial agencies and federal authorities, and other stakeholders. The EAR/IS will include details of consultation including:

- › Principles and purpose of consultation and engagement;
- › Identification of Indigenous communities/organizations, public stakeholders, local government, provincial agencies and federal authorities that were engaged;
- › Consultation methods and schedule;
- › Issues resolution; and
- › Detailed RoC and engagement how it was used to inform the EA/IA.

7 Relevant Studies

- › Winter Road Re-Alignment Study (2008);
- › Cliffs Ferroalloys Black Thor Mine Integrated Transportation System (2009 – 2013);
- › Eagle’s Nest Project, A Federal/Provincial Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment Report (2013);
- › All-Season Community Road Study (2016);
- › All-Season Community Road Study – Phase 2 (2017);
- › Marten Falls First Nation – Community Access Road Phase 2 Studies (2018 to 2021);
- › Marten Falls Community Access Road EA/IA;
- › Webequie Supply Road EA/IA; and
- › 2021 and 2022 Baseline Surveys for the Northern Road Link Project.

Section 7 of the Detailed Project Description summarizes the purpose of these studies and their relevance to the Project.

8 Strategic Assessments

8.1 Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area

On February 10, 2020, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change decided to undertake a Regional Assessment on an area centred around the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in northern Ontario. The Agency and MINES have been in discussions on a potential agreement that describes how the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area would be conducted.

The draft Agreement for the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area was released December 3, 2021 for a 60-day engagement and comment period. The goal of the Regional Assessment is “To provide information, knowledge and analysis regarding mine development activities and other existing and future physical activities in the Ring of Fire and their potential effects, in order to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of future impact assessments for these activities in a way that helps protect the environment and health, cultural, social and economic conditions while also creating opportunities for sustainable economic development” (the Agency, 2021a).

The draft agreement indicates in Section 2.1 that “...the Regional Assessment will focus on future mine development activities and their potential effects, as these types of activities are considered the most likely future physical activities to be proposed and carried out in this region in the foreseeable future... In doing so, the Regional Assessment will also consider the relationship of, and potential interactions between, the potential effects of future mine development activities with those of other existing and future activities, including the potential for resulting cumulative effects...” (the Agency, 2021a).

The draft agreement indicates in Section 2.5 that “It is acknowledged that there are ongoing impact and EAs for proposed road developments in Northern Ontario that are not linked to specific mine development activities, which will continue according to their separate legislated processes and timelines. Therefore, the scope, conduct and outcomes of the Regional Assessment will not duplicate those of these ongoing assessments, including their project-specific assessments of effects, analyses of the purpose of and need for these projects, or other factors and components”.

The Draft Agreement to Conduct the Regional Assessment can be found on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations>).

8.2 Strategic Assessment of Climate Change

Under the IAA, the extent to which the effects of a designated project hinder or contribute to the Government of Canada’s ability to meet its climate change commitments such as the Paris Agreement, Canada’s 2030 target and the goal of Canada achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, needs to be considered in the IA process of the designated project.

In 2020, ECCC published the final version of the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a). The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change applies to designated projects under the IAA. As discussed in **Section 10**, the Project is a designated project in accordance with the *Physical Activities Regulations* SOR/2019-285 under the IAA. Therefore, the proponent will conduct a Strategic Assessment of Climate Change as part of the EA/IA for the Project. The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change for the Project will include:

- › a quantification of net GHG emissions;
- › an assessment of upstream GHG emissions (if applicable); and
- › a discussion on the development of emissions estimates and uncertainty assessment.

The Strategic Assessment of Climate Change for the Project will utilize the following guidance as applicable:

- › Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a);
- › Draft Technical Guide Related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Guidance on quantification of net GHG emissions, impact on carbon sinks, mitigation measures, net-zero plan and upstream GHG assessment (ECCC, 2021); and
- › Draft Technical Guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Assessing Climate Change Resilience (ECCC, 2022).

8.2.1 Climate Change in the Planning Phase

8.2.1.1 Initial and Detailed Project Description

As described in the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a), during the Planning Phase of a project undergoing an IA process under the IAA, the proponent is required to provide the following information in the Initial and Detailed Project Description:

- › **GHG emissions estimates – including:**
 - estimate of the maximum annual net GHG emissions for each phase of the project, including a breakdown of each term of Equation 1; and
 - the methodology, data, emission factors and assumptions used.
- › **Carbon sinks – including:**
 - a description of the activities that would result in an impact on carbon sinks; and
 - land areas expected to be impacted by the project, by ecosystem type (forests, cropland, grassland, wetlands, built-up land) over the course of the project lifetime, including any areas of restored or reclaimed ecosystems
- › **Alternative means of carrying out the project –** When evaluating alternative means of carrying out the project, project proponents should discuss the potential impacts of the alternatives on GHG emissions and how GHG emissions were considered as a criterion in the alternatives selection.

Section 27 discusses the GHG emissions estimate for the Project. It is anticipated that some Project activities during the construction and operations phase of the Project may affect carbon sinks, including:

- › Construction phase activities:
 - Vegetation clearing and grubbing of road ROW and supportive infrastructure (access road, camps, laydown areas aggregate extraction areas);
 - Earth excavation and grading activities, including drainage ditches;
 - Placement, grading and compaction of aggregate material for roadbed;
 - Post-construction clean-up and site restoration; and
 - Development of aggregate extraction areas (e.g., pits and quarries) with crushing/processing facilities that are subject to obtaining an Aggregate Permit.
- › Operations phase activities:
 - GHG emissions as result of the operation of the Project.

It is too early in the development of the Project to identify the type, magnitude, and locations of carbon sinks that may be affected by the Project. However, major carbon sinks may be affected by the project include vegetation communities such as forests, wetlands, and peatlands. This information will be included in the EAR/IS. The potential effects on carbon sinks, will be assessed in the EA/IA through the assessment of Project effects on:

- › plants and vegetation communities (including forests, wetlands, and peatlands);
- › air quality; and
- › greenhouse gases.

Preliminary criteria and factors for the assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project are included in Table 2-6 of the Project's Proposed Term of Reference (MFFN and WFN, 2022). The EA/IA process includes the flexibility to refine/modify the evaluation criteria as additional information values becomes available during development of the EA/IA. As such, the potential impacts of the alternatives on GHG emissions will be considered in the alternatives assessment during the EA/IA.

8.2.1.2 Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines

The scope of information related to GHG emissions and climate change in the EAR/IS will be tailored to the Project in the TISG published by the Agency at the end of the Planning Phase (ECCC, 2020a). It is anticipated that the TISG for the Project will require the EAR/IS to include information with respect to:

- › GHG emissions,
- › impact of the project on carbon sinks,
- › impact of the project on federal emissions reduction efforts and on global GHG emissions,
- › GHG mitigation measures, and
- › climate change resilience assessment of anticipated climate change impacts to the project elements (road corridor and supporting infrastructure).

Proponents of projects with upstream GHG emissions likely greater than or equal to the thresholds outlined in Table 1 of the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a), will be required in the TISG to provide an upstream GHG assessment and related uncertainty assessment. Based on the preliminary GHG estimate provided in **Section 27**, it is anticipated that the EAR/IS will not need to include an upstream GHG assessment.

8.2.2 Climate Change in the Impact Statement Phase

Following the publication of the TISG for the project, the proponent will prepare an EAR/IS that adheres to the TISG (see **Section 8.2.1.2**).

8.2.3 Climate Change in the Impact Assessment Phase

The Agency, with the support of expert federal authorities, will review, comment on and complement, as needed, the GHG and climate change-related information provided by the proponent in the EAR/IS (ECCC, 2020a). The Agency's review and analysis of the EAR/IS will be made available to the public and decision makers (ECCC, 2020a).

8.2.4 Climate Change in Decision-Making and Conditions

Under the IAA, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, or Governor in Council⁶, must decide whether the project is in the public interest (ECCC, 2020a). If the Project is in the public interest and allowed to proceed, the Minister's decision statement will contain enforceable conditions, including GHG emissions-related conditions, as well as the rationale for the decision (ECCC, 2020a).

These conditions may also include a reporting program in which the proponent would demonstrate progress towards implementing these mitigation measures (ECCC, 2020a).

8.2.5 Climate Change in the Post-Decision Phase

If a decision is made that the Project can proceed, the proponent must comply with any conditions in the Minister's decision statement (ECCC, 2020a).

⁶ For impact assessments conducted by the IAAC, the Minister is responsible for making the public interest determination or may refer the decision to the Governor in Council. For impact assessments conducted by a review panel, or an integrated review panel with a lifecycle regulator, the Governor in Council is responsible for making the public interest determination (ECCC, 2020a).

Part C: Project Information

9 Project Purpose and Need

9.1 Purpose of the Project

The purpose of the Project is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR. The Project will connect the mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area in the Ring of Fire to the highway network via the MFCAR, by constructing a new all-season multi-use gravel road with an approximate length of 117 km to 164 km (depending on the chosen corridor). The Project will also provide an opportunity to connect WFN to the highway network. The Project would enable a broader range of economic activity than currently exists by facilitating the transport of goods, services and resources.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- › Stimulate sustainable regional economic activity by facilitating all-season road movement of materials, supplies, and people to and from the Ring of Fire area.
- › Provide employment and other economic opportunities to MFFN, WFN and local Indigenous community members, while residing in or near their communities, preserving their language and culture.
- › Enable experience and training opportunities for youth to encourage pursuit of additional skills through post-secondary education.

9.2 Need for the Project

The Ring of Fire in the Ontario Far North is considered one of the most promising mineral development opportunities in the province in over a century, with potential for multi-generational chromite production and significant production of nickel, copper and platinum (MINES, 2022). Currently, mine development in the Ring of Fire area is unlikely without year-round access. MFFN and WFN are committed to the sustainable development of their traditional territories. The Project will be a multi-use road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR. By providing an opportunity to connect the MFCAR to the WSR, the Project will complete the necessary transportation infrastructure link between WFN, the Ring of Fire and the highway network to facilitate economic development in the region. The Project is an important step in linking the communities, the region and the province in general with the economic opportunities surrounding the Ring of Fire.

MFFN and WFN are remote Indigenous communities in northwestern Ontario and are not currently accessible by all-season roads. Each of these communities has initiated their own separate all-season road development projects as shown in **Figure 9-1**. MFFN is undertaking the development of the MFCAR to connect its community to the highway network to the south and to improve the community's well-being by facilitating the transport of goods, services, and resources. WFN is undertaking the development of the WSR between its community and the McFaulds Lake area of the Ring of Fire to facilitate the movement of materials, supplies and people from the Webequie Airport to the proposed mine development and mineral exploration activities. Each proponent is undertaking a Federal-Provincial coordinated for these road projects. The ToRs for the MFCAR project (AECOM, 2020a) and the WSR project (SNC-Lavalin, 2020) have both been approved by the Province of Ontario.

MFFN is an Anishinaabe community located on the north bank of the Albany River, approximately 175 km southeast of WFN, 160 km northeast of the Municipality of Greenstone (i.e., approximately 70 km north of Highway 11) and 430 km northeast of the city of Thunder Bay. WFN is an Ojibway community, located approximately 540 km north of Thunder Bay and 175 km northwest of MFFN. These communities are only accessible by winter road or air transportation. The operational season for winter roads has become shorter and less reliable due to climate change and no longer meets the needs of the communities. Transportation by air is expensive, impacted by weather and has limited availability, so severely limits employment, business, economic and social development opportunities for community residents.

In *Building Better Lives: Ontario's Long-term Infrastructure Plan 2017* (MOI, 2017), the province acknowledges that the communities and urban centres in northern Ontario need a multimodal transportation system and that the North is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change, particularly communities reliant on winter roads.

The *Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011* (MOI and MNDMF, 2011) includes a commitment by the province to work with remote communities and other orders of government towards improved access for community residents.

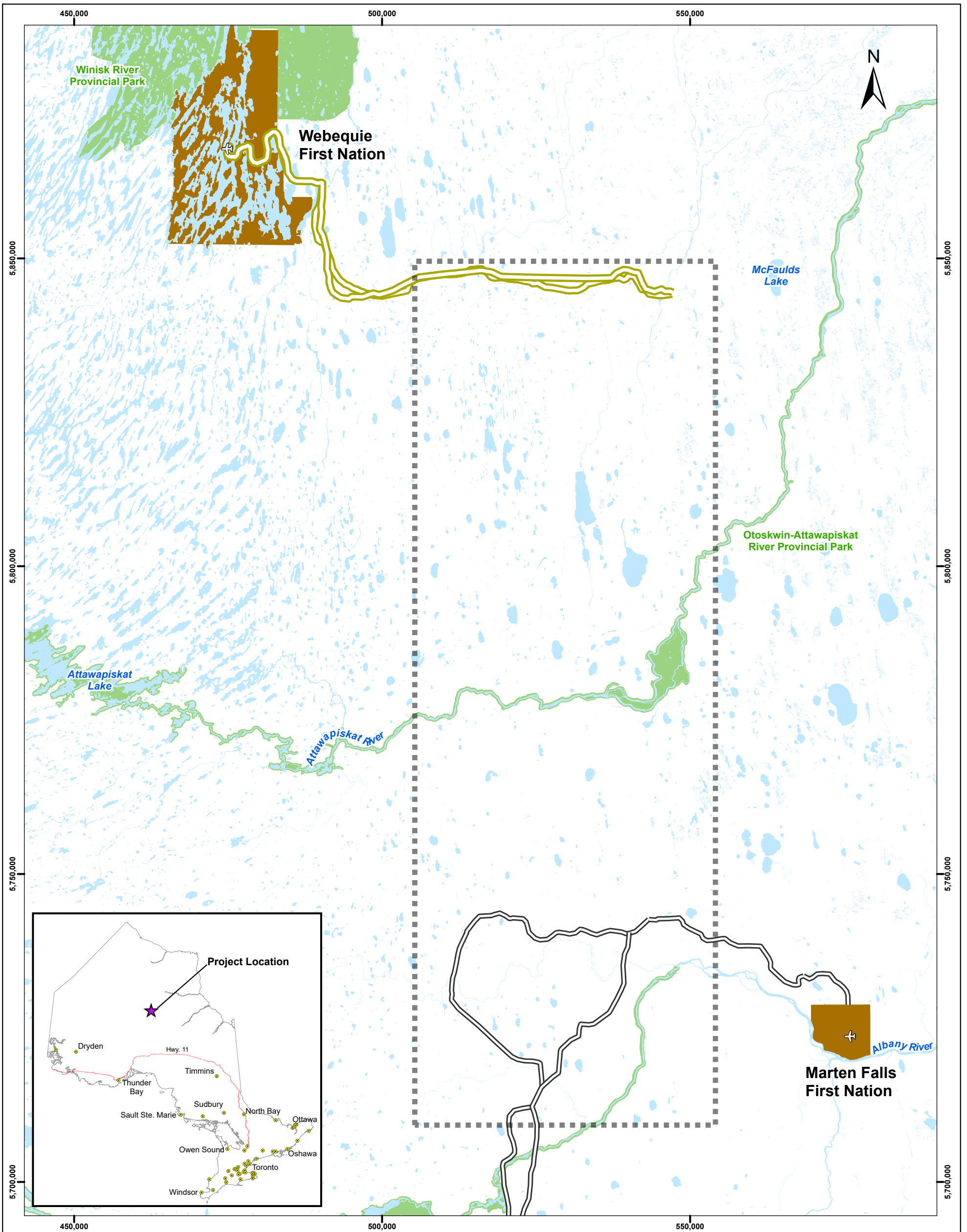
In *Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario* (MTO, 2021), the province recognizes that there is a growing demand for the expansion of all-season roads in the Far North, driven by a variety of socio-economic factors, climate change vulnerability and, in the case of the Ring of Fire region, responsible resource development. The plan further states that building a road to the Ring of Fire is a critical step to unlocking economic benefits in the region (MTO, 2021) and that Ontario will continue to support MFFN and WFN as they advance their EAs on their individual road projects⁷ for all-season roads to connect their communities and to connect their communities to the proposed Ring of Fire developments (MTO, 2021).

Furthermore, improved road infrastructure in the north, including all-season roads, can reduce the cost of delivering consumer goods, fuel, and construction materials (MINES, 2022). Lastly, the construction, operation and maintenance of all-season road infrastructure will provide the proponent with opportunities to develop business, technical and project management skills that would be transferable to other projects in the region.

In summary, the Project will create several important linkages, including:

- › Completing the all-season roadway link between the Ring of Fire and the highway network to the south;
- › Connecting the community of MFFN to the Ring of Fire and the associated economic opportunities by an all-season roadway;
- › Providing an opportunity to connect the community of WFN to the highway network to the south and the associated socio-economic opportunities by an all-season roadway;
- › Providing an opportunity to interconnect the communities of MFFN and WFN by an all-season road.

⁷ Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is the proponent of the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) project and Webequie (WFN) is the proponent of the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) project.



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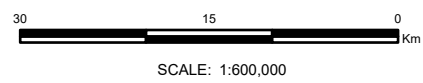
- Project Location
- Proposed Webeque Supply Road (WSR) Alternatives
- Proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) Alternatives
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody
- Highway 11
- Cities
- Airports

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadstral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geohub.lio.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Northern Road Link

Project Location

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|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 9-1 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |

10 Physical Activities Regulations

The Project is a designated project in accordance with the *Physical Activities Regulations* SOR/2019-285 under the IAA. The Project is a multi-use all-season road, and depending on the preferred corridor that is selected for the Project, its length is expected to range between 117 km and 164 km. According to Section 51 of the regulations, a designated project includes:

- › The construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment of a new all-season public highway that requires a total of 75 km or more of new right-of-way.

The Project is not part of a larger project that is not listed under the Project List.

11 Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works

The Project is a multi-use all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR. The Project is generally bookended by the proposed WSR to the north and the proposed MFCAR to the south as shown in **Figure 9-1**. The proposed WSR has a defined east terminus in the McFaulds Lake in the Ring of Fire area to which the Project's north terminus will connect. The south terminus of the Project will connect to the proposed MFCAR.

The road will be gravel surfaced, including shoulders, with material sourced from aggregate sites (pits and quarries) that have suitable sand deposits (e.g., glaciofluvial deposits, rock outcrops and other locations near the roadway). The design of the underlying subgrade material and its depth below the granular surface of the road will have consideration for the typical vehicle types (e.g., light pick-up trucks, heavy industrial/commercial transport trucks and trailers) and volumes that are envisioned to use the road, including their weight/load. Traffic operations may also include mineral ore or mine product hauling. The specific traffic mix (%) of heavy vehicles (e.g., trucks) versus light vehicles will be further examined in the EAR/IS.

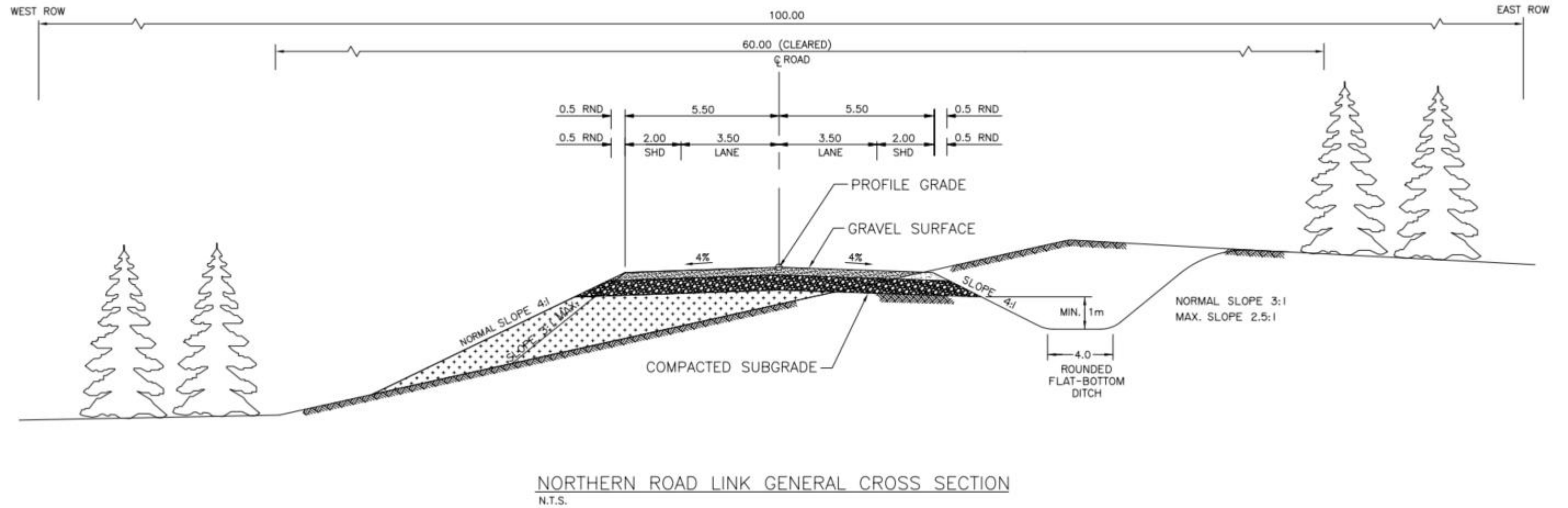
The gravel surface of the road will have a cross-fall of 4% for the purposes of drainage. All roadside ditches will be sized for the 10-year Minor System Design Flow and a minimum 100-year Major System Design Flow in accordance with MTO Drainage Standards (MTO, 2008). Culverts at waterbody crossings will be sized to accommodate a minimum 25-year return period design flow for structures with a total span less than or equal to 6.0 metres (m), and a minimum 50-year return period design flow for structures with a total span greater than 6.0 m (MTO Drainage Standards WC-1, WC-7). A minimum culvert diameter or rise of 900 millimetres (mm) will be provided for circular, elliptical or arch culverts. A minimum 900 mm rise will be provided for box culverts (MTO Drainage Standards WC-8). Structural design for bridges and culverts at waterbody crossings will be carried out upon selection of a preferred road alignment and will take into consideration remote access constraints, material availabilities and the Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code (CSA, 2019) as well as environmental considerations. A typical cross-section for the Project is provided in **Figure 11-1**.

The proponent acknowledges the importance of preserving the hydrology of the peatlands and will include design measures to minimize negative effects. Road construction on peatlands is complex from both an engineering and environmental perspective. Road construction techniques may include: leaving peat material in situ (e.g., building the road overtop peat); the use of a geotextiles to manage migration of fine materials, use of blast rock or large size screened aggregate placed on top of the peat to minimize or eliminate impacts to groundwater flow, and equalization culverts.

Road intersections will be designed in accordance with the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Geometric Design for Canadian Roads standards and the MTO/TAC supplemental standards used for municipal roads and provincial highways. Road intersections, as well as other design elements, such as signage, illumination, and commercial/recreational entrances, will be considered during detailed design of the Project.

Roadside safety is of paramount importance, so the Project will be designed in accordance with the MTO Roadside Design Manual (MTO, 2020b).

The proponent will estimate approximate employment needs for the construction and operations of the Project during the preliminary engineering. This information will be included in the EAR/IS. The proponent will look for opportunities to maximize local employment.



Northern Road Link

Typical Cross-Section for the Project

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 11-1 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |
| | | APP | ND |

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11.1 Project Infrastructure and Temporary and Permanent Structures

The Project is expected to include the following infrastructure and temporary and permanent structures.

› Road:

- Approximate length of 117 km to 164 km (depending on the chosen corridor) of all-season gravel road with a 60 m cleared area and a 100 m right-of-way (ROW).
- Approximately 11.5 m wide (top width) multi-use road, including undivided lanes (two 3.5 m wide lanes), shoulders and ditches (when required).

› Water Crossings:

- There are approximately 76 watercourses and waterbodies that intersect all alternative corridor segments (**Table 11-1; Figure 11-2**). Various combinations of six (6) or seven (7) alternative corridor segments are available to put together a full corridor for the Project. Each corridor is 2 km wide. The actual number of water crossings will not be known until a corridor is chosen as well as the road alignment within that corridor, and could range from approximately 21 to 49 individual watercourse crossings.
- The width of water crossing ranges from less than 5 m to greater than 200 m.
- Depending on the route chosen and subject to further engineering, there are up to 21 water crossings that might require a bridge (i.e., crossing width greater than 25 m) and up to 31 crossings that might require a culvert. The largest crossing is the Attawapiskat River (greater than 200 m).
- Structures and culverts will be sized to accommodate navigation where required and/or where watercourses have sufficient flow to support navigation.

› Access Roads:

- Temporary access roads will be required to support construction activities (e.g., to access water crossing works, work sites or temporary aggregate extraction sites).
- There may be several permanent access roads (e.g., to access maintenance facilities located along the road and to access one or two long-term aggregate extraction sites).

› Aggregate sites:

- There will be aggregate pits and bedrock quarries and crushing/production facilities (located at quarry sites). The exact number of sites will depend on the chosen corridor and alignment but, order of magnitude estimates are one or two bedrock quarries and five to ten coarse aggregate borrow pits. Glaciofluvial material may be used for embankment fill using a balanced cut and fill approach as much as possible.
- Most sites are expected to be located within the 2-km wide corridors (**Figure 14-1**) but there could be up to two aggregate sites outside the corridor that would require access roads of approximately 6 km. Locations will be confirmed during detail design.
- Preliminary volumes of aggregate that may be required for each alternative corridor segment are presented in **Table 11-1**. Based on the alternative corridors chosen, a preliminary estimate of aggregate material required ranges between 7.5 million m³ and 11.3 million m³.

› Storage/laydown areas, maintenance facilities/yards, construction camps, rest areas, snow plough turnarounds:

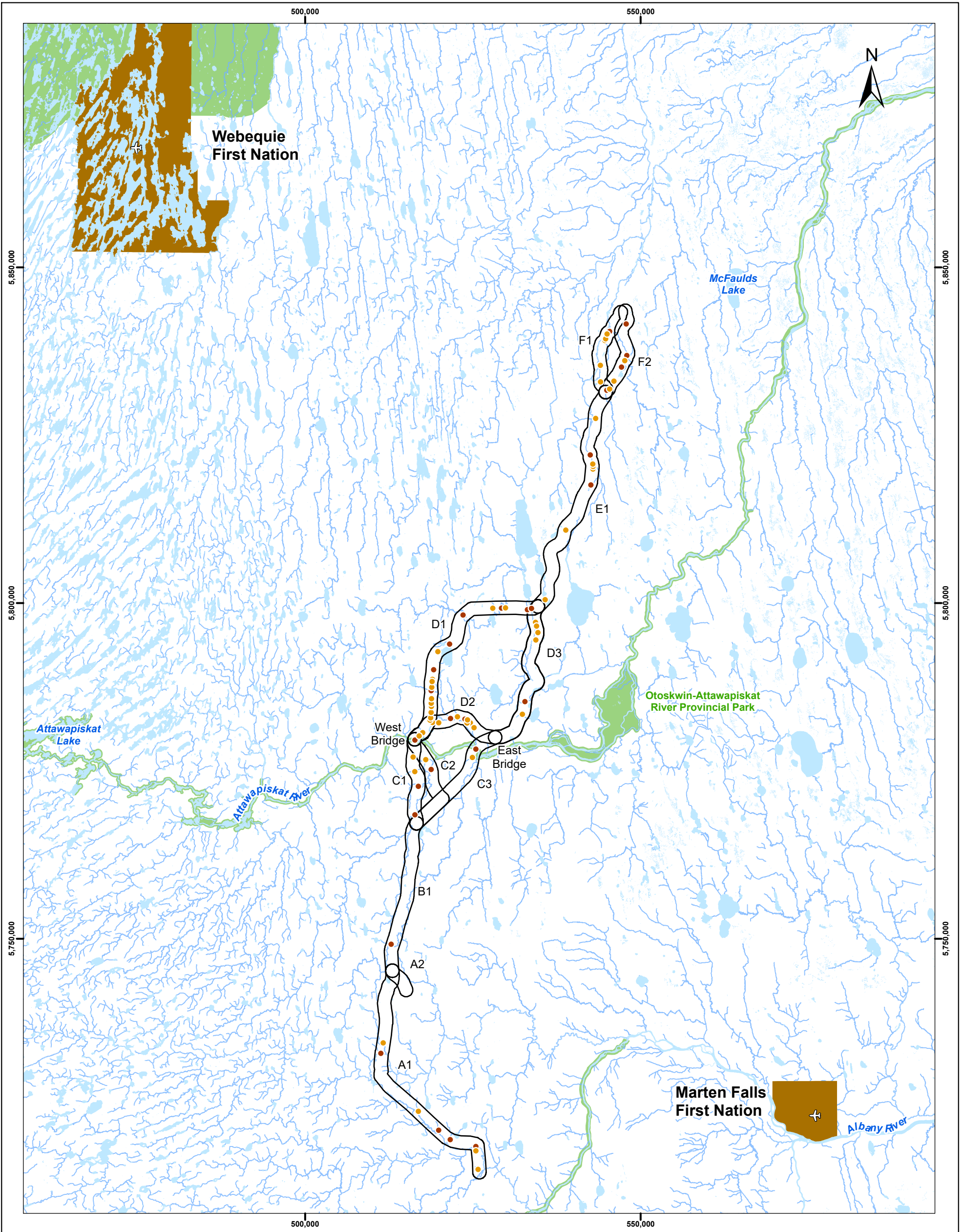
- The exact number and location of maintenance yards will be dependent upon the preferred alignment but there is expected to be one maintenance yard located every 50 km to 80 km.

› **Construction camps:**

- Camps will be located near key structural locations (major water crossings) and/or about every 20 km along the ROW but locations and sizes will be confirmed during detail design. They will range in size but could accommodate up to 200 personnel; the size will be determined by equipment and other construction needs.

Table 11-1: Preliminary Estimate of Potential Aggregate Volumes and Watercourse Crossings by Alternative Corridor Segment

| Alternative Corridor Segment | Segment Length (km) | Preliminary Estimate of Potential Aggregate Volumes (m ³) | Preliminary Estimate of No. Watercourse Crossings (Culverts / Bridges) |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A1 | 39.84 | 2,521,420 | 8 (4 / 4) |
| A2 | 3.76 | 385,389 | 0 (0 / 0) |
| B1 | 22.08 | 894,319 | 1 (0 / 1) |
| C1 | 13.53 | 1,292,446 | 5 (2 / 3) |
| C2 | 15.42 | 1,278,943 | 2 (1 / 1) |
| C3 | 20.46 | 1,067,754 | 2 (1 / 1) |
| D1 | 13.45 | 2,718,958 | 6 (14 / 7) |
| D2 | 32.62 | 1,386,816 | 21 (10 / 2) |
| D3 | 16.58 | 1,949,211 | 12 (3 / 1) |
| E1 | 20.98 | 2,531,171 | 4 (6 / 2) |
| F1 | 35.47 | 698,090 | 8 (5 / 1) |
| F2 | 13.57 | 735,183 | 7 (3 / 4) |



Legend:

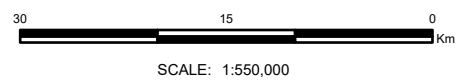
- Corridor Alternatives
- Water Crossing**
- Potential Culvert (Total = 49)
- Potential Bridge (Total = 27)
- ✈ Airports
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody
- Watercourse

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N.
2. Cadstral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geo.hub.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Northern Road Link

Potential Water Crossings

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 11-2 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| The type of structure (bridge or culvert) is preliminary and may change as the EA process proceeds | | AD | ND |

11.2 Project Activities and Physical Works

Table 11-2 provides a summary of Project activities by phase, based on preliminary conceptual design that may be subject to change. The EAR/IS will include a detailed description of the Project activities for each phase of the Project.

These activities are subordinate to the Project and none of them have commenced or are ongoing. As discussed in **Section 2**, MFFN and WFN are collectively the proponent of the Project’s EA/IA and preliminary design. Proponent options for road ownership, operation/maintenance activities and liability are being considered in ongoing discussions with the Province of Ontario. Since the operator of the Project is unknown at this time, it is currently unknown if some activities will be undertaken by a third party, the nature of the relationship between the proponent and said third party, and whether the proponent has the ability to “direct or influence” the carrying out of the activity. It is also unknown if some of these activities may be solely for the benefit of the proponent or available for other proponents as well. However, it is recognized that should there be a change in Project proponenty, all Project conditions, commitments and responsibilities agreed upon during the EA/IA Planning Phase and the EA/IA, including proposed mitigation, would be transferred to the new proponent.

Table 11-2: Summary of Project Activities by Phase

| Activity | Associated Activities |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Preparation | |
| Site preparation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Tree/vegetation clearing and grubbing within ROW; › Installation of mitigation measures; › Installation of erosion and sediment control measures; › Development of construction camps; and › Establishment of site perimeters. |
| Construction Phase | |
| Road construction within an approximately 100 m ROW width over a distance of 117 km to 164 km | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Vegetation clearing and grubbing of road ROW and supportive infrastructure (access road, camps, laydown areas aggregate extraction areas); › Earthworks, excavation, and grading activities; › Construction/installation of permanent culverts and bridges at up to larger waterbody crossings that have widths ranging from 25m up to more than 200 m; › Construction/installation of multi-span bridge waterbody crossings ranging in length from 25 m to 250 m; › Construction/installation of single-span bridge waterbody crossings ranging in length from 25 m to 35 m; › Installation of culverts for waterbody crossings and non-permanent stormwater flows/creeks for length less than 5 m; › Hauling, placement, grading and compaction of aggregate material for roadbed; › Blasting, as required for aggregate extraction and/or road development; › Stockpiling of soils and aggregate; and › Post-construction clean-up and site restoration. |
| Construction of supporting infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Construction and operation of temporary storage and laydown yards; › Construction and operation of temporary access roads, of which some may remain as permanent access roads for use during the operations phase of the Project; › Construction and operation of construction camps; and › Development of aggregate extraction areas (e.g., pits and quarries) with crushing/processing facilities that are subject to obtaining an Aggregate Permit. One or more aggregate extraction areas may be retained for use during the operations phase of the Project. |

Table 11-2 (Cont'd): Summary of Project Activities by Phase

| Activity | Associated Activities |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Emissions, discharges and waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Transport, handling and storage of fuel for equipment and vehicles; › Handling and disposal of waste oil, lubricants and other fluid products used for the maintenance of equipment and vehicles; › Storage, handling and disposal of solid waste generated at temporary construction camps/work sites (e.g., construction waste, domestic waste, wood, cardboard, plastics, foods, metals); › Domestic waste (e.g., garbage/litter) from road use; › Management and/or disposal of wastewater and sewage, both hazardous and non-hazardous, in the form of liquid effluent generated at the temporary workforce/construction camps; › Air emissions from the operation of equipment and vehicles, including engine exhaust and dust generation; › Air emissions (particulate matter) from earthworks, blasting and hauling; › Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as result of the construction of the Project; › Noise emissions from equipment and vehicles; › Vibrations, particularly if blasting is required in discrete areas for road development and/or for obtaining aggregates; › Light pollution; and › Accidental releases. |
| Operations Phase | |
| Road operation and maintenance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Inspection and maintenance/repairs of road and structures at waterbody crossings, including emergency repairs; › Localized surface repairs and full granular resurfacing of road base and shoulder; › Winter maintenance – snow clearing and de-icing; › Management of vegetation/brush within the corridor; › Road drainage system – clean-out/repairs to culverts, ditches and outfalls or ditch inlet structures; › Management of vegetation/brush within the corridor; › Road drainage system – clean-out/repairs to culverts, ditches and outfalls or ditch inlet structures; › As required, collection and disposal of animal carcasses resulting from vehicle collisions; and › Operational use (traffic). |
| Emissions, discharges and waste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Transport, handling and storage of fuel for equipment and vehicles; › Handling and disposal of waste oil, lubricants and other fluid products used for the maintenance of equipment and vehicles; › Air emissions from the operation of equipment and vehicles, including engine exhaust and dust generation; › GHG emissions as result of the operation of the Project; › Noise emissions from equipment and vehicles transiting the road; › Noise emissions from equipment used for road maintenance; › Noise emissions from equipment used for road repair; and › Accidental releases. |

11.3 Construction Vehicles and Equipment

It is anticipated that the following vehicles and equipment will be used during construction:

- › Feller-bunchers;
- › Skidders/delimiters;
- › Crushing spreads;
- › Hauling trucks;
- › Excavators;
- › Loaders;
- › Dozers;
- › Graders;
- › Packers;
- › Water Trucks;
- › Backhoes;
- › Half tons;
- › Fuel tanks;
- › Concrete batch plant; and
- › Concrete trucks.

This list of vehicles and equipment is preliminary and will be updated in the EAR/IS. The Contractor will be responsible for maintaining the equipment and vehicles, temporary access roads, laydown areas, quarries, and construction camps.

12 Estimated Maximum Project Capacity

Preliminary design criteria for the Project are summarized in **Table 12-1**.

Table 12-1: Preliminary Design Criteria

| Preliminary Design Criteria | Value |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Functional Highway Classification | RCU100 |
| Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) | Assumed >500 vehicles per day |
| Design Speed | 100 km/h |
| Posted Speed Limit | 80 km/h |
| Right-of-Way | 100 m |
| Surface | Gravel surface, including shoulders |
| Road Top Width | Approximately 11.5 m |

Note: Preliminary Design Criteria are subject to change.

13 Project Schedule

Preliminary Project phases and timelines include:

- › EA/IA (3 to 5 years);
- › Permitting and detail design (12 months);
- › Site preparation (6 months);
- › Construction (3 to 10 years); and
- › Operation and maintenance (indefinite).

It is acknowledged that the NRL will connect with the MFCAR. The EAR/IS will describe the timing of the construction and operation of the Project in relation to the timing of the construction and operation of the proposed MFCAR. A detailed construction schedule will be included in the EAR/IS.

14 Project Alternatives

14.1 “Alternatives Means” to Carry Out the Project

The proponent will consider “alternative means” of carrying out the Project, including:

- › Corridor alternatives, for evaluation and selection of a preferred corridor for the Project; and
- › Ancillary infrastructure alternatives for the preferred corridor.

The assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project will incorporate input from Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, and federal and provincial regulators, to be obtained through the consultation and engagement process, as well as IK/ILRU and other baseline data

14.1.1 Corridor Alternatives

Based on initial technical review and feedback from Indigenous communities, the proponent will assess twelve (12) alternative corridor segments, as shown on **Figure 14-1**: A1, A2, B1, C1, C2, C3, D1, D2, D3, E1, F1, F2. Each alternative corridor segment is 2 km wide. The lengths of the alternative corridor segments are listed in **Table 11-1**.

Various combinations of alternative corridor segments are available to put together a full corridor for the Project between the start point connecting to MFCAR and the end point connecting to WSR. Accordingly, the potential length of the Project can vary between 117 km and 164 km.

The 12 alternative corridor segments were identified based on a high-level analysis, focusing on terrain units and known information about SAR, sensitive habitat and community values. **Figure 14-2** presents the alternative corridor segments in the context of terrain suitability, while **Table 14-1** shows the colour coding for terrain suitability. The terrain mapping gradation ranges from less suitable (red) to more suitable (green) terrain and was based on data from the Ontario Geological Survey surficial geology maps and previous terrain and geotechnical studies, orthophotos, stereoscopic air photos, satellite imagery, and LiDAR digital elevation data.

Table 14-1: Terrain Suitability Colour Coding

| Red | Orange | Yellow | Green |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Less suitable</i> | | <i>More Suitable</i> | |
| <p>Major Watercourses and Waterbodies: Attawapiskat River is the only major watercourse Waterbodies including lakes and fens (i.e., wetlands interconnected to other waterbodies and/or watercourses).</p> <p>Permafrost</p> | <p>Organic Deposits, including wetlands (excluding fens covered under Major Watercourses and Waterbodies). Wetlands, including peatlands. Minor watercourses: smaller creeks and streams (all creeks/streams with the exception of the Attwapiskat River).</p> | <p>Non-Organic Deposits, as specified: Marine beach and near-shore deposits; glaciolacustrine beach and near-shore deposits; glaciolacustrine basin deposits; and glacial deposits.</p> | <p>Non-Organic Deposits, as specified: Metamorphic and igneous rocks; glaciofluvial ice-contact deposits; and glacial deposits and bedrock, including eskers.</p> |

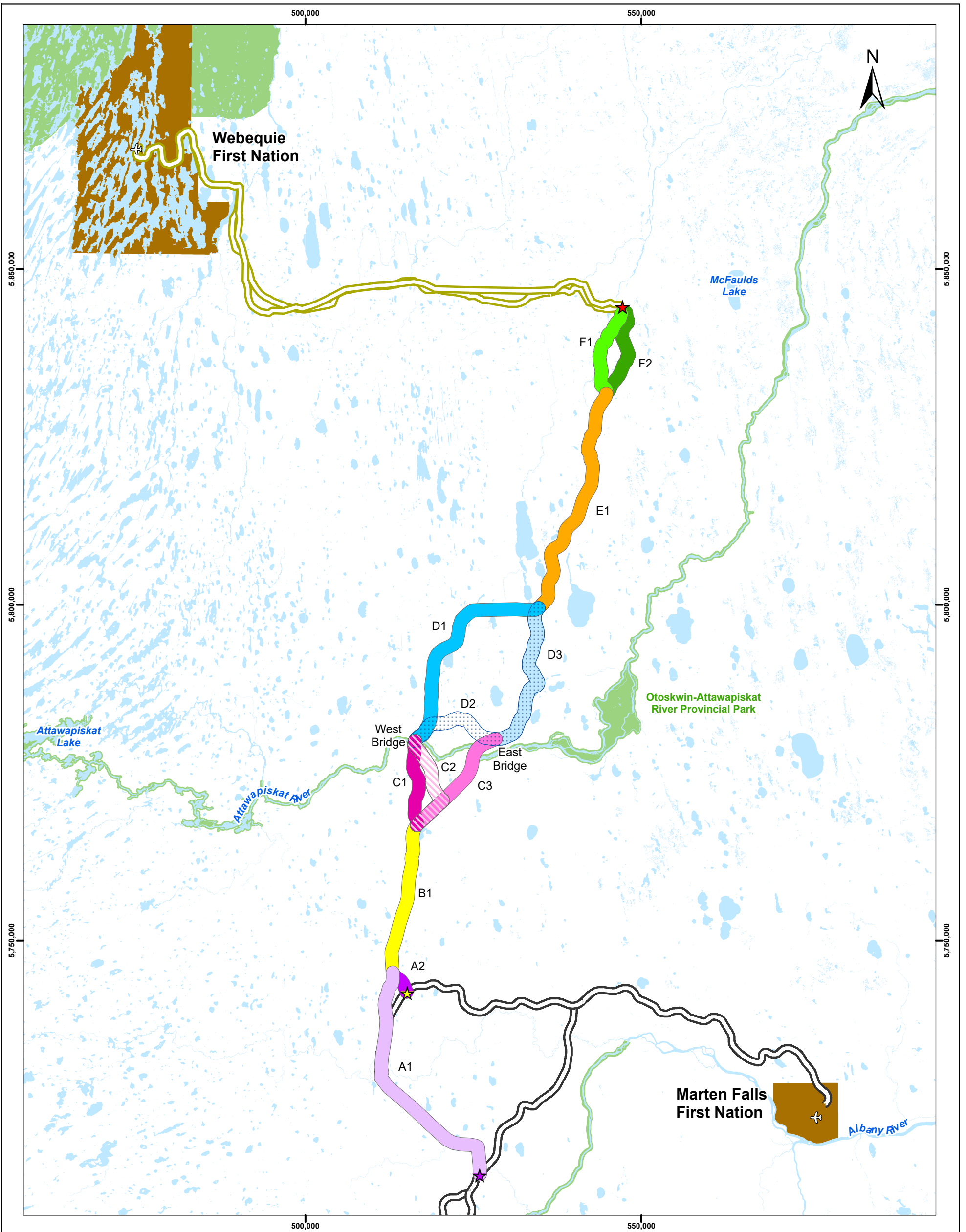
Although multiple segment combinations are possible, there are some restrictions:

- › The choice between segments A1 and A2 is entirely dependent on the preferred corridor selected for the MFCAR project;
- › Segments B1 and E1 remain the same in all potential combinations;
- › Segments C1 and C2 can only connect with segments D1 or D2 to the north;
- › Segment C3 can only connect with segment D3 to the north; and
- › Segment D3 can only connect with segment E1 to the north.

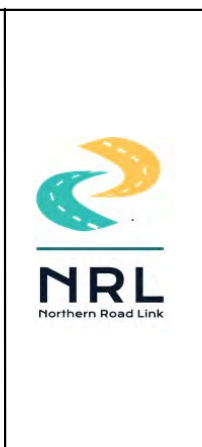
As such, the assessment of “alternative means” to carry out the Project will evaluate the following combinations of segments to determine the preferred corridor for the Project:

- › A1/A2 – B1 – C1/C2 – D1 – E1 – F1/F2;
- › A1/A2 – B1 – C1/C2 – D2 – D3 – E1 – F1/F2; and
- › A1/A2 – B1 – C3 – D3 – E1 – F1/F2.

The specific routing within the corridors will be determined during the EA/IA process. It is possible that additional viable alternative routes may be identified during the EA/IA that warrant consideration. Should modifications to the alternative corridors be identified during the EA/IA, these will be brought forward for further consultation and engagement.



| Legend: | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corridor Alternatives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Connection to MFCAR West Alternative ★ Connection to MFCAR East Alternative ★ Connection to WSR ✈ Airports ■ First Nation Reserve ■ Waterbody ■ Provincial Park ■ Proposed Webeque Supply Road (WSR) Alternatives ■ Proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) Alternatives |
| A1 | |
| A2 | |
| B1 | |
| C1 | |
| C2 | |
| C3 | |
| D1 | |
| D2 | |
| D3 | |
| E1 | |
| F1 | |
| F2 | |



SCALE: 1:550,000

Northern Road Link

Corridor Alternatives

| | | | |
|----------------|------|------|----|
| Figure Number: | 14-1 | REV: | PA |
|----------------|------|------|----|

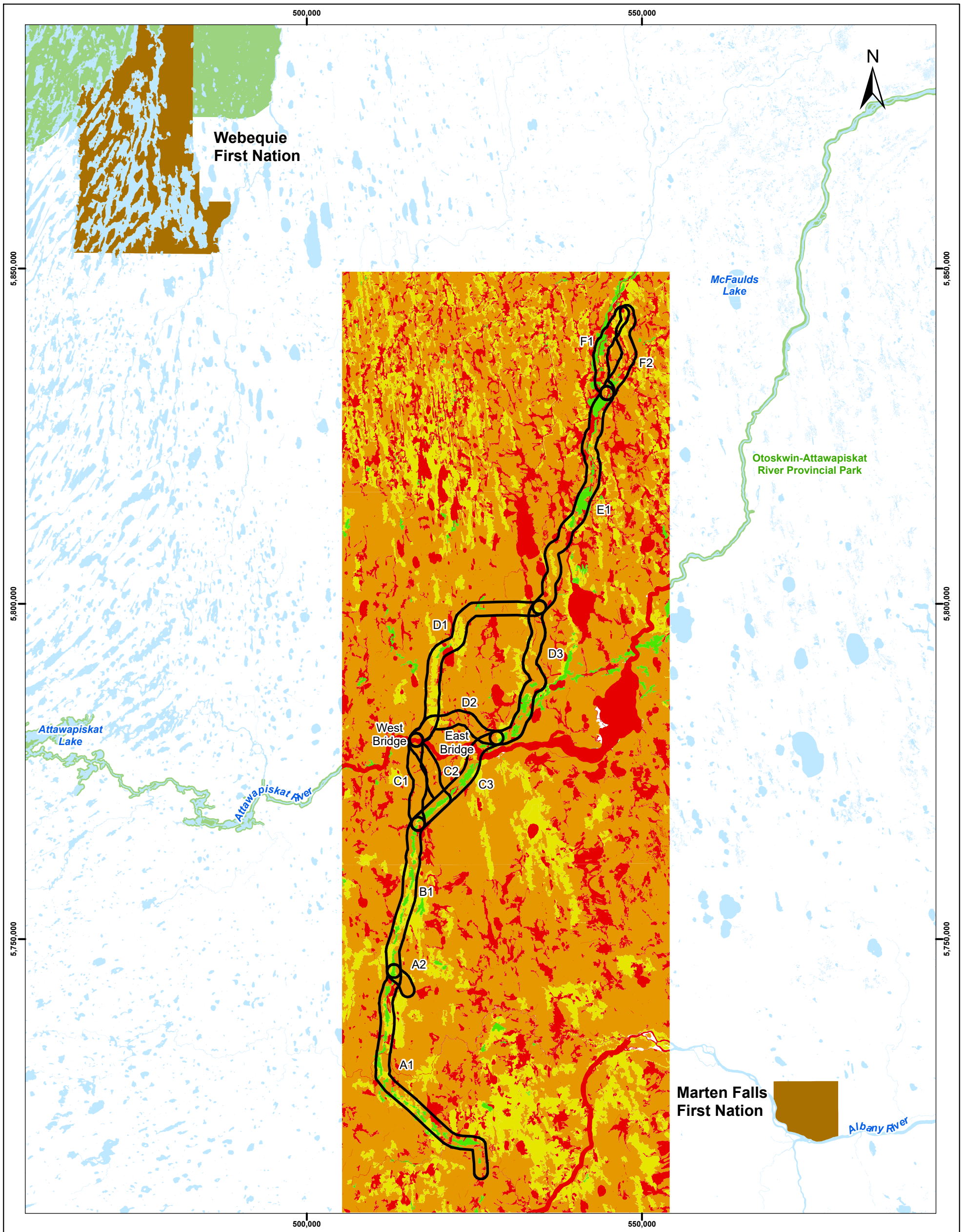
NOTES

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- Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
- Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geoinfo.lio.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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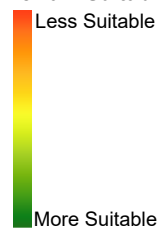
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| Client: | Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: | 679878 | Date: | 2023-05-01 |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK | APP | |
| | | AD | ND | ND | |



Legend:

Terrain Suitability



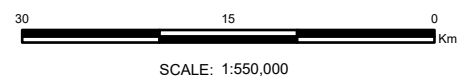
- Corridor Alternatives
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N.
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 3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information, and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geo.hub.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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Northern Road Link

Terrain Suitability

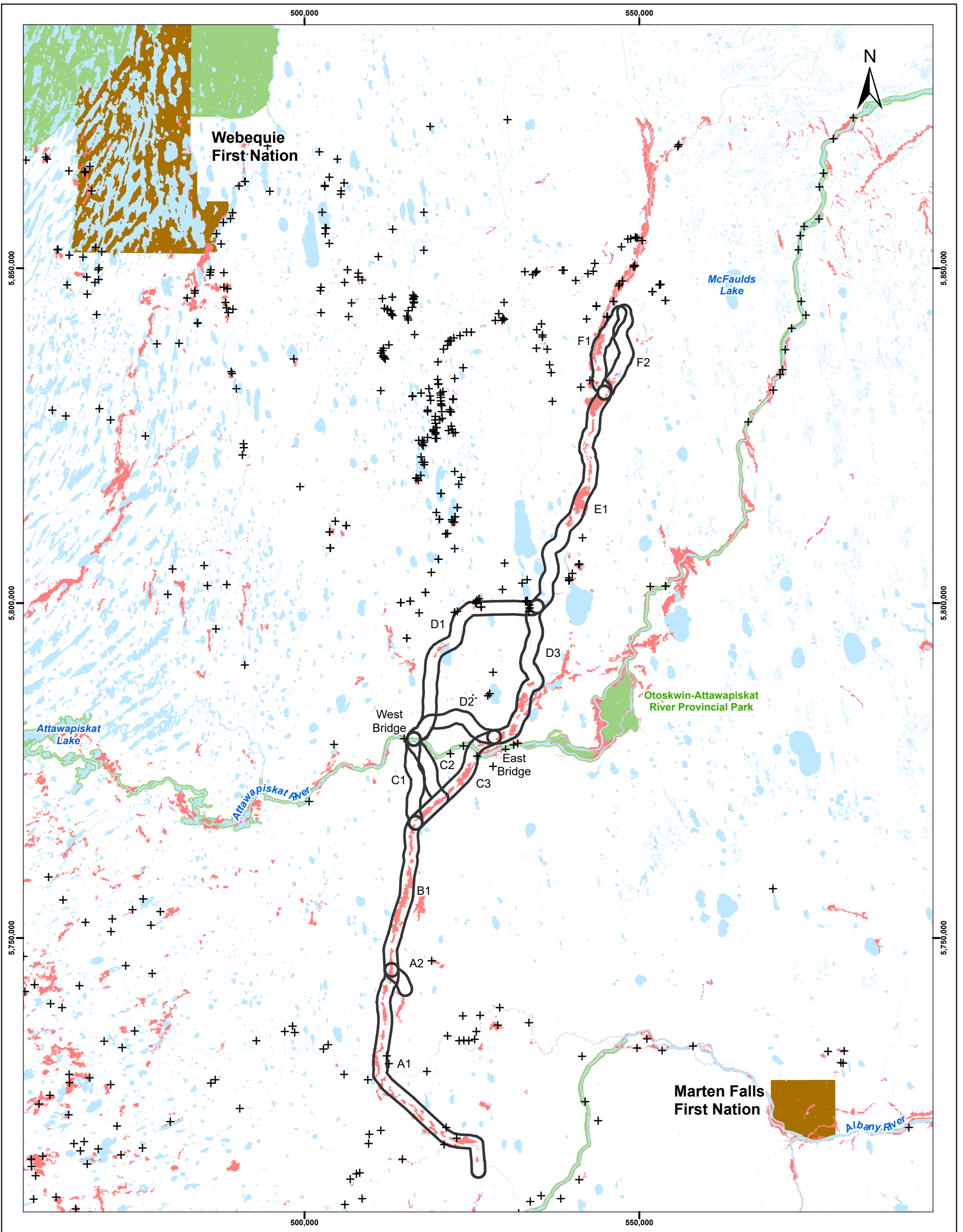
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|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 14-2 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |

14.1.2 Alternatives for Ancillary Infrastructure, Project Components and Project Activities

The proponent will consider and assess ancillary infrastructure alternatives for the preferred corridor in the EA/IA. This will include but not be limited to:

- 1) Alternative sites for temporary and/or permanent aggregate sites (pits and quarries) and crushing/production facilities needed for construction and operation and maintenance of the road, including access roads to these sites;
- 2) Alternative sites for temporary and/or permanent ancillary infrastructure for construction and operation, including access roads to these sites (e.g., temporary and/or permanent laydown, storage areas and maintenance facilities/yards; construction camps; rest areas; snow plough turnarounds);
- 3) Watercourse crossing structure types (i.e., culverts, bridges), span length, lifecycle, construction staging methods at waterbody crossings, hydrological and aquatic environment, and long-term maintenance;
- 4) Road attributes, including roadbed foundation; horizontal alignment, vertical alignment (elevation/profile), and adjustments to the cross-section and ROW width of the corridor; and
- 5) Construction timing (seasonal) and staging along the ROW to facilitate construction and minimize potential effects on the natural environment and traditional ILRU.

Aggregate sources needed for road construction include glaciofluvial deposits and surficial bedrock. Potential locations for aggregate and bedrock are provided in **Figure 14-3**, based on data from the Ontario Geological Survey, 1:100,000 surficial geology map series, and geospatial data.



Legend:

- Corridor Alternatives
- Bedrock Outcrops
- Potential Aggregate Sources
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody



SCALE: 1:550,000

Northern Road Link

Potential Aggregate and Bedrock Locations in the Region

NOTES

1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 18N.
2. Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
3. Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset; Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information; and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://github.io.gov.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04
4. Aggregate sources were derived from the following dataset: Ontario Geological Survey, 1:100,000 surficial geology map series, maps and geospatial data. Potential aggregate sources include glaciofluvial deposits and surficial bedrock.

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|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 14-3 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-031 | |
| DSC | DRN | CHK | APP |
| AD | LM | LM | LM |

14.2 “Alternatives to” the Project

For transportation projects, “alternatives to” the Project typically include options such as new or improved roads, new or improved rail service or air service. However, these alternative methods of transportation would not meet the purpose of the Project, which is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR. The Project would create the opportunity to link two roads, the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR. As such, the Project is also proposed to be a road. **Section 9.2** provides further justification for the Project being a road.

There are no “alternatives to” the Project that meet the need and/or achieve the purpose of the Project. As such, the only “alternative to” the Project that will be included in the EA/IA for assessment is “do nothing”. The “do nothing” alternative is the option of not proceeding with the Project. The “do nothing” alternative provides a benchmark against which other alternatives can be compared. The EA/IA will include the “do nothing” alternative as an “alternative to” the Project, to assess the overall advantages and disadvantages of proceeding with the preferred methods of implementing the Project where a net effect is identified against maintaining the status quo, from a variety of perspectives, including cost/value, environmental effects, social and economic benefit.

If the “do nothing” alternative is chosen as the preferred alternative, there would be no undertaking and EA approval would not be required. The “do nothing” alternative, compared to the preferred alternative, would not result in any impacts to the environment; nor would the proponent need to undergo an EA/IA if the do nothing was selected.

The “do nothing” alternative, however, does not address the stated purpose of the Project. If the “do nothing” is selected, the communities of MFFN and WFN would not have the benefit of being connected to each other by an all-season roadway. If the “do nothing” alternative is selected, the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area may remain undeveloped and there would be a loss of potential social and economic benefits to MFFN and WFN, as well as to other Indigenous communities and other levels of government.

Part D: Location Information and Context

This section provides a description of the designated Project's proposed location.

15 Location Description

The Project is a proposed multi-use road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR, in northern Ontario. The overall Project location is shown on **Figure 1-1**. The Project will have an approximate length of 117 km to 164 km (depending on the chosen corridor) with a 60 m cleared area and a 100 m ROW not previously used for other projects. The south end of the Project is approximately 150 km north of the Municipality of Greenstone, 480 km northeast of Dryden, 400 km northeast of Thunder Bay, 510 km northwest of Timmins and 1,040 km northwest of Toronto.

The Project is generally bookended by the proposed WSR to the north and the proposed MFCAR to the south. The Project's north terminus will connect to the proposed WSR at its east terminus near McFaulds Lake in the Ring of Fire area. The Project's south terminus will connect to the proposed MFCAR. The proposed MFCAR currently has two alternative corridors under assessment. The point where the Project will connect to the MFCAR will be based on the final MFCAR corridor when it is selected. **Figure 14-1** shows the Project corridor alternatives within the context of these other proposed road projects (i.e., MFCAR and WSR).

The Project will be comprised of a single corridor formed by the selected alternative corridor segments. The selection of the preferred corridor will occur during the EA/IA with input from Indigenous communities and interested persons, discussion with regulators, available IK/ILRU, and information collected during the baseline characterization. The twelve alternative corridor segments that have been identified for the Project are shown on **Figure 14-1**. The final route alignment and associated watercourse crossings, major ancillary features (e.g., ancillary sites, quarry pits, and work camps) will be determined as the assessment and detailed design is prepared.

Aggregate extraction sites (pits and quarries) required to support construction of the Project will be located near or within the study area. The exact location of aggregate sites and any related crushing/production facilities will be confirmed later in the EA/IA process. Most aggregate sites will be rehabilitated after construction but a few sites will be maintained during operations to provide the aggregate required to maintain the roadway.

Temporary access roads to access aggregate extraction sites may be required and though most will be located near the roadway there may be a few temporary access roads between 1 and 8 km to access more remote aggregate sites. Temporary access roads may be required at larger water crossings depending on the specific terrain at the crossing and the structure types; details will be confirmed during the EAR/IS process and during detail design.

Temporary construction camps and laydown areas will be required to support construction activities. Construction camps could accommodate up to 200 personnel and equipment required for construction at that location. The larger sites will likely be located near major water course crossings or other major construction areas while smaller construction camps may be located along the ROW approximately every 20 km. Where possible, permanent maintenance facilities will be located within repurposed construction camps. Non-repurposed construction camps and temporary access roads will be rehabilitated post-construction.

The Project will not use an existing ROW that has been previously used for a different type of linear project.

15.1 Geographic Coordinates

As the final route is not yet selected the location of all segments being assessed are provided. The geographic coordinates of the northern and southern termini for the twelve alternative corridor segments are provided in **Table 15-1**.

Table 15-1: Geographic Coordinates of Alternatives Corridor Segments – North and South Termini

| Alternative Corridor Segment | North Termini (UTM) | | South Termini (UTM) | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | X (Easting) | Y (Northing) | X (Easting) | Y (Northing) |
| A1 | 513001 | 5745230 | 525967 | 5715220 |
| A2 | 513001 | 5745230 | 515048 | 5742370 |
| B1 | 516596 | 5767191 | 513001 | 5745230 |
| C1 | 516323 | 5779700 | 516596 | 5767191 |
| C2 | 516323 | 5779700 | 516596 | 5767191 |
| C3 | 528318 | 5779993 | 516596 | 5767191 |
| D1 | 534694 | 5799492 | 516323 | 5779700 |
| D2 | 534694 | 5799492 | 516323 | 5779700 |
| D3 | 534694 | 5799492 | 528318 | 5779993 |
| E1 | 544783 | 5831430 | 534694 | 5799492 |
| F1 | 547050 | 5843316 | 544783 | 5831430 |
| F2 | 547716 | 5843525 | 544783 | 5831430 |

Notes: UTM = Universal Transverse Mercator

15.2 Site Map

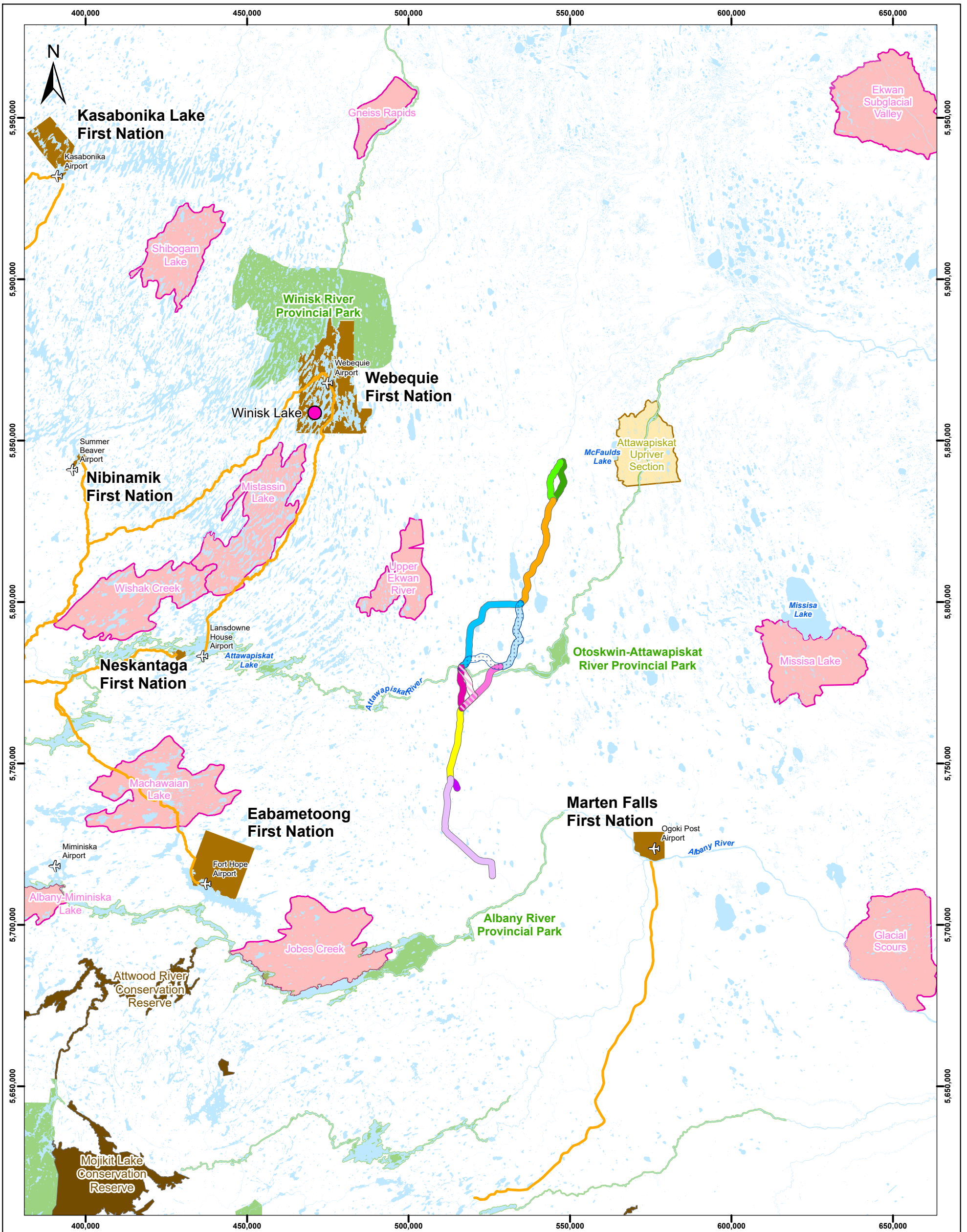
A Project site map is provided in **Figure 15-1** which shows the twelve alternative corridor segments that have been identified for the Project, existing winter road access, First Nation Reserve lands, provincial parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) identified by the provincial government and managed by the MNRF, waterbodies, conservation reserve, and airports.

15.3 Legal Description of the Land

The Project is located on Crown Land in Ontario within the District of Kenora. There are 38,835 active mining claims in the vicinity of the Project (i.e., within 115 km), and 1,428 of those claims overlap with the Project area. The Crown Land tenure and active claim holders that overlap the proposed Project corridors include the following entities:

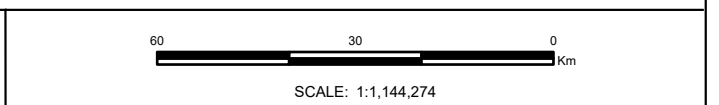
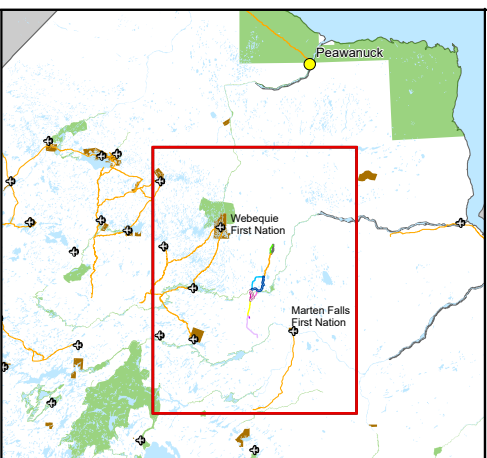
- › Ring of Fire Metals;
- › Wabassi Resources, ULC;
- › Resources KWG Inc./KWG Resources Inc.;
- › Fancamp Exploration Ltd.;
- › Noront Muketei Minerals Ltd.; and
- › Canada Chrome Corporation.

Figure 15-2 shows relevant political boundaries and nearby active and inactive mining claims that overlap with the Project alternative corridors.



Legend:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Corridor Alternatives | Waterbody |
| A1 | Provincial Park |
| A2 | Conservation Reserve |
| B1 | Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) |
| C1 | Candidate ANSI, Earth Science |
| C2 | Candidate ANSI, Life Science |
| C3 | Winisk Lake - Spruce Shores Lodge and Kanuchuan Outpost Camp |
| D1 | Peawanuck - Wild Wind Tours |
| D2 | |
| D3 | |
| E1 | |
| F1 | |
| F2 | |
| Airports | |
| Winter Road | |
| First Nation Reserve | |



Northern Road Link

Project Site Map

| | | | |
|----------------|------|------|----|
| Figure Number: | 15-1 | REV: | PA |
|----------------|------|------|----|

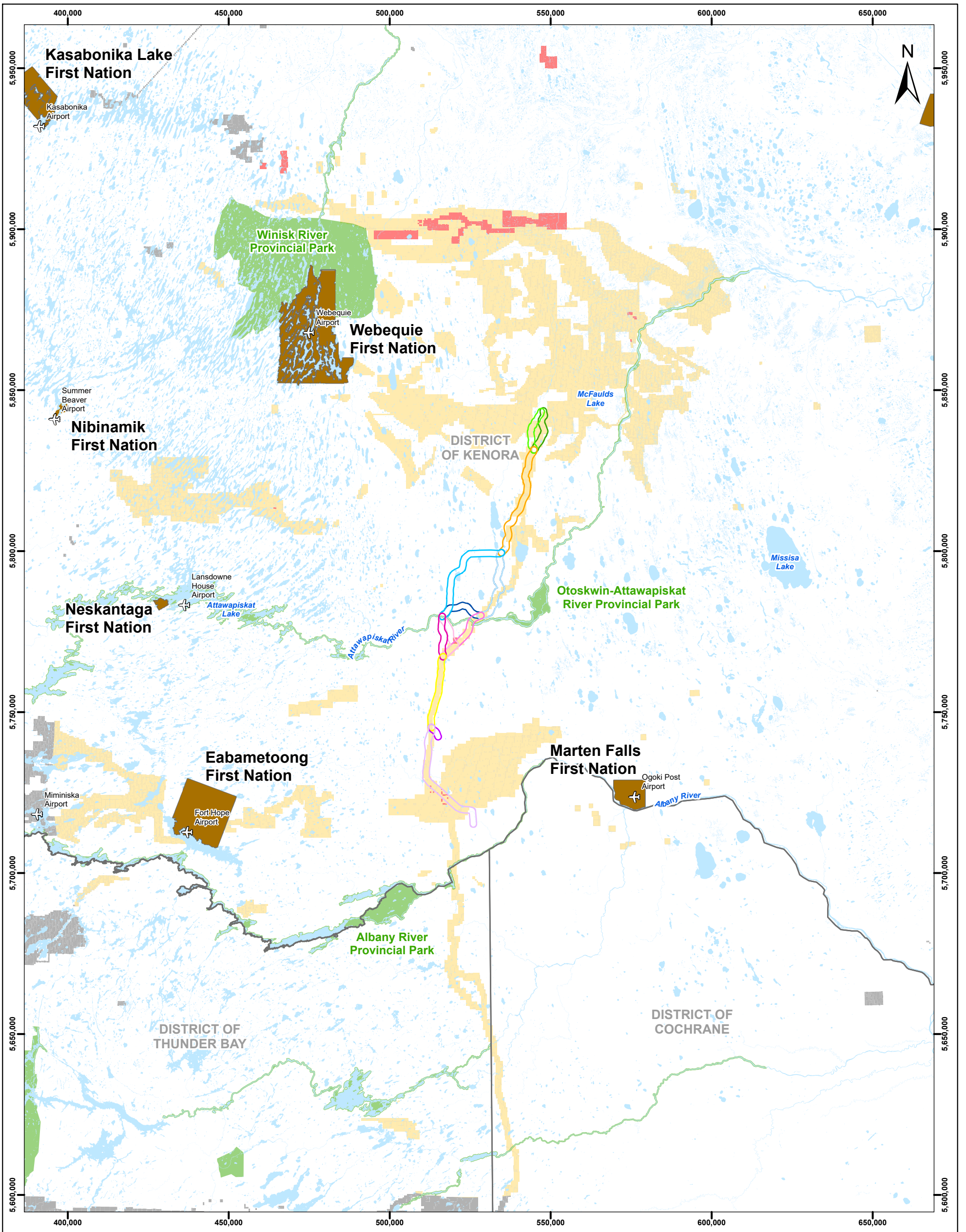
NOTES

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| | | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----|
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| DSC | | | |
| | DRN | CHK | APP |
| | AD | ND | ND |



Legend:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Corridor Alternatives | Waterbody |
| A1 | Provincial Park |
| A2 | Upper Tier |
| B1 | Municipalities and Districts |
| C1 | Mining Claims |
| C2 | Active |
| C3 | Hold Special Circumstances Apply |
| D1 | Mining Claims over 115 km away from Corridor Alternatives |
| D2 | |
| D3 | |
| E1 | |
| F1 | |
| F2 | |
| Airports | |
| First Nation Reserve | |



60 30 0
Km

SCALE: 1:1,144,274

Northern Road Link

Mining Claims

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|
| Figure Number: 15-2 | | REV: PA |
|----------------------------|--|----------------|

NOTES

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N.
- Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
- Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information, and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geo.hub.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

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| | | |
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| DSC | | |
| | DRN | CHK |
| | AD | ND |

15.4 Proximity to Residences and Nearby Affected Communities

The Project runs between 117 km and 164 km in length depending on the preferred alternative. The alternative corridor segments that are closest to nearby communities are summarized in **Table 15-2**. At this early stage of Project development, no other known residences or communities have been identified in proximity to the proposed Project corridor.

Other uses of lands and waters in the vicinity include tourist lodges, fly-in hunting and fishing camps and other tourist-related activities. The Project corridor overlaps with the Otonabee-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park as shown on **Figure 15-1**.

Table 15-2: Project’s Proximity to Nearby Communities

| Community | Distance to closest alternative corridor segment |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Webequie First Nation | 75 km northwest of alternative corridor segment F1 |
| Marten Falls First Nation | 49.5 km east of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Eabametoong First Nation | 70 km west of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Neskantaga First Nation | 86 km west of alternative corridor segment C1 |
| Nibinamik First Nation | 135 km northwest of alternative corridor segment D1 |

15.5 Proximity to Indigenous Lands

The Project will require access to, and the use, occupation, exploration, and development of lands and resources currently used for traditional purposes by Indigenous communities.

15.5.1 Land Used for Traditional Purposes by Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Project is located within lands with adherence to Treaty No. 9 (1929 – 1930) and in proximity to Treaty No. 9 lands (1905 – 1906), as shown in **Figure 15-3**. It is the proponent’s understanding that the Project is within the traditional lands of Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2 and in proximity to the traditional lands of Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 3. The Project’s proximity to Indigenous lands is summarized in **Table 15-3**. It is the proponent’s understanding that the Indigenous communities listed in **Table 14-3** practice traditional land uses on their treaty and adherence to treaty lands in proximity to the Project.

Table 15-3: Project’s Proximity to Indigenous Lands

| Indigenous Land | Identified Indigenous Communities ⁸ | Distance to Closest Alternative Corridor Segment |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Adhesion to Treaty No. 9, 1929 – 1930 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Aroland First Nation* › Attawapiskat First Nation* › Kasabonika Lake First Nation* › Kingfisher Lake First Nation › Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation* › Wapekeka First Nation › Wawakapewin First Nation › Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation* › Wunnumin Lake First Nation* | 0 km to all alternative corridor segments ^(a) |
| Treaty No. 9, 1905-1906 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Constance Lake First Nation* › Eabametoong First Nation* › Fort Albany First Nation* › Ginoogaming First Nation* › Kashechewan First Nation* › Long Lake #58 First Nation › Marten Falls First Nation › Neskantaga First Nation* › Nibinamik First Nation* › Webequie First Nation* | 8.73 km south of alternative corridor segment A1 |

Notes:

(a) A distance of 0 km indicates that the closest alternative corridor segment is located within the Indigenous land.

15.5.2 Land in a Reserve as Defined in Subsection 2(1) of the *Indian Act*

The Project is in proximity to five First Nation Reserves, as defined in Subsection 2(1) of the *Indian Act*. The proximity of the Project to these reserve lands is summarized in **Table 15-4**.

Table 15-4: Project’s Proximity to Land in a Reserve

| Land in a Reserve (First Nation Reserve) | Distance to Closest Alternative Corridor Segment |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Webequie First Nation | 75 km northwest of alternative corridor segment F1 |
| Marten Falls First Nation | 49.5 km east of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Eabametoong First Nation | 70 km west of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Neskantaga First Nation | 86 km west of alternative corridor segment C1 |
| Nibinamik First Nation | 135 km northwest of alternative corridor segment D1 |

⁸ The Agency provided a list of Indigenous communities and organizations whose Aboriginal and/or treaty rights may be affected by the Project or who may have an interest in the Project. These communities and organizations are identified with an asterisk.

15.5.3 First Nation Land as Defined in Subsection 2(1) of the *First Nations Land Management Act*

Two of the Indigenous communities identified in **Section 4.1** as potentially affected by the Project or that may have an interest in the Project, have a signed Framework Agreement under the *First Nations Land Management Act* (S.C. 1999, c. 24):

- › Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek; and
- › Long Lake #58 First Nation.

The Project's proximity to these two Indigenous communities is shown in **Table 15-5**.

Table 15-5: Project's Proximity to First Nation Land

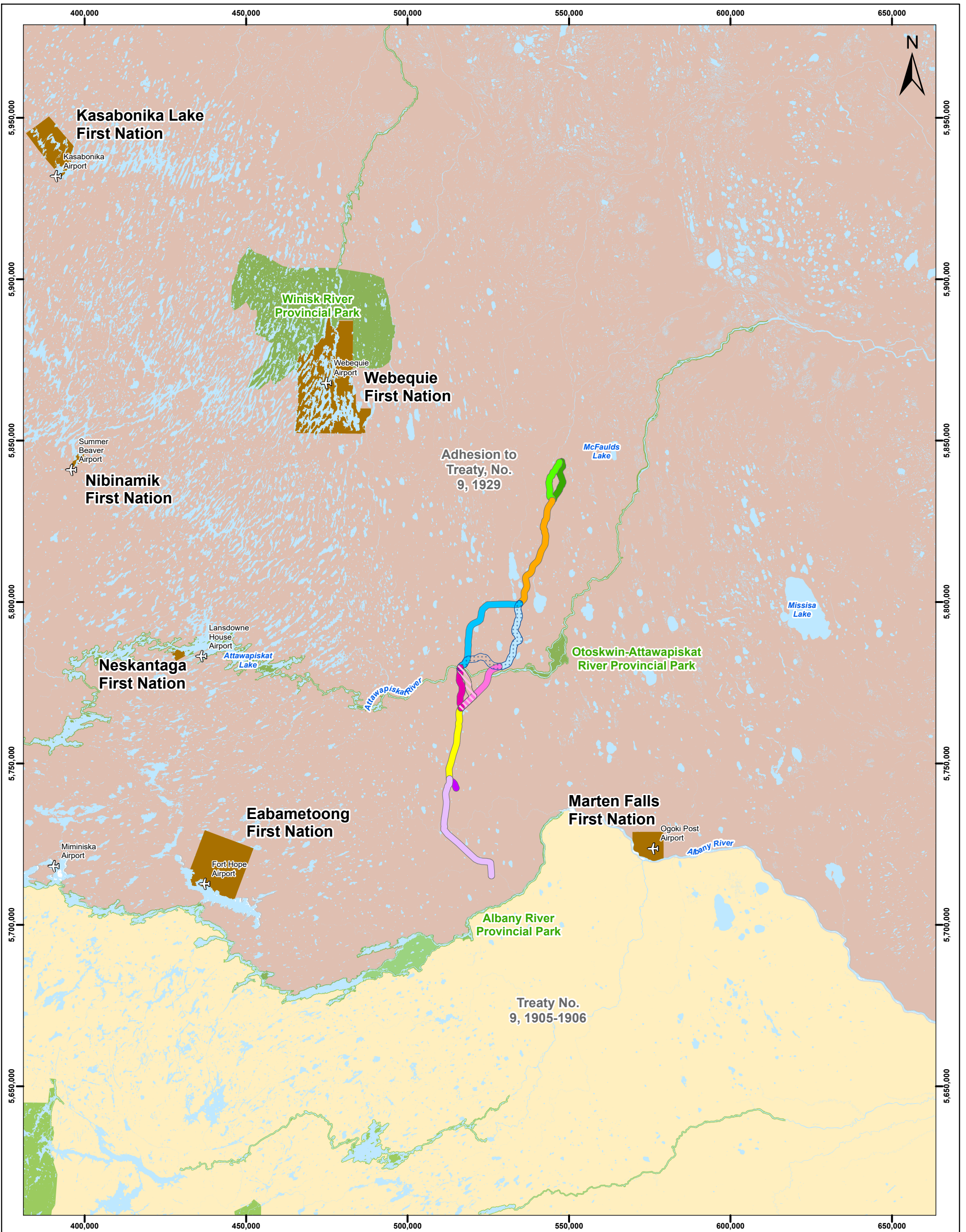
| First Nation Land (Indigenous Community with Signed Framework Agreement Under the <i>First Nations Land Management Act</i>) | Distance to Closest Alternative Corridor Segment |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek | 212 km southwest of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Long Lake #58 First Nation | 200 km south of alternative corridor segment A1 |

15.5.4 Land that is Subject to a Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement or a Self-government Agreement

The Métis Nation of Ontario is a Provincial Territorial Organization identified in **Section 4.1** as an organization to be notified of the Project to determine their interest in participating in the assessment process. The Métis Nation of Ontario has a Memorandum of Understanding with Her Majesty the Queen (now His Majesty the King) in Right of Canada, as represented by the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, to establish and participate in an exploratory discussion table for the negotiation of a comprehensive land claim or self-government agreement (GoC, 2019a).

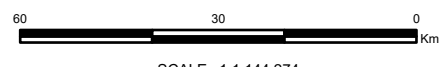
15.5.5 Other Land Set Aside for the Use and Benefit of Indigenous Peoples of Canada

The Project is being undertaken on lands regulated under the Ontario *Far North Act, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 18*. The *Far North Act* is the legislative foundation for land use planning in the Far North of Ontario (Government of Ontario, 2019).



- Legend:**
- Corridor Alternatives**
- A1
 - A2
 - B1
 - C1
 - C2
 - C3
 - D1
 - D2
 - D3
 - E1
 - F1
 - F2
- Airports
- First Nation Reserve

- Waterbody
- Provincial Park
- Adhesion to Treaty, No. 9, 1929
- Treaty No. 9, 1905-1906



Northern Road Link

Project's Proximity to Indigenous Lands

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----|
| Figure Number: 15-3 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | ND |

NOTES

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15.6 Proximity to Federal Lands

The Project is in proximity to five federally designated First Nation Reserves, the distance to these reserve lands, as defined in Subsection 2(1) of the *Indian Act*, is summarized in **Table 15-6**. The reserve lands are represented on **Figure 15-1**. No other federal lands are in proximity to the Project.

Table 15-6: Project’s Proximity to Federal Lands

| Federal Land – First Nation Reserve | Distance to Closest Alternative Corridor Segment |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Webequie First Nation | 75 km northwest of alternative corridor segment F1 |
| Marten Falls First Nation | 49.5 km east of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Eabametoong First Nation | 70 km west of alternative corridor segment A1 |
| Neskantaga First Nation | 86 km west of alternative corridor segment C1 |
| Nibinamik First Nation | 135 km northwest of alternative corridor segment D1 |

16 Description of the Physical and Biological Environment

This section provides a brief description of the physical and biological environment of the Project's location, based on information that is available to the public. The environmental descriptions below describe the general Project region which contains the anticipated Project footprint including the alternative corridors and ancillary infrastructure.

16.1 Physical Environment

16.1.1 Air Quality

The Project is located in a remote region of Ontario away from any significant sources of human induced air emissions, there are no local Ministry operated ambient air monitoring stations within the vicinity of the Project.

Due to the remote location of the Project, the surrounding environment is considered to be a pristine setting. Through a preliminary review of the Project area, it was confirmed that there are no large anthropogenic sources of emissions such as large industrial or transportation sources within the study area. As such, local air quality is not expected to be significantly influenced by anthropogenic sources of emissions. Forest fires may influence or contribute to particulate matter concentrations in the surrounding environment.

16.1.2 Greenhouse Gases

Due to the remote location of the Project, the surrounding environment is considered to be a pristine setting. Through a preliminary review of the Project area, it was confirmed that there are no large anthropogenic sources of emissions such as large industrial or transportation sources within the study area; as such, baseline GHG emissions and sequestration processes are expected to be dominated by naturally occurring processes such as the decay of organic matter and carbon uptake from vegetation.

16.1.3 Noise

Due to the remote location of the Project, the surrounding acoustic environment is expected to be dominated by sounds of nature (e.g., rustling leaves, animal calls) with little to no influence from anthropogenic noise sources. As such, the expected ambient noise levels along much of the Project route are expected to be consistent with those found in rural areas (i.e., 35 to 45 dBA [Health Canada, 2017]).

16.1.4 Groundwater

A hydrogeological study was completed by KBM Resources Group for the MFFN Industrial Supply Road in 2019. The study was a desktop analysis focusing on understanding of the existing physical settings including physiography, geology, groundwater and groundwater users in the vicinity of the Project. A very brief description of the hydrogeological conditions was provided in the report. No field work and associated data collection including groundwater level monitoring, groundwater quality sampling and hydraulic conductivity testing was carried out. In general, the hydrogeological environment can be described as follows (KBM, 2019a):

- › Crystalline (igneous and metamorphic) rocks of the Canadian Shield are characterized by low sparse fracture networks with low-potential aquifers, which also contributes to slow groundwater movement and recharge. Groundwater recharge in these fracture zones is highly localized (Cloutier et al., 2007).
- › Groundwater quality from these fractured rock zones is affected by the presence of metal contents in the bedrock (Chesnaux, 2013).

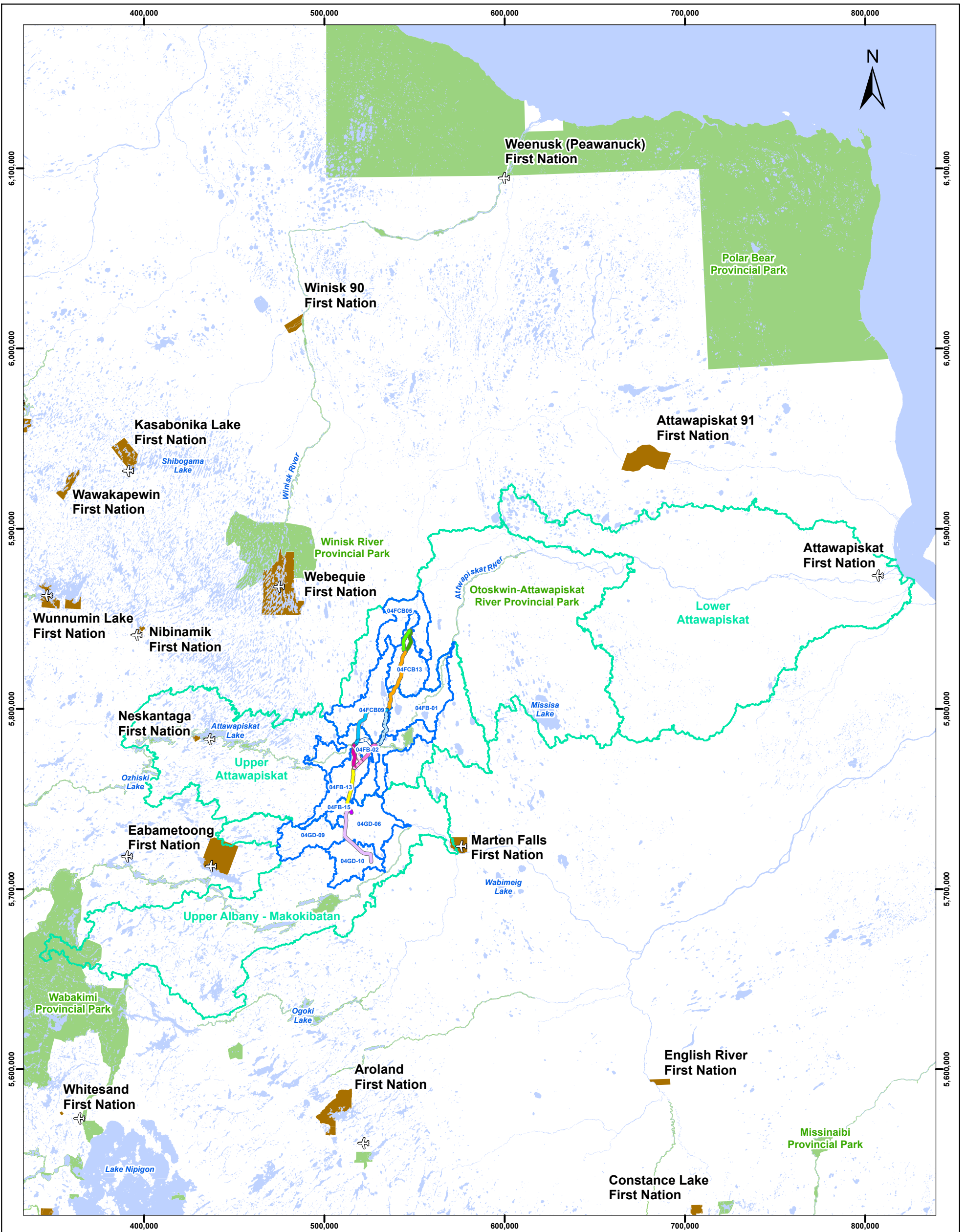
- › The shallow bedrock groundwater system is characterized by many small, localized aquifers. In most parts of the Canadian Shield, these aquifers may be connected to overburden aquifers. The shallow groundwater system is considered an important source of water supplies, especially in the areas where the overburden is absent or thin (Singer and Cheng, 2002).
- › Overburden aquifers, particularly associated with moraines and eskers, are often important sources for drinking water supplies.

16.1.5 Surface Water

The Hudson Bay Lowlands is a vast expanse of pristine wetlands broken up by glacial deposits, large rivers and lakes, and thousands of streams, creeks, ponds and other waterbodies. Water flows over and through this landscape maintaining its aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and providing navigation and nourishment for local communities.

The Project is situated within the watersheds of the Attawapiskat and Albany Rivers. These two rivers drain a combined 185,500 km² area of land, stretching from Hudson Bay and James Bay to the headwaters of the Lake Superior watershed in Northern Ontario. **Figure 16-1** shows the proposed Project in the context of its intersecting tertiary and quaternary watersheds. Waters from quaternary watersheds flow toward the main branch of their tertiary watersheds, which in turn flow towards the main branch of their secondary watersheds. All secondary watersheds in the Hudson Bay Lowlands flow generally north and east towards Hudson Bay or James Bay. The streams flowing into these rivers and their tributaries are low gradient and low velocity. Flows peak during the spring freshet, are reduced during the summer, and increase again in the late summer and early fall due to increased precipitation. Flows are lowest during winter due to watercourse freezing and much of the precipitation falling as snow (SNC-Lavalin, 2020).

The filtering capacity of wetlands and the lack of regional development contribute to excellent water quality throughout the majority of the hydrological environment surrounding the Project. Common exceedances observed include acidity, hardness, true colour, and dissolve organic carbon. Occasional exceedances observed include iron, manganese and aluminum (Golder, 2013a).



Legend:

Corridor Alternatives

- A1
- A2
- B1
- C1
- C2
- C3
- D1
- D2
- D3
- E1
- F1
- F2

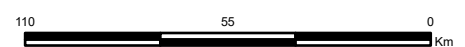
- Quaternary Watersheds
- Intersecting Corridor Alternatives
- Tertiary Watersheds
- Intersecting Corridor Alternatives
- Airports
- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody

NOTES

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Northern Road Link

Quaternary and Tertiary Watersheds

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----|
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| DSC | | DRN | CHK |
| | | AD | CB |

16.1.6 Geology, Terrain and Soils

The Project is within the geographic bounds of the Superior Province, a collage of oceanic and tectonic plates that formed between circa 2.72 and 2.68 Ga and, for the most part, has been stable since circa 2.5 Ga. The Hudson Bay Lowlands are underlain by Phanerozoic rock and bounded by Precambrian (Canadian Shield) structures (Martini, 1988). **Figure 16-2** shows the distribution of bedrock types in the vicinity of the Project and **Figure 16-3** shows known mineral deposits. The terrain is dominated by wetlands weakly broken by bedrock outcrops, rivers, moraines and eskers, among other surficial formations. Surficial deposits in the region consist of unstratified post-glacial till interspersed by stratified till and bedrock. The surficial materials in the vicinity of the Project are predominantly clayey silt to clay matrices with low to moderate clast content and moderate to high carbonate content (Barnett et al., 2013a,b).

Glaciofluvial esker deposits are common in the vicinity of the Project. Eskers are ridges that typically consist of a core of stratified sands and gravels. In esker deposits, the soils are much better drained, there is little surface organic material, and the groundwater table is further below the surface (SNC-Lavalin, 2020). These attributes lead to unique vegetation profiles and wildlife habitats/uses along the eskers.

Soils in the vicinity of the Project are primarily organic peat, muck and, marl with slow plant decay and poor drainage. Soil development in the region varies depending on the degree of drainage, with low lying areas containing undeveloped organic and other (regosolic) soils. The organic surface layer typically ranges from 1 m to 2 m in thickness. It is underlain by a clay/silt till layer up to 2 m thick, and a quaternary till layer up to 5 m thick. Depth to bedrock ranges from 5 m to 12 m below the surface (JDMA, 2019).

The Project passes over two distinct bands of Canada's permafrost region (Heginbottom et al., 1995) including the 'Sporadic Discontinuous Permafrost' and 'Isolated Patches of Permafrost'. In the sporadic permafrost band, 10% to 50% of the land area is underlain by permafrost, which varies in thickness, may not be present in the active layer, and contains less than 10% ground ice content in the upper 10 m to 20 m. In the isolated patches of permafrost band, less than 10% of the land is underlain by permafrost. The thickness of permafrost in both bands may be influenced by soil and rock type, snow cover and proximity to waterbodies.



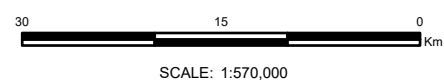
Legend:

Corridor Alternatives

- A1
- A2
- B1
- C1
- C2
- C3
- D1
- D2
- D3
- E1
- F1
- F2
- Airports

- First Nation Reserve
- Provincial Park
- Waterbody
- 56: Limestone, dolostone, shale
- 55: Sandstone, dolostone, limestone
- 16: Hornblende - nepheline syenite suite (saturated to undersaturated suite)
- 15: Massive granodiorite to granite
- 14: Diorite-monzodiorite-granodiorite suite (saturated to oversaturated suite)

- 13: Muscovite-bearing granitic rocks
- 12: Foliated tonalite suite
- 11: Gneissic tonalite suite
- 10: Mafic and ultramafic rocks
- 8: Migmatized supracrustal rocks
- 7: Metasedimentary rocks
- 6: Felsic to intermediate metavolcanic rocks
- 5: Mafic to intermediate metavolcanic rocks
- 4: Mafic to ultramafic metavolcanic rocks



Northern Road Link

Bedrock Geology

| | | | |
|----------------|------|------|----|
| Figure Number: | 16-2 | REV: | PA |
|----------------|------|------|----|

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|------------|
| Client: | Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: | 679878 | Date: | 2023-05-01 |
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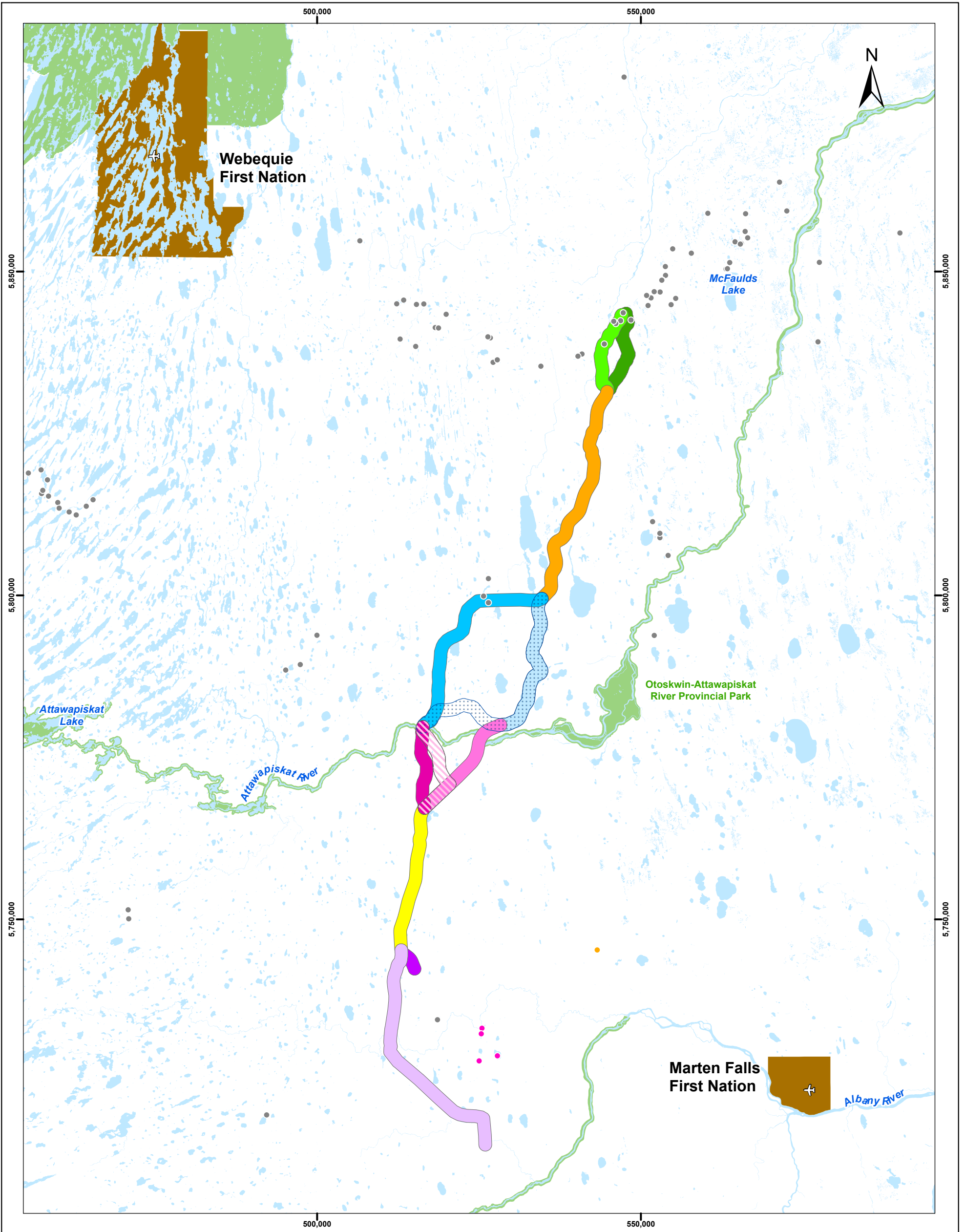
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| DSC | DRN | CHK | APP |
| AD | ND | ND | ND |

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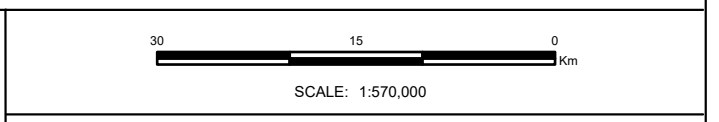
| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Corridor Alternatives | ● Ontario Mineral Inventory |
| ■ A1 | ● Wabassi Deposit |
| ■ A2 | ● Tempest Zone |
| ■ B1 | ● Occurrence |
| ■ C1 | ✈ Airports |
| ■ C2 | ■ First Nation Reserve |
| ■ C3 | ■ Provincial Park |
| ■ D1 | ■ Waterbody |
| ■ D2 | |
| ■ D3 | |
| ■ E1 | |
| ■ F1 | |
| ■ F2 | |

NOTES

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Northern Road Link

Known Mineral Deposits

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Figure Number: 16-3 | | REV: PA | |
| Client: Marten Falls and Webequie First Nations | Project Number: 679878 | Date: 2023-05-01 | |
| DSC | DRN | CHK | APP |
| AD | ND | ND | ND |

16.1.7 Visual Environment

The general area of the Project is dominated by wetlands (e.g., bogs, fens, swamps and marshes) within the Hudson Bay Lowlands physiographic region, which is characterized by low lying, poorly drained terrain dominated by muskeg and bog. The thickness and distribution of unconsolidated (Quaternary) sediments are the result of extensive glacial activity. As the ice sheet stagnated, major sand and gravel deposits were laid down, including eskers and ice-contact deposits. As a result, features in the Project area include wetlands, bedrock outcrops, eskers and moraines.

16.2 Biological Environment

16.2.1 Fish and Fish Habitat

There are many different waterbodies in the areas surrounding the Project, including streams, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands that provide direct habitat and support many different fish species. The Attawapiskat River is the largest river crossing. There is also a vast network of smaller connected headwater streams, ponds and lakes. Many of these smaller streams are part of open fens. The larger lakes and watercourses provide year-round fish habitat; the smaller, shallower lakes and wetlands often do not, as oxygen levels can drop to hypoxic conditions. The smaller watercourses and lakes can also provide suitable habitat for rearing and feeding for some parts of the year, usually early spring.

There are a vast number of streams in the areas surrounding the Project that connect to many shallow lakes and wetlands. In general, waterbodies in the region are considered to support a variety of cool and cold-water fish. The Attawapiskat River supports populations of Walleye (*Sander vitreus*), Lake Sturgeon (*Acipenser fulvescens*), Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), Lake Whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) and other fish species. A number of lower energy watercourses connected to these rivers provide habitat for Walleye and Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*). Typically, Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*), White Sucker (*Catostomus commersonii*) and other small foraging fish species are present with these larger bodied fish. Smaller streams and lakes also support a variety of smaller bodied fish including cyprinid species such as Brook Stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*), Fathead Minnow (*Pimephales promelas*), and Finescale Dace (*Phoxinus neogaeus*). Through the review of various sources there are 32 fish species, including one SAR (Lake Sturgeon), that may occur in the watercourses and waterbodies in the vicinity of the Project as shown in **Table 16-1**. SAR are discussed in **Section 16.2.5**.

Table 16-1: Potential Fish Species Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Fish Species Common Name | Scientific Name |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Brook Stickleback | <i>Culaea inconstans</i> |
| Ninespine Stickleback | <i>Pungitius pingitius</i> |
| Brook Trout | <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> |
| Northern Pike | <i>Esox lucius</i> |
| Lake Sturgeon ^(a) | <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> |
| Walleye | <i>Sander vitreus</i> |
| Yellow Perch | <i>Perca flavescens</i> |
| Lake Whitefish | <i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i> |
| Round Whitefish | <i>Prosopium cylindraceum</i> |
| Fathead Minnow | <i>Pimephales promelas</i> |
| Finescale Dace | <i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i> |
| Lake Chub | <i>Couesius plumbeus</i> |

Table 16-1 (Cont'd): Potential Fish Species Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Fish Species Common Name | Scientific Name |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mottled Sculpin | <i>Cottus bairdii</i> |
| Slimy Sculpin | <i>Cottus cognatus</i> |
| Spoonhead Sculpin | <i>Cottus ricei</i> |
| Mimic Shiner | <i>Notropis volucellus</i> |
| Blacknose Shiner | <i>Notropis heterolepis</i> |
| Emerald Shiner | <i>Notropis atherinoides</i> |
| Spottail Shiner | <i>Notropis hudsonius</i> |
| Northern Pearl Dace | <i>Margariscus margarita</i> |
| Longnose Dace | <i>Rhinichthys cataractae</i> |
| Trout-Perch | <i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i> |
| White Sucker | <i>Catostomus commersonii</i> |
| Longnose Sucker | <i>Catostomus</i> |
| Shorthead Redhorse | <i>Moxostoma macrolepidotum</i> |
| Silver Redhorse ^(b) | <i>Moxostoma anisurum</i> |
| Iowa Darter | <i>Etheostoma exile</i> |
| Johnny Darter | <i>Etheostoma nigrum</i> |
| Logperch | <i>Percina caprodes</i> |
| Burbot | <i>Lota</i> |
| Sauger | <i>Sander canadensis</i> |
| Cisco (Lake Herring) | <i>Coregonus artedii</i> |

Notes: Species are within the vicinity of the Project according to the Royal Ontario Museum Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Ontario (Holm et al., 2009).

(a) Species at Risk.

(b) Silver Redhorse is on border of Project region range.

16.2.2 Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Forty-one mammal species may occur in the vicinity of the Project based on data presented in Dobbyn (1994). Species known or likely present include Shrews (*Sorex* spp.), Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*), a variety of rodents including furbearers such as Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), mustelids such as American Marten (*Martes americana*), Fisher (*Pekania pennanti*), and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), and larger carnivores such as Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) and Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*). Ungulate species are expected to be limited to Moose and Caribou, both of which are important traditional food sources for Indigenous groups (Anonymous, 2009).

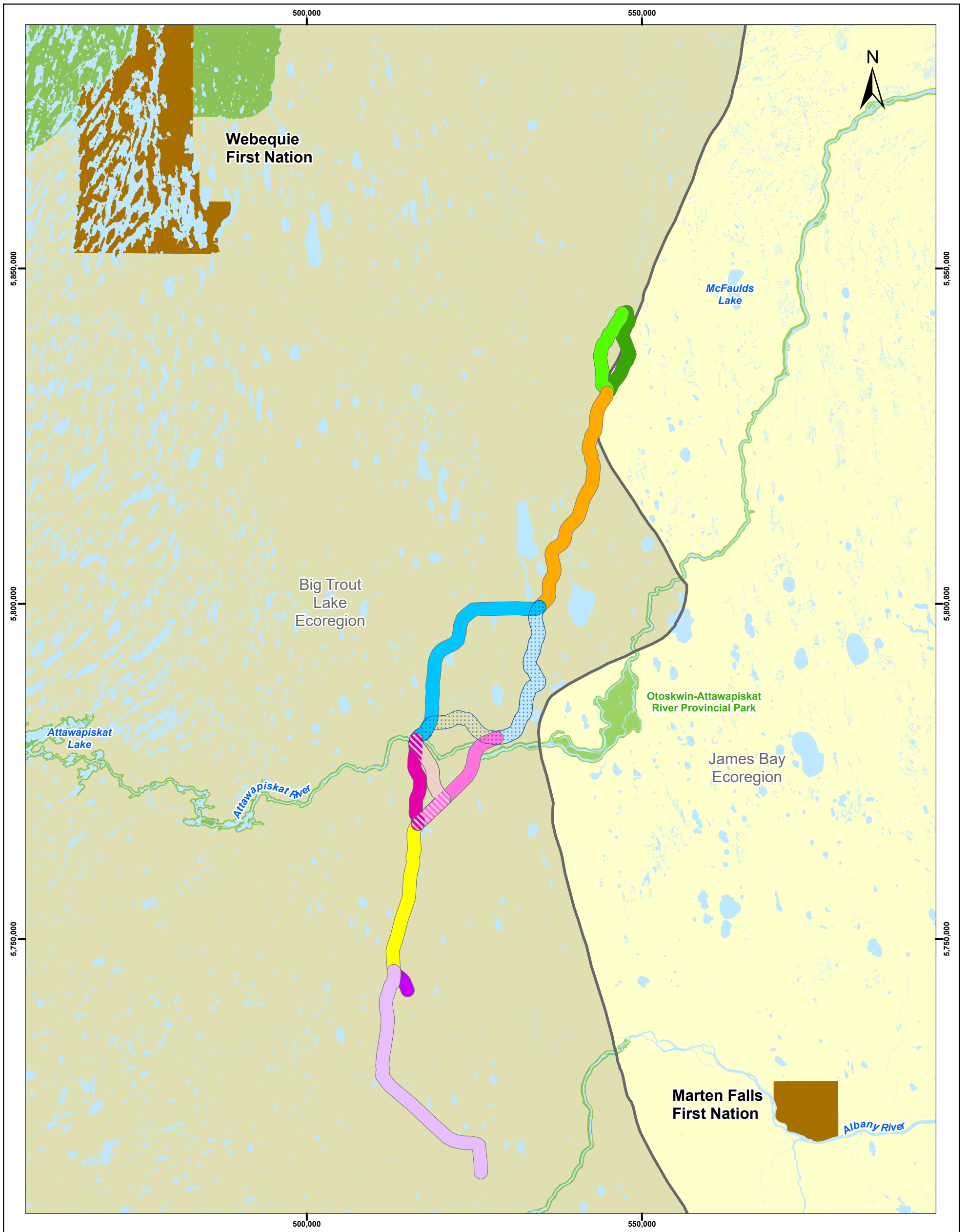
Five bat species may occur in the vicinity of the Project. These species include Big Brown Bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*) Silver-haired Bat (*Lasiurus noctivagans*), Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*) and Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Two bat Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) types are recognized for Ecoregion 3W, which include maternity colonies or maternity roosting habitat and hibernacula (MNRF, 2017a). The project straddles the border of the Hudson Bay Lowlands and Ontario Shield Ecozones. The project is also contained entirely within the James Bay and Big Trout Lake Ecoregions (2E and 2W) as shown in **Figure 16-4**. Technically there are no SWH schedules for Ecoregion 2E or 2W, however, the SWH guidelines (MNR, 2000) apply across the province and SWH identified in adjacent Ecoregions can be used as a proxy until these are developed.

Wildlife tracking surveys were conducted in 2011 and 2012 at three general locations along the proposed all-season road and one location around the Eagle’s Nest Mine site (Knight Piésold Consulting, 2013). The surveys resulted in detection of 16 mammal species, the most abundant of which included America Marten, Snowshoe Hare, Fisher, Moose, Gray Wolf, and Red Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*). Wolverine was also recorded during the surveys.

Wildlife surveys were conducted in 2017 in the vicinity of the WSR project, located to the northwest of the Project. These surveys are reported in the ‘Baseline Environmental and Geotechnical Studies: TPA1A Nibinamik-Webequie Community Road, TPA1B Webequie Community Supply Road’ (SNC-Lavalin, 2018). Similar wildlife surveys that overlap with the Project’s proposed corridors were conducted by AECOM (2020b), Zoetica (2019), and Golder (2013b). The AECOM, Zoetica, and Golder studies found the same wildlife species that were identified in the WSR study areas, plus a number of additional species. Mammals detected in these studies totalled 14 species as presented in **Table 16-2**. Additional small mammal species (e.g., mice, voles) are likely also present in the vicinity of the Project.

Table 16-2: Mammals Recorded during Wildlife Surveys in the Vicinity of the Project

| Common Name | Scientific Name |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| American Marten | <i>Martes americana</i> |
| American Mink | <i>Neovison vison</i> |
| Beaver | <i>Castor canadensis</i> |
| Moose | <i>Alces americanus</i> |
| Gray Wolf | <i>Canis lupus</i> |
| Red Fox | <i>Vulpes</i> |
| Red Squirrel | <i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i> |
| Snowshoe Hare | <i>Lepus americanus</i> |
| Weasel sp. | <i>Mustela</i> sp. |
| Woodland Caribou | <i>Rangifer tarandus Caribou</i> |
| Fisher | <i>Pekania pennanti</i> |
| North American River Otter | <i>Lontra canadensis</i> |
| Canada Lynx | <i>Lynx canadensis</i> |
| White-tailed Deer | <i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> |

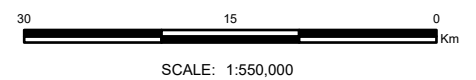


Legend:

Corridor Alternatives

- A1
- A2
- B1
- C1
- C2
- C3
- D1
- D2
- D3
- E1
- F1
- F2

- Ecoregion
- Hudson Bay Lowlands
- Ontario Shield
- First Nation Reserve
- Waterbody
- Provincial Park



Northern Road Link

Ecoregions and Ecozones

| | | | |
|----------------|------|------|----|
| Figure Number: | 16-4 | REV: | PA |
|----------------|------|------|----|

| | | | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|------------|
| Client: | Marten Falls and Webeque First Nations | Project Number: | 679878 | Date: | 2023-05-01 |
|---------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|-------|------------|

| | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| DSC | DRN | CHK | APP |
| AD | ND | ND | |

NOTES

- Coordinate System: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N.
- Cadastral boundaries are for informational purposes only and should not be considered suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.
- Topographic/landcover features obtained from CanVec v12.0 dataset, Natural Resources Canada Earth and Sciences Sector Centre for Topographic Information and Land Information Ontario (LIO) Warehouse Open Data (<https://geohub.io.gov.on.ca/>), Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF). Download Date: 2021-02-04

DISCLAIMER

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16.2.3 Birds and Bird Habitat

A review of secondary sources indicates that at least 130 bird species occur within the corridor alternatives for the Project. Surveys conducted in 2018 by Zoetica (Zoetica, 2019) detected 73 breeding species including Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*), Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) and Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*). In 2019, surveys completed by AECOM (2020b) detected 56 species, including Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Rusty Blackbird. Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) was observed incidentally.

Waterfowl stopover and staging SWH consists of water bodies used for migration, including ponds, marshes, lakes, bays, and coastal inlets (MNR, 2017a). Local species aggregations of Ruddy Ducks, Canvasbacks, Trumpeter Swans or Tundra Swans may be considered significant and occur within the vicinity of the Project. Some of the species that were observed during 2021 waterfowl surveys include: Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*), Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*), Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*), Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*), and Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser were the most widely observed of the numerous waterfowl species observed.

16.2.4 Plants and Vegetation Communities

The Project is located within the James Bay and Big Trout Lake Ecoregion (Ecoregion 2E and 2W, respectively). Treed and open fen (22.3% and 7.3%) and treed and open bog (21.2% and 17.7%) comprise the primary vegetation associations in the James Bay Ecoregion. Coniferous forest is the predominant forest class (12.6%) followed by sparse forest (7.6%). Open water covers 5.6% of the Ecoregion. This Ecoregion notably includes the most extensive treed fens in the ecozone and in Ontario (Crins et al., 2009).

Black Spruce dominates both upland and lowland sites, with Jack Pine and White Birch and Poplar species as associates. The shrub layers tend to be dominated by ericaceous shrubs, willow, and alder. The ground cover primarily consists of mosses and lichens, low ericaceous shrubs, and some herbs. Bedrock exposures have fewer trees and greater lichen cover. Closed to open stands of stunted Black Spruce, with ericaceous shrubs and a ground cover of sphagnum moss, dominate poorly drained peat-filled depressions. These peat-filled depressions, typically made up of decaying sphagnum moss species are common in the James Bay Ecoregion and make up a part of the largest contiguous patches of peatland in Canada. These peatlands are also responsible for storing significant amounts of organic carbon, (approximately 56% of all stored carbon in Canadian soils) while only occupying 12% of the Canadian landscape (Tarnocai, 2006). As such, they are important carbon sinks in the environment and are important for offsetting the effects of climate change. Peatlands are also important in maintaining water quality and preventing and mitigating floods.

From the review of available information sources, the following is a general description of the vegetation communities in the James Bay Ecoregion and in the vicinity of the Project. Vegetation has been grouped according to the Far North Land Cover Classification system.

Coniferous Treed

The dominant canopy species are Black Spruce or Jack Pine. Jack Pine dominated sites often had strong regeneration of Black Spruce in the understorey, likely reflective of previous fire events. Balsam Poplar and Trembling Aspen were also present at some sites as smaller components of the canopy. Tall shrub growth is typically sparse, consisting of alder species when present. Low shrub growth was variable, dominated commonly by Labrador Tea (*Rhododendron groenlandicum*), with other common species including Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) and Bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*). Moss cover is variable, though generally more prevalent at Black Spruce sites. Feathermoss species is the most common component, frequently dominating sites. Peat-forming sphagnum species are occasionally found in depressions at wetter sites. Lichens are present at most sites, principally Reindeer Lichen (*Cladina rangiferina*) and Coral Lichen (*Cladina stellaris*).

Mixed Treed

Tree species are Black Spruce, Jack Pine, Trembling Aspen, Balsam Poplar, White Birch and Tamarack (*Larix laricina*). Tall shrubs are present, usually mixed with subcanopy trees, and consist mainly of Green Alder (*Alnus viridis*) and Speckled Alder (*Alnus incana*), with occasional willow species (*Salix* spp.). Low shrub growth is fairly sparse, with Labrador Tea, Prickly Rose (*Rosa acicularis*), Bunchberry, and Velvet Leaf Blueberry (*Vaccinium myrtilloides*) being the most common species. Moss cover is sparse at most sites, with Feathermosses the most consistently present; other moss species, including Ground Cedar (*Lycopodium complanatum*) and Ground Pine (*Lycopodium obscurum*), present in lower abundances.

Deciduous Treed

Dominant canopy species are Balsam Poplar and Trembling Aspen, with Jack Pine. Subcanopy growth is variable, consisting mainly of poplar species, along with White Birch. Black Spruce also present in subcanopy. Tall shrub growth is variable, consisting of mostly alder with some willow. Common low shrubs included Prickly Rose, Velvet Leaf Blueberry and Bunchberry, with Labrador Tea also present. Moss cover is sparse at most sites. Other moss species include Ground Pine and Ground Cedar, as well as Club Moss species.

Esker Vegetation Communities

Vegetation communities located along the esker feature within and adjacent to the proposed project corridors generally consist of the non-wetland communities (mixed treed, deciduous treed, and coniferous treed) as described above. Canopy composition in these areas is dominated by Black Spruce, Trembling Aspen, White Birch, with smaller contributions from Jack Pine, Balsam Fir, Balsam Poplar and Tamarack, frequently in discrete enclaves. Elevation on the esker communities tends to be higher, and slopes are steeper allowing for vegetation more tolerant of well-drained soils. The presence of granular and mineral substrates results in better drained and more nutrient rich soils, leading to larger trees compared to other upland and wetland locations. Another result of this is generally increased plant diversity, and these communities are frequently home to orchids and a wider variety of wildflowers and fruit bearing shrubs. Deadfall/blowdown of mature trees is also a notable feature of these communities either as a result of fire or wind damage.

Coniferous Swamp

Black Spruce is the dominant canopy species, and usually dominated subcanopy layers as well. Tamarack is present as a canopy species. Tall shrub growth is sparse and typically restricted to Speckled Alder. Low shrub growth is variable, but quite dense at some sites. Labrador Tea is the most common species. Leatherleaf and Dwarf Birch (*Betula glandulosa*) are also present at wetter sites. Moss coverage is near complete at all sites. Peat-forming sphagnum species are generally dominant, with Feathermosses also present and, in some cases, codominant.

Sparse Treed Fen

Tamarack is the primary tree species, with Black Spruce also present. Tall shrubs are also sparse, typically consisting of willow species where present. Low shrubs included Dwarf Birch, Leatherleaf, Bog Rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*), and occasionally Red Osier Dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*). Ground cover is a combination of peat-forming – sphagnum mosses and herbaceous growth consisting of grass and sedge species, with most sites having primarily herbaceous cover.

Open Fen

Trees are rare, consisting of Tamarack or, more rarely, Black Spruce, usually less than 2 m tall. Tall shrubs, where present, consist of Speckled Alder and willow species. Low shrubs present include Leatherleaf, Dwarf Birch, and Bog Rosemary. Ground cover is dominated by grass and sedge species.

Rare Plant Species and Communities

Based on previous work around the Eagle's Nest Project (Knight Piésold Consulting, 2013), a list of rare plant species and plant communities was generated for the region from their contact with the MNR. However, none of the plants identified in the list were observed in 2017 (MFFN, 2017). Based on the timing of the surveys, the presence of these species will be reassessed as part of the additional field surveys to be completed to support the Project's EA/IA. The proponent will contact the MNR for a list of rare plants potentially in the area during the EA/IA. Known plant species of cultural value or significance to Indigenous communities include:

- › Wild berries or nuts (Blueberry, Wild Strawberry, Gooseberry/Currant, Raspberry);
- › Wild plants (Labrador Tea Leaves, Muskrat Root, Wild Rice, Mint Leaves, and Dandelions); and
- › Tree Foods (Cedar Tea, Maple Syrup, and Poplar Inner Bark).

16.2.5 Species at Risk

A number of Species at Risk (SAR) have been previously observed within the vicinity of the Project in other studies, or their known range overlaps with the Project. A preliminary SAR screening was completed and identified a number of species that may occur within the vicinity of the Project (SNC-Lavalin, 2022). The Project includes areas of transition between the Boreal Forest and the Canadian Shield and provides important habitat for many of these Species at Risk which have large home ranges (such as Caribou and Wolverine). SAR known or potentially present in the vicinity of the Project, along with a description of each species, are summarized in **Table 16-3**.



Table 16-3: Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Gulo</i> | Wolverine | THR | SC | <p>Wolverines usually live alone and roam across large territories that vary from 500 km² to 1,500 km² or more. Females build dens under snow-covered boulders, fallen logs, and occasionally in snow drifts. Researchers are still learning about the ecology and habitat needs of the Wolverine in Ontario.</p> <p>A wide variety of forested and tundra habitats is used by wolverines in wilderness areas. Habitats must have an adequate year-round supply of food that consists of smaller prey species, such as rodents and Snowshoe Hares, used more in summer, and the carcasses of larger animals, like Moose and Caribou, which are an important part of the winter diet. Females den at higher elevations under rocks, logs or snow. The snow cover must persist late into the spring to insulate the den and food must be close at hand. Forestry, hydroelectric developments, oil and gas and mineral exploration and development, and transportation corridors continue to alter, remove or fragment habitats. About 6% of all current Wolverine range is within parks and protected areas.</p> | Candidate habitat present, animals have been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Myotis lucifugus</i> | Little Brown Myotis | END | END | <p>Bats are nocturnal. During the day they roost in trees and buildings. They often select attics, abandoned buildings, and barns for summer colonies where they can raise their young. Bats can squeeze through very tiny spaces (as small as 6 mm across) and this is how they access many roosting areas. Little Brown Bats hibernate from October or November to March or April, most often in caves or abandoned mines that are humid and remain above freezing. Their specific physiological requirements limit the number of suitable sites for over-wintering. In the east, large numbers (i.e., >3,000 bats) of several species typically overwinter in relatively few hibernacula. In the west, there are fewer known hibernacula, and numbers appear lower per site. Females establish summer maternity colonies, often in buildings or large-diameter trees. Foraging occurs over water, along waterways and forest edges. Large open fields or clear cuts generally are avoided. In autumn, bats return to hibernacula, which may be hundreds of kilometres from their summering areas, swarm near the entrance, mate, and then enter that hibernaculum, or travel to different hibernacula to overwinter. Associated Ecological Land Classification (ELC) communities include: Coniferous Forest, Mixed Forest, Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Swamp, Mixed Swamp and Deciduous Swamp where suitable roosting (e.g., cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available.</p> | Candidate Habitat Present |



Table 16-3 (Cont'd): Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> | Northern Myotis | END | END | <p>Northern Myotis inhabit a variety of treed habitats, including boreal forests, choosing to roost within knot holes, under loose bark and in the cracks and cavities found within the bole, branches or trunks of trees. These bats hibernate from October or November to March or April.</p> <p>The Northern Myotis overwinters in cold and humid hibernacula (caves/mines). Their specific physiological requirements limit the number of suitable sites for overwintering. In the eastern portion of the species range, large numbers (i.e., >3,000 bats) of several species typically overwinter in relatively few hibernacula. In the western part of the species range, there are fewer known hibernacula, and numbers appear lower per site. Females establish summer maternity colonies in buildings or large-diameter trees. Foraging occurs along waterways, forest edges and in gaps in the forest. Large open fields or clear cuts generally are avoided. In autumn, bats return to hibernacula, which may be hundreds of kilometres from their summering areas, swarm near the entrance, mate, and then enter that hibernaculum, or travel to different hibernacula to overwinter. Associated ELC communities include: Coniferous Forest, Mixed Forest, Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Swamp, Mixed.</p> <p>Swamp and Deciduous Swamp where suitable roosting (e.g., cavity trees and trees with loose bark) habitat is available.</p> | Candidate Habitat Present |
| <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> | Tri-coloured bat | END | END | <p>In summer, Tri-coloured bats preferentially occupy mature forest stands that have with good availability of snags for roosting and foraging under a closed canopy. Females tend to roost alone in small colonies, often found in clumps of dead foliage and lichens. Males also tend to roost individually in similar habitats. Tri-coloured bats have the most rigid overwintering habitat requirements, requiring the deepest parts of caves or mines where temperature is the least variable. They tend to use the same hibernacula as Little Brown Myotis and Northern Myotis, but relatively few individuals (<10) are typically recorded in any one hibernaculum. The species is thought to hibernate individually, a possible reason for discoveries in low numbers.</p> | Candidate Habitat Present |



Table 16-3 (Cont'd): Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Rangifer tarandus</i> | Caribou (Boreal Population) | THR | Not Listed (at this time) | Caribou habitat in the boreal forest is constantly changing. Much of the forest is naturally in an unsuitable condition for caribou at any one time, but caribou need and use the entire landscape over time as habitat changes. Disturbances from fires, blowdown and insects can quickly change the amount and distribution of habitat. There is also great ecological variation in caribou habitat across the province ranging from upland fire-dependent forests in the northwest, to extensive lowland forests in the northeast where fire is much less frequent. At the broad landscape scale, caribou require large, undisturbed areas of old or mature conifer upland forest and lowlands dominated by Jack Pine and/or Black Spruce. These areas allow caribou to effectively separate themselves from higher densities of Moose, White-tailed Deer, Grey Wolves and Black Bears which tend to be associated with younger mixed or deciduous forest. At smaller scales, caribou seasonally select specific habitat features and areas that support successful reproduction and calf rearing, provide summer and/or winter forage, and/or facilitate movement between discrete areas of use. In winter, caribou tend to use mature and old growth coniferous forests wherever they occur. These forests are generally associated with marshes, bogs, lakes, rivers, and upland eskers. In summer, the caribou occasionally feed in young stands, after fire or logging. Many subpopulations of the Boreal Caribou population show a preference for peatlands; they generally avoid clear cuts, shrub-rich habitat and aspen-poplar dominated sites. | Candidate Habitat Present, animals have been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| | Caribou (Eastern Migratory Population) | SC | SC | The Eastern Migratory population of caribou typically uses tundra and forest-tundra transitional areas along the Hudson Bay coast during the spring and summer periods, and they move south to boreal forest habitat in the fall and winter, although individuals can be found in all habitat types at all times of year. In Ontario, movement and habitat use of the Eastern Migratory caribou population is complex. During the spring calving season, male caribou are thought to remain in the forest and forest-tundra areas, while females move further north to the calving grounds. Following calving, the caribou form large, loosely knit groups containing both male and female animals of all ages. By late summer, the large herds separate into smaller groups, including pairs of female caribou and their calves. After spending approximately six months in the open tundra and forest-tundra transitional area near the coast, the caribou gradually move south and inland in the fall, reaching the most distant points from the coast in mid-winter before slowly returning to the coast the following spring. | Candidate Habitat Present |



Table 16-3 (Cont'd): Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Bald Eagle | SC | No status | Prefer to nest in large trees, almost always near a major lake or river where they do most of their hunting. | Candidate habitat present, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | Barn Swallow | THR | THR | Prefer open habitat for foraging: grassy fields, pastures, ROWs, agriculture crops and wetlands. Post-European settlement: Nest in human structures, including barns, garages, houses, bridges, and culverts. Barn swallows generally re-use nests from year to year and are, therefore, sensitive to the removal of nesting structures. | Candidate Habitat Present although limited |
| <i>Riparia</i> | Bank Swallow | THR | THR | Habitat includes nest sites, foraging areas, and nocturnal roost sites. Build nest burrows in eroding vertical banks, such as lakeshore bluffs, riverbanks, and banks or stockpiles created in aggregate pits and construction sites. | Candidate Habitat Present |
| <i>Cardellina canadensis</i> | Canada Warbler | SC | THR | Northern from conifer swamps to riparian woodlands. Nests are commonly found in cool, damp, mixed forests with dense shrub layers. Nests are built hidden among dense ferns, mosses, and fallen logs. | Yes, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> | Chimney Swift | THR | THR | Commonly found in urban areas near buildings; nests in hollow trees, crevices of rock cliffs, chimneys. | Candidate Habitat May be Present |
| <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | Black Tern | SC | No Status | Shallow freshwater marshes (> 20 ha.) with cattails and emergent vegetation interspersed with open water. Smaller wetlands with the same features also used. | No |
| <i>Chordeiles minor</i> | Common Nighthawk | SC | SC | Open ground; clearings in dense forests; peat bogs; ploughed fields; gravel beaches or barren areas with rocky soils; open woodlands; flat gravel roofs. | Candidate Habitat Present, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Antrostomus vociferus</i> | Eastern Whip-poor-will | THR | THR | Dry, open, deciduous woodlands of small to medium trees; oak or beech with lots of clearings and shaded leaf litter, wooded edges; pine plantations. | Candidate Habitat May be Present |



Table 16-3 (Cont'd): Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Contopus virens</i> | Eastern Wood-pewee | SC | SC | Mostly associated with the mid-canopy layer of forest clearings and edges of deciduous and mixed forests; preferred habitats are intermediate-age forest stands and mature stands with little understory vegetation. | Candidate Habitat Present, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i> | Evening Grosbeak | SC | SC | This breeds in secondary growth and mature mixed forests; however, habitat selection is likely influenced by food availability, rather than habitat structure. Presence is most likely based on the presence of Spruce Budworm, a primary food source for this species. | Candidate Habitat Present |
| <i>Contopus cooperi</i> | Olive-sided Flycatcher | SC | THR | Semi-open, conifer forest; prefers Spruce, Jack Pine, and Balsam Fir; near pond, lake, or river; treed wetlands for nesting; burns with dead trees for perching. | Candidate Habitat Present, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Euphagus carolinus</i> | Rusty Blackbird | SC | SC | Nests in the boreal forest; prefers shores of wetlands, peat bogs, swamps, and beaver ponds. | Candidate Habitat Present, bird has been previously observed in the vicinity of the Project |
| <i>Asio flammeus</i> | Short-eared Owl | SC | SC | Resides in open habitats, including arctic tundra, grasslands, peat bogs, marshes, sand-sage concentrations and old pastures. Preferred nesting sites are dense grasslands, as well as tundra with areas of small willows. | No |
| <i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i> | Yellow Rail | SC | SC | Large, freshwater or brackish grass and sedge marshes with dense vegetation, including bullrushes, horsetails and grasses. | Candidate Habitat Present |



Table 16-3 (Cont'd): Species at Risk Known or Potentially Present in the Vicinity of the Project

| Scientific Name | Common Name | ESA Status | SARA Status | Habitat Requirements | Habitat Exists in the Vicinity of the Project |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <i>Acipenser fulvescens</i> | Lake Sturgeon | SC | SC | The Lake Sturgeon lives almost exclusively in freshwater lakes and rivers with soft bottoms of mud, sand or gravel. They are usually found at depths of 5 m to 20 m. They spawn in relatively shallow, fast-flowing water (usually below waterfalls, rapids, or dams) with gravel and boulders at the bottom. However, they will spawn in deeper water where habitat is available. They also are known to spawn on open shoals in large rivers with strong currents. The species occupies a wide variety of aquatic ecosystem types (e.g., stepped-gradient Boreal Shield rivers, low gradient meandering Prairie rivers, low gradient Hudson lowland rivers, Great Lakes and associated tributaries). Lake Sturgeon requires a variety of habitats to complete its lifecycle, and the species has evolved to exploit typical upstream to downstream hydraulic and substrate gradients. Hatch is contingent on aeration by flowing water, after which larvae apparently require gravel substrate in which to bury and remain while development continues. Once the yolk sac is absorbed, larvae drift downstream via water currents. Habitat requirements at the age-0 stage are not well understood but may not be as strict as previously assumed. Aside from the requirement of adequate benthic prey items, the habitat requirements for middle to later life stages (juveniles and adults) are not particularly narrow. Habitat trends vary across the species' range. In some areas, the construction of dams has ceased but, in other areas, it is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Sediment and water quality has improved in many areas formerly affected by pollution from the pulp-and-paper industry. Large lakes/rivers > 20 m deep with soft mud, sand or gravel bottoms required. | Candidate habitat present |

SC = Special Concern, THR = Threatened, END = Endangered

17 Description of the Health, Socio-economic, Cultural Heritage Resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context

This section provides a brief description of human health, socio-economic, cultural heritage resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests context in the region where the Project is located, based on information that is available to the public and/or derived from the consultation and engagement undertaken to date.

If an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. Baseline information for applicable components of the environment would be disaggregated to the extent practical to support the analysis of disproportionate effects of the Project on vulnerable or underrepresented groups, including Indigenous people or other community relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders). Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.

17.1 Human Health Context

The human health baseline will draw on baseline information from other components of the environment that may influence human health such as noise, air quality, surface water, geology, terrain and soils, as well as knowledge gathered with respect to country foods and community diet. Given that the Project is located in a remote area that is difficult to access, and currently has no significant point or mobile sources of air, water, or soil contamination, baseline conditions for the components of the environment that may influence human health would be expected to indicate negligible potential exposures.

In addition, the IA will focus on cultural continuity and well-being in the context of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. The IK collection program will be led by participating Indigenous communities and information provided may include perspectives relevant to the human health baseline.

Current dietary patterns in the Project area suggest that many local community members have mixed diets that combine a variety of locally harvested country food items with store-bought food items. The only known available information on Indigenous community dietary patterns is the Ontario First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environmental Study (FNFNES) (Chan et al., 2014), which was conducted in 2011-2012 among 18 First Nations communities in Ontario including Attawapiskat First Nation, Fort Albany First Nation, Kingfisher Lake First Nation, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation, MFFN and WFN. This study indicated that current diets are a mix of traditional country food items and market (store-bought) food items. As part of the IK collection program, Indigenous communities will be consulted for further information on dietary patterns.

17.2 Socio-economic Context

The following communities are in close proximity to the Project and therefore more likely to be both positively and negatively affected by it:

- › Webequie First Nation;
- › Marten Falls First Nation;
- › Neskantaga First Nation;
- › Nibinamik First Nation; and
- › Eabametoong First Nation.

The following communities and municipalities are in the broader area surrounding the Project:

- › Indigenous communities:
 - Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek;
 - Aroland First Nation;
 - Attawapiskat First Nation;
 - Constance Lake First Nation;
 - Fort Albany First Nation;
 - Ginoogaming First Nation;
 - Kasabonika Lake First Nation;
 - Kashechewan First Nation;
 - Kingfisher Lake First Nation;
 - Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation;
 - Long Lake #58 First Nation;
 - Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2;
 - Red Sky Independent Métis Nation;
 - Wapekeka First Nation;
 - Wawakapewin First Nation;
 - Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation; and,
 - Wunnumin Lake First Nation.

- › Municipalities:
 - City of Thunder Bay;
 - City of Timmins;
 - Municipality of Greenstone;
 - Municipality of Sioux Lookout; and
 - Township of Pickle Lake.

Regional and Local Economy

Baseline labour activity data from Statistics Canada (2017)^{9,10} show that of the Indigenous communities¹¹ potential with an interest or affected by the Project actively engaged in and are eligible to participate in the labour market (based on the participation rate). The Indigenous communities in close proximity to the Project have an employment rate of 41% with an average unemployment rate of 17%. For Indigenous communities in the broader area surrounding the Project, the average employment rate is 40% while the average unemployment rate is 21%. By comparison, the average employment rate (based on the participation rate) of the cities, towns, or municipalities potentially with an interest in or affected by the Project is significantly higher at 61%, while their average unemployment rate is 9%.

Community Services and Infrastructure

Community services and infrastructure, including health, housing, fire, police and ambulance services, are provided by coordinated local and regional supports.

The communities in close proximity to the Project and remote communities in the broader area surrounding the Project are generally supported by local health centres and nursing stations on reserves, as well as health services from the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) and the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), depending on the community affiliation.

⁹ Based on 25% sample data.

¹⁰ Statistics Canada data will be updated with Census 2021 data in the EAR/IS.

¹¹ Not all Indigenous communities and groups have employment data available.

The SLFNHA provides physician services/Northern clinic, telemedicine services, in-community primary care, such as physiotherapy, mental health support, and developmental services, which supports Jordan's Principle to ensure First Nations children, youth and families in the health authority areas have equitable access to needed developmental services. WAHA includes ambulance, emergency, in-patient and out-patient services.

In remote communities, nurses often are authorized to perform many services usually performed by a doctor. These nurse practitioners have 24 hour consultation access to doctors for example through the SLFNHA. For the Webequie First Nation, the community has a Nursing Station which is usually operated with three nurses, a Community Health Representative (CHR), and two full-time counsellors. The Indigenous community staff also serve as interpreters and assistants. The nurses that operate and manage the Nursing Station are experienced health professionals that coordinate health services, knowledge of healthy living, community health, and trauma management. These consultations are usually required if a patient is suffering from acute infections or serious injuries. Critical patient may be airlifted by air ambulance to a hospital in Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay or Winnipeg.

Marten Falls First Nation has the Muskeg Thunder Clinic, which provides nursing services, health promotion and community health programs. Emergency medical services are provided in Greenstone with medivac aircraft used for transportation.

The communities in close proximity to the Project and those in the broader area surrounding the Project also primarily fall into two Public Health Units in the North West Region (the Thunder Bay District Health Unit) and the North East Region (the Porcupine Health Unit) for regional health services. The Thunder Bay Health District Unit has six locations within its service area. Community health programs and services promote a broad range of health initiatives that focus on for example mental health, addiction, prenatal and maternal health. Specialized medical services are provided in Thunder Bay at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Centre. The Porcupine Health Unit has nine branch offices throughout Northeastern Ontario, which similarly provide a variety of relevant and accessible programs and services, and health centres such as Timmins.

Policing support is provided by Nishnawbe Aski Police Service (NAPS) detachments in the communities in proximity to the Project. Services in the community include front line support, emergency response team, and survivor services. Remote communities generally include a volunteer fire department, with funding from Indigenous Services Canada through the Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program.

Housing in Indigenous communities in the region is a concern and there are a number of housing issues such as air quality problems, unaddressed repair and maintenance, and limited supply to meet demand for new homes to address overcrowding. According to Statistics Canada (2017), the average percentage of Indigenous homes considered not suitable (30%) and in need of major repairs (55%) is significantly higher compared to the Ontario averages of 6% for both indicators. The communities in close proximity to the Project reflect this comparison. Of these communities, WFN has the highest percentage of homes considered not suitable (42%) as well as in need of major repairs (77%).^{12, 13} A 2018 housing assessment was also completed for WFN. Of 168 houses surveyed, 103 or 61% of homes required remediation and repair, and it was recommended that 18 be condemned because of extensive repairs with costs totalling more than \$350,000. In the same assessment, thirty-one houses or 18% were considered overcrowded.

¹² Respective Statistics Canada (2017) data on households "not suitable" and "major repairs needed" for other communities in close proximity, include Nibinamik First Nation (39%; 56%), Eabametoong First Nation (37%; 65%); Neskantaga First Nation (13%; 73%); Marten Falls First Nation (31%; 46%).

¹³ Statistics Canada data will be updated with Census 2021 data in the EA/IA.

Land Use and Recreation

The Project is located on Crown Land. The Project intersects traplines registered to MFFN and WFN community members.

An ANSI is an area of land and/or water containing natural landscapes or features which have been identified as having life science or earth science (or both) values related to natural heritage protection, scientific study or education. Life Science ANSIs include specific types of forests, valleys, prairies and wetlands, their native plants and animals and their supportive environments. They contain relatively undisturbed vegetation and landforms and their associated species and communities. Earth Science ANSIs are geological in nature and consist of examples of the bedrock, fossil and landforms in Ontario and include examples of ongoing geological processes.

No ANSIs overlap with the Project. However, two candidate ANSIs are located near the Project, as shown on **Figure 15-1**. The two Candidate ANSIs are the Upper Ekwon River (Earth Science) and the Attawapiskat Upriver Section (Life Science).

Candidate ANSIs that have been identified and recommended for protection by the MNRF or other sources, but have not completed the confirmation procedure. The MNRF confirms whether the ANSI is provincially, regionally, or locally significant.

Two provincial parks are located within the region of the Project, including the Albany River Provincial Park and the Otokwin-Attawapiskat River Provincial Park (**Figure 15-1**).

Tourism is part of the local and regional economies. Camps, outfitters and guide work related to outdoor activities, such as fishing and hunting, is practiced in the region.

Community Safety

Baseline information collected through secondary information, documents that violence-related deaths among Indigenous women is five times higher than the national average for Canadian women (Kuokkanen, 2011, cited in Bond and Quinlan [2018]). This includes various forms of financial abuse such as either being denied knowledge of or access to family income (Brennan, 2011). Daoud et al. (2012) found that self-reported abuse towards Indigenous mothers was higher (31%) than that reported by non-Indigenous mothers (12%). The study also showed high proportions of abuse among lone mothers (35%). The severity of these issues is often exacerbated by the presence of industrial projects near Indigenous communities (Bond and Quinlan, 2018). Not only rates of violence against Indigenous women and girls are a concern connected with industrial camps and development projects, but employment opportunities and economic benefits are also a concern. Indigenous women are less likely to benefit from employment opportunities associated with resource development projects (Dalseg et al., 2018).

Further secondary information regarding crime rates and violence statistics was obtained from the Canadian Community Crime Tracker. These statistics are aggregated by the Police Department servicing the communities. The NAPS is responsible for policing the majority of the Indigenous communities. Total crime rates recorded by the NAPS in 2018 were about twice as those recorded by the Kenora municipal Ontario Provincial Police (Statistics Canada, 2018). Total violent and non-violent crime, as well as physical and sexual assault rates were higher in the Indigenous communities, while total drug violations were higher in the Thunder Bay area (Statistics Canada, 2018).

Secondary information also documents that illicit drug use rates is high among youth in Ontario compared to many other provinces and large regional differences in substance use rates among youth have been found in Ontario (e.g., between the province's Local Integrated Health Networks (LHINs)) with higher rates of certain substances (e.g., alcohol) reported in Northern Ontario. Prescription opioid use in particular is much higher among youth in Northern Ontario. Accordingly, in 2014, the rate of methadone maintenance treatment patients per 100,000 among youth (ages 15 to 24) was approximately 2-fold and 6-fold higher among the North East and North West LHIN, respectively, compared to the other LHINs in Ontario

(Kurdyak et al., 2018). Remote communities have been found to have critical service gaps for addictions and mental health needs and Northern and rural communities often have few mental health and addictions services. Where mental health and addictions services do exist, they are generally fragmented and disconnected from one another (Russell et al., 2019).

17.3 Cultural Heritage Resources Context

Some archaeological assessments have been undertaken in the broader region where the Project is located. Archaeological research to date for the region suggests that the area was occupied by humans as early as 7,000 years before present. These early humans, known as the Shield Archaic Culture, tended to locate themselves near Caribou River crossings. Previous archaeological research has also shown that ungulates and fish were exploited by Aboriginal peoples from circa 1000 A.D. to contact with Europeans (Knight Piésold Consulting, 2013). Evidence also suggests that the region was intensively used during the historic fur trade. Previous research has indicated that the area is located within a region that was explored by the mid-to-late 18th century. Additionally, there is a history of mining in the region spanning from the early 20th century until the present (Knight Piésold Consulting, 2013). Although information on the archaeology of the region is limited, the Project's LSA and RSA contains areas with archaeological potential.

Baseline information on built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes for the LSA and RSA is limited. The Project is located on mainly undeveloped Crown lands, including the traditional land of both WFN and MFFN. Traditional activities of First Nation community members include hunting, fishing and gathering as well as cultural and spiritual activities. The Albany River was used by Europeans as early as 1657 as a route to the west from James Bay. Several trading posts were established such as Marten Falls House, Henley House, and Gloucester House, all of which are in proximity to the study area. Although considered archaeological sites without above ground manifestations, area surrounding these might be considered as cultural heritage landscapes. Other potential cultural heritage landscapes might include built heritage features such as hunting and trapping camps as well as particular natural features such as sections of rivers, ranges of hills, or muskegs (AECOM, 2020a).

17.4 Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context

For the purposes of the Project, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) are discussed in terms of Indigenous land and resource use (ILRU), and cultural continuity and well-being.

Indigenous Land and Resource Use

ILRU is defined as sites and areas used for rights-based activities and interests; location, frequency, duration, and/or timing of these rights-based activities and interests; types of resources used and their habitats; the quantity and quality of resources; culturally important resources and places based activities and interests; location, frequency, duration, and/or timing of these rights-based activities and interests; types of resources used and their habitats; the quantity and quality of resources; culturally important resources and places that -are harvested; access to resources or places used; the experience of the practice; and other current uses identified by Indigenous communities or groups for rights-based activities and other interests. provides brief community profiles for the Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations whose ATRI might potentially be affected by the Project or may otherwise have an interest in the Project and have been identified to be consulted on the Project.

Table 17-1: Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Nookiwin Tribal Council</p> | <p>Animbiigoo-Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation (AZA) is signatory to the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850 and is affiliated with the Nookiwin Tribal Council. The AZA cultural affiliation is Ojibway.</p> <p>There is one AZA reserve, the Lake Nipigon Reserve (1,269.9 ha), which was established in 2008. The Lake Nipigon Reserve is located along the southern shores of Partridge Lake, between Jellicoe and Geraldton, approximately 240 km southwest of MFFN and 360 km south of WFN. Three registered members live on the Lake Nipigon Reserve and the remaining approximately 500 registered members live elsewhere (GoC, 2021), primarily in other Ontario communities, including Beardmore, Jellicoe, Geraldton, and Thunder Bay.</p> <p>The First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and four Councillors elected every three years. AZA's administrative office is located in Beardmore, Ontario (AZA, 2021).</p> |
| <p>Aroland First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Aroland First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Although the Aroland Indian Settlement is not yet formally a reserve (in 1972, the settlement briefly was recorded as Aroland 83 Indian Reserve), it should be designated as such in the near future. Following multiple negotiations, AFN gained certain reserve status under the Indian Act on April 15, 1985. Reserve lands have recently been dedicated to the First Nation by both provincial and federal governments; however, a final formal designation of reserve lands is not yet in place. Current reserve lands contain 19,599 hectares and extend northward from Highway 643 to encompass lands along the western and northern shores of Esnagami Lake. At present, these lands are generally undeveloped (Aroland First Nation, 2021; First Nations.info, 2021).</p> <p>AFN (Aroland 83 Reserve) is comprised of an amalgamation of members, with ties to Eabametoong First Nation, MFFN, Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation and Fort William First Nation, and with cultural affiliations to Oji-Cree and Ojibway (Aroland First Nation, 2021).</p> <p>Aroland Indian Settlement is the primary community for approximately 400 of the 747 registered AFN members (GoC, 2021; Aroland First Nation, 2021). The community is located approximately 170 km southwest of MFFN, 310 km south of WFN and 20 km west of the Municipality of Greenstone on Highway 643.</p> <p>AFN has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and seven Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Attawapiskat First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Mushkegowuk Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Attawapiskat First Nation (ATFN) is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Mushkegowuk Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Omushkegowuk (people of Attawapiskat) are represented by the Mushkegowuk Council for their Mushkegowuk Aski (traditional territory). The Attawapiskat cultural affiliation is Swampy Cree.</p> <p>ATFN is comprised of two reserves: Attawapiskat Reserve 91a (235.8 ha), the permanent community, and Attawapiskat Reserve 91 (27,040.1 ha) (GoC, 2021). Attawapiskat Reserve 91 is located at the mouth of the Attawapiskat River on James Bay. Attawapiskat Reserve 91a is located approximately 230 km northeast of MFFN and 200 km east of WFN. The reserves are accessible by air, water and winter road only, and 1,983 members are listed as living on Attawapiskat reserves, with the remaining 1,677 members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>ATFN has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief and 11 Councillors elected every three years.</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Constance Lake First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Constance Lake First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Constance Lake cultural affiliation is Cree and Ojibway.</p> <p>Constance Lake First Nation is comprised of two reserves: Constance Lake 92 Indian Reserve on the Kabinakagami River (3,110.5 ha), which serves as the primary residential community, and English River 66 Reserve on the Kenogami River (3,108 ha) (GoC, 2021). The Constance Lake 92 Reserve is located approximately 240 km southeast of MFFN and 415 km southeast of WFN. The English River 66 Reserve is located 170 km southeast of MFFN and 340 km southeast of WFN. Both of the Constance Lake Reserves are accessible by way of Highway 11. There are 861 of the 1,784 registered members listed as living on the Constance Lake 92 Reserve (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Constance Lake First Nation uses the <i>Indian Act</i> Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and six Councillors elected every two years.</p> <p>Constance Lake First Nation is actively working on a Draft CBLUP; the Terms of Reference for the plan was approved in 2013 (MNRF, 2022).</p> |
| <p>Eabametoong First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Eabametoong First Nation is a signatory of Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Eabametoong cultural affiliation is Ojibway.</p> <p>Eabametoong First Nation is comprised of a single reserve, Fort Hope Reserve 64 (25,900.3 ha) (GoC, 2021). Fort Hope 64 is a remote northern community located approximately 360 km north of Thunder Bay, 130 km west of MFFN and 155 km south of WFN. The community is situated on the north shore of Eabamet Lake. Approximately 1,574 registered members live on the Fort Hope 64 Reserve, with the remaining 1,199 registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021), mostly in other parts of Northern Ontario. The Reserve is accessible by air, water and winter road only.</p> <p>According to the Federal Reporting Centre on Specific Claims (GoC, 2021), there is one active claim by Eabametoong First Nation related to unfulfilled Treaty Land Entitlement pursuant to Treaty 9.</p> <p>Eabametoong First Nation uses the <i>Indian Act</i> Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and five Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Fort Albany First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Mushkegowuk Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Fort Albany First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Mushkegowuk Council and the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Prior to 1965, the community was referred to as Peetabeck Inninowuk. The Fort Albany cultural affiliation is Mushkegowuk Cree.</p> <p>Omushkegowak (people of Fort Albany) lived off their Paquataskamik (traditional territory) until they were relocated to the Fort Albany 67 Reserve. The community originated as a Hudson's Bay Company trading post. In the 1950s, the Fort Albany 67 Reserve divided into two communities (Fort Albany First Nation and Kashechewan First Nation) due to religious differences (Five Nations, 2012).</p> <p>The Fort Albany 67 Reserve (36,345.7 ha) is unique in that there are two First Nations residing on the land (Fort Albany First Nation and Kashechewan First Nation) (GoC, 2021). Fort Albany 67 is located on the south bank of the Albany River approximately 15 km upstream from James Bay (Five Nations, 2012). It is located approximately 300 km northeast of MFFN and 390 km southeast of WFN. Fort Albany 67 is accessible by air, water and winter road only.</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
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| <p>Fort Albany First Nation (Cont'd)</p> <p>Tribal Council: Mushkegowuk Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>The combined total of registered member population of Fort Albany First Nation and Kashechewan First Nation is 5,289 and is mutually referred to as 'Albany' in the Indigenous Services Canada First Nation Profile (GoC, 2021). There are 3,240 registered members of Fort Albany First Nation and Kashechewan First Nation residing on Fort Albany 67, with the remaining 2049 registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Fort Albany First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief and seven Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Ginoogaming First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Ginoogaming First Nation, formerly known as Long Lake 77, is a signatory of Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Ginoogaming cultural affiliation is Ojibway and Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation is comprised of one reserve, Ginoogaming (6,978 ha), located on the northern shore of Long Lake (GoC, 2021), 2 km south of Longlac and approximately 220 km south of MFFN and 365 km southeast of WFN. The community is accessible by road (Highway 11), air, rail and water. There are 205 registered members residing on Ginoogaming First Nation Reserve, with 778 registered members residing elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>According to the Federal Reporting Centre on Specific Claims (GoC, 2021), there are two active claims by Ginoogaming First Nation. One of the claims is related to alleged breaches of fiduciary obligations with respect to the construction of Tote Road through the Reserve. The second is related to unfulfilled Treaty Land Entitlement pursuant to Treaty 9, with negotiations involving 7,296 acres of land and areas of interest, including residential, economic and cultural uses (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation uses the <i>Indian Act</i> Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and six Councillors elected every two years.</p> <p>Ginoogaming First Nation is not actively in the planning stage of the CBLUP (MNRF, 2022).</p> |
| <p>Kasabonika Lake First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Shibogama First Nations Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Kasabonika Lake First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Shibogama First Nations Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Kasabonika Lake cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Kasabonika Lake First Nation is comprised of one reserve, Kasabonika Lake Reserve (10,806.5 ha) located along the Ashweig River (GoC, 2021), approximately 450 km northeast of Sioux Lookout, 285 km northwest of MFFN and 115 km northwest of WFN. It is accessible by air, water and winter road only. There are 1,130 registered members residing on the Kasabonika Lake reserve, with the remaining 95 members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Kasabonika Lake has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief, one Head Councillor and four Councillors elected every two years.</p> <p>Kasabonika Lake First Nation is not actively in the planning stage of the CBLUP (MNRF, 2022).</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
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| <p>Kashechewan First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Mushkegowuk Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Kashechewan First Nation is a party to Treaty 9, and it is affiliated with the Mushkegowuk Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Omushkegowuk (people of Kashechewan) are represented by the Mushkegowuk Council for their Mushkegowuk Aski (traditional territory). The Kashechewan cultural affiliation is Moose Cree and Swampy Cree.</p> <p>The community originated as a Hudson’s Bay Company trading post. Prior to 1950, Kashechewan members were part of the Fort Albany First Nation at Treaty-making time in 1905, when Albany Band representatives signed the Treaty 9 document and accepted certain important oral promises by the government Treaty Commissioners (Five Nations, 2012; KFN, 2022). During the 1950s, the Fort Albany 67 Reserve divided into two communities (Kashechewan First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation) due to religious differences (Five Nations, 2012). In the 1950s and 1960s, most members of the Albany Band resided on an island in the Albany River, off the Treaty reserve land, but when government representatives suggested they would be better supported on reserve, a considerable portion of the Albany Band moved to the northern shoreline of the Albany River, onto reserve land, to what is now known as Kashechewan (KFN, 2022). The Fort Albany 67 Reserve (36,345.7 ha) is shared by both Fort Albany First Nation and Kashechewan First Nation (GoC, 2021), and is located approximately 300 km northeast of MFFN and 380 km southeast of WFN. It is accessible by air, water and winter road only.</p> <p>The combined total registered member population of Kashechewan First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation is 5,289 and is mutually referred to as ‘Albany’ in the Indigenous Services Canada First Nation Profile (GoC, 2021). There are 3,240 registered members of Kashechewan First Nation and Fort Albany First Nation residing on Fort Albany 67, with the remaining 2049 registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Kashechewan First Nation has a Custom Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief and 9 Councillors elected every four years.</p> |
| <p>Kingfisher Lake First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Shibogama First Nations Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Kingfisher Lake First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Shibogama First Nations Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Kingfisher Lake cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Kingfisher Lake First Nation is comprised of three reserves: Kingfisher 2A (5,444.7 ha), Kingfisher 3A (921.9 ha), and Kingfisher Lake 1 (596 ha) (GoC, 2021). The Kingfisher Lake 1 Reserve is the most populated of the three. It is located on the south shore of Kingfisher Lake, approximately 360 km northeast of Sioux Lookout (which is the nearest service centre), 305 km northwest of MFFN and 165 km west of WFN. The reserves are accessible by air, water and winter road only. There are 560 of the 627 total registered members residing on reserve, with the remaining registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Kingfisher Lake First Nation has a custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief, one Head Councillor and three Councillors elected every two years.</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuug First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Independent First Nations Alliance</p> | <p>Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuug First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9. It is an independent First Nation and is affiliated with the Independent First Nations Alliance. The Kitchenuhmaykoosib cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree, specifically Anishiniimowin, Severn Cree and Northern Ojibway.</p> <p>Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuug First Nation is comprised of a single reserve, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki 84 (29,937.6 ha) on the north shore of Big Trout Lake (GoC, 2021), located approximately 440 km northeast of Sioux Lookout, 360 km northwest of MFFN and 195 km northwest of WFN. It is accessible by air, water and winter road only. There are 1,180 registered members residing on the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Aaki Reserve, with the remaining 558 registered members residing elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuug First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief, and six Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Long Lake #58 First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Long Lake #58 First Nation has not signed any Treaty or ceding Aboriginal title to their traditional lands. The Long Lake #58 First Nation is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc., the Nishnawbe Aski Nation and the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI). The Long Lake #58 cultural affiliation is Ojibway.</p> <p>Long Lake #58 First Nation is comprised of a single reserve, Long Lake 58 (232.3 ha) located on the northern shore of Long Lake (GoC, 2021), adjacent (1 km) to Longlac and approximately 215 km south of MFFN and 360 km south of WFN. There are 542 registered members residing on Long Lake 58, with 1,215 registered members residing elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Long Lake #58 First Nation uses the <i>Indian Act</i> Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and 11 Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Marten Falls First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>MFFN is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The MFFN's cultural affiliation is Ojibway.</p> <p>MFFN is comprised of one reserve, Marten Falls Reserve 65 (7770.1 ha) on the Hudson Bay Lowlands in Northern Ontario (GoC, 2021), at the intersection of the Ogoki and Albany Rivers and approximately 400 km northeast of Thunder Bay and 175 km southeast of WFN. It is currently accessible by air, water and winter road only. The Municipality of Greenstone is the closest location with year-long road access, approximately 160 km to the south. There are 354 registered members residing on the Marten Falls Reserve, with the remaining 473 registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>MFFN uses the <i>Indian Act</i> Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and seven Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 2</p> | <p>The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was established in 1993 to represent communities that are a part of the Métis Nation (MNO, 2021). Today, there are over 20,000 registered Métis citizens and approximately 30 Chartered Community Councils across Ontario that represent Métis citizens at the local level.</p> <p>Through the MNO, Ontario Métis have established a governance structure that represents the Métis citizens and rights-bearing Métis communities at the local, regional and provincial levels.</p> <p>The MNO has a provincial governing body that is elected every four years. The MNO hosts an Annual General Assembly, where regional and provincial Métis leaders are required to report back to Métis citizens yearly between elections. The MNO also maintains a charitable foundation, the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission, which promotes and supports Métis culture and heritage, and an economic development arm, the Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation (MNO, 2021).</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Neskantaga First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Neskantaga First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Neskantaga cultural affiliation is Ojibway and Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Neskantaga First Nation is comprised of one reserve, Neskantaga Reserve (831.5 ha) located on Attawapiskat Lake (GoC, 2021), approximately 200 km north of the Municipality of Greenstone, 180 km northeast of Pickle Lake, 160 km northwest of MFFN and 100 km southwest of WFN. It is accessible by air, water and winter road only. There are 357 registered members residing on the Neskantaga Reserve, with the remaining 137 registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Neskantaga First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief and four Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Nibinamik First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Nibinamik First Nation, known as Summer Beaver, is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Nibinamik cultural affiliation is Ojibway.</p> <p>Nibinamik First Nation is comprised of the recently recognized reserve of the Summer Beaver Settlement, which is located on Nibinamik Lake (GoC, 2021). The community is located approximately 480 km north of Greenstone, 210 km northwest of MFFN and 70 km southwest of WFN. It is accessible by air, water and winter road only. According to Indigenous Services Canada (GoC, 2021), 75 registered members live on their 'own reserve' and the remaining 464 registered members live elsewhere. There are 380 registered members residing in the Summer Beaver Indian Settlement (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Nibinamik First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Head Councillor and three Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation</p> | <p>Red Sky Métis Independent Nation (RSMIN) is comprised of descendants of the 84 Métis who were beneficiaries and annuitants under the Robinson-Superior Treaty 1850. As of August 2014, RSMIN is recognized as a non-status Nation (RSMIN, 2021). The administrative office for Red Sky Métis Independent Nation is located in Thunder Bay, approximately 430 km southwest of MFFN and 520 km south of WFN. There are approximately 8,000 members with an elected Chief (RSMIN, 2021).</p> |
| <p>Wapekeka First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Shibogama First Nations Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Wapekeka First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Shibogama First Nations Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Wapekeka was formerly known as the Angling Lake First Nation. The Wapekeka cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree. Wapekeka First Nation is comprised of two reserves: Wapekeka Reserve 1 (3,605 ha) and Wapekeka Reserve 2 (2,026.5 ha) (GoC, 2021). Wapekeka Reserve 2 serves as the residential community and is located on the shores of Otter Lake, approximately 440 km northeast of Sioux Lookout, which is the nearest service centre and approximately 345 km northwest of MFFN and 175 km northwest of WFN. Wapekeka Reserve 1 is located approximately 10 km south of the main community. The community is accessible by air through the off-reserve Angling Lake/Wapekeka Airport, as well as partially accessible by boat and a winter road. There are 498 of the 513 registered members residing on Wapekeka Reserve lands, with the remaining residing elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Wapekeka First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief, and three Councillors elected every two years.</p> |

Table 17-1 (Cont'd): Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project

| Indigenous Community | Community Profile |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Wawakapewin First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Shibogama First Nations Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Wawakapewin First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Shibogama First Nations Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Wawakapewin cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Wawakapewin First Nation is comprised of one reserve, the Wawakapewin Reserve (5,221 ha) (GoC, 2021), which is located approximately 300 km northwest of MFFN and 130 km northwest of WFN. Approximately half of the 36 registered members reside on the Wawakapewin Reserve, with the remaining registered members residing elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Wawakapewin First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and one Councillor elected every three years.</p> |
| <p>Webequie First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Matawa First Nations Management Inc.</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Webequie First Nation (WFN) is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Matawa First Nations Management Inc. and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Webequie cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree.</p> <p>WFN is comprised of one reserve, Webequie Reserve (34,279 ha), located on the northern peninsula of Eastwood Island on Winisk Lake (GoC, 2021), approximately 540 km north of the city of Thunder Bay and 175 km northwest of MFFN. The community is accessible by air via the on reserve remote Webequie Airport, by water and winter road. There are 326 of the registered members residing on the Webequie Reserve, while the remaining 611 registered members live elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>WFN has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Head Councillor and five Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Independent First Nations</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Weenusk First Nation cultural affiliation is Cree in the n-dialect. Anishiniimowin and Ojibwemowin are also spoken.</p> <p>Weenusk people used to live in the community of Winisk near the mouth of the Winisk River until the community moved to Peawanuck due to flooding. Peawanuck is located near the confluence of the Winisk and Shamattawa Rivers, approximately 30 km upriver from Winisk. Weenusk First Nation is comprised of one reserve, Winisk Reserve 90 (5,310 ha), and the Winisk Indian Settlement (GoC, 2021), both of which are located approximately 45 km from Hudson Bay along the Winisk River, approximately 375 km north of MFFN and 260 km northeast of WFN.</p> <p>There are 25 registered members living on Winisk Reserve 90, while the majority of the 605 registered members live elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Weenusk First Nation has a Custom Electoral Governance System, with one Chief and three Councillors elected every two years.</p> |
| <p>Wunnumin Lake First Nation</p> <p>Tribal Council: Shibogama First Nations Council</p> <p>Provincial Territorial Organization: Nishnawbe Aski Nation</p> | <p>Wunnumin Lake First Nation is a signatory to Treaty 9 and is affiliated with the Shibogama First Nations Council and Nishnawbe Aski Nation. The Wunnumin cultural affiliation is Oji-Cree.</p> <p>Wunnumin Lake First Nation is comprised of two reserves, Wunnumin 1 (5,855.1 ha) and Wunnumin 2 (3,794.4 ha) (GoC, 2021). The reserves are located approximately 385 km northeast of Sioux Lookout, 177 km northeast of Pickle Lake, 255 km northwest of MFFN and 120 km west of WFN. The community is accessible by air through the off-reserve remote Wunnumin Lake Airport, by water, and by winter road. There are 584 of the 723 registered members residing on the Wunnumin reserves, with the remaining registered members living elsewhere (GoC, 2021).</p> <p>Wunnumin Lake First Nation has a Custom Electoral System, with one Chief, one Deputy Chief, one Head Councillor and three Councillors elected every two years.</p> |

Cultural Continuity and Well-being

Cultural continuity and well-being is defined as traditions, customs, protocols, values, spirituality, ceremonies, language, ways of knowing and being, and connections to the land and culturally important sites, areas, and resources including any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance; cultural heritage landscapes and access to travel routes, the experience of being on the land and way of life tied to well-being and outlook of Indigenous communities, community cohesion, cultural knowledge transfer and protection of language as well as diet and food security. Same as for ILRU, **Table 17-1** provides brief community profiles for the Indigenous communities and Indigenous organizations whose ATRI might potentially be affected by the Project, or may otherwise have an interest in the Project and have been identified to be consulted on the Project.

Part E: Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Indigenous and Municipal Involvement Effects

18 Financial Support from Federal Authorities

There is currently no confirmed federal financial support for the Project.

19 Use of Federal Lands for the Project

There are no federal lands that are anticipated to be used directly for the Project. The reserve lands of the MFFN, WFN, and Eabametoong First Nation that are under federal jurisdiction are located within 100 km of the Project. The proximity of the Project to these reserve lands is summarized in **Table 15-4** and shown on **Figure 15-1**.

20 Jurisdictions that Have Powers, Duties or Functions Related to the Project's Environmental Effects

20.1 Federal *Impact Assessment Act*, S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1

As noted in **Section 10**, the Project is a designated project in accordance with the *Physical Activities Regulations* SOR/2019-285 under the IAA. Scheduled projects are required to prepare Initial and Detailed Project Descriptions for submission to the Agency for a determination of whether or not a federal IA is required. It is anticipated that a federal IA will be required for the Project, and will include the following phases¹⁴:

› **Planning Phase (180 days):**

- The proponent submits an Initial Project Description.
- The Agency engages with Indigenous groups, the public, other jurisdictions, and expert agencies and departments on the Initial Project Description.
- The Agency prepares a Summary of Issues.
- The proponent submits Detailed Project Description with Response to the Summary of Issues.
- The Agency determines if an Impact Assessment is required and posts Notice of Impact Assessment Decision with Reasons.
- The Agency engages with Indigenous groups, the public, other jurisdictions, and expert agencies and departments in order to develop the TISG, as well as the Cooperation Plan, Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, Permitting Plan, and Public Participation Plan. Once finalized, the Agency provides the TISG and related Impact Assessment process plans to the proponent and posts the documents to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry with the Notice of Commencement.

¹⁴ Agency guidance on the Impact Assessment process is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/impact-assessment-process-overview.html>

› **Impact Statement Phase (3 years):**

- The proponent has up to three years to prepare and submit a satisfactory Impact Statement (IS) in accordance with the TISG.

› **Impact Assessment Phase (300 days):**

- Once the Agency is satisfied with the content of the IS, the 300-day Impact Assessment phase begins, and the Agency prepares a draft Impact Assessment Report (IAR). The Agency considers comments received on the draft IAR, finalizes the IAR and potential conditions, and provides the IAR, potential conditions, and Consultation Report to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change for a decision.

Table 20-1 provides a summary of federal regulatory milestones for the Project and estimated dates.

Table 20-1: Federal Regulatory Milestones

| Milestone | Federal Process Estimated Dates |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Submission of Initial Project Description | February 2, 2023 |
| The Agency posts Public Notice and News Release to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry and engages with Indigenous groups, the public, other jurisdictions, and federal expert agencies and departments on the Initial Project Description | February 21 to March 23, 2023 |
| The Agency prepares Summary of Issues | March 31, 2023 |
| Submission of Detailed Project Description with Response to the Summary of Issues | May 1, 2023 |
| The Agency determines if an Impact Assessment is required and posts Notice of Impact Assessment Decision with Reasons | Summer 2023 |
| The Agency engages on the Draft Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG) and the draft planning documents (Cooperation Plan, Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, Permitting Plan, and Public Participation Plan) | Summer 2023 |
| The Agency issues final TISG and planning documents (Cooperation Plan, Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan, Permitting Plan, and Public Participation Plan), along with the Notice of Commencement of an Impact Assessment | Summer 2023 |
| Submission of Draft EAR/IS | 2026 |
| The Agency engages on the Draft EAR/IS and requires the proponent to provide missing information or clarifications, as necessary | 2026 |
| Submission of EAR/IS | 2027 |
| The Agency engages on the EAR/IS and requires the proponent to provide missing information or clarifications, as necessary | 2027 |
| Submission of Final EAR/IS | 2027 |
| The Agency accepts the Final EAR/IS and issues notice that the Final EAR/IS contains all the required information and studies | 2027 |
| The Agency prepares and engages on the draft Impact Assessment Report (IAR) and draft potential conditions | 2028 |
| The Agency provides the IAR and potential conditions to the Minister for consideration | 2028 |
| The decision-maker (Minister or Governor in Council) issues a Decision Statement with the reasons for the determination and any conditions | 2028 |
| Consultation and Engagement | Throughout the duration of the Project |
| Other permits and approvals | TBD |

The Agency = Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, EAR/IS = Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement.

20.2 Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E. 18

The Project is subject to the EA Act. On October 28, 2020, MFFN and WFN entered into a Voluntary Agreement with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP, MFFN and WFN, 2020), thereby confirming the environmental planning process to be undertaken for the Project, including the need to prepare a Comprehensive EA. The Comprehensive EA process is considered appropriate for addressing the Project’s scale, complexity and potential effects. Accordingly, the Project is following a Comprehensive EA process.

The following guidance documents will inform the requirements and preparation of the EAR/IS under the EA Act:

- › *Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (EA Code of Practice [MOE, 2014b]);*
- › *Code of Practice: Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process (MOE, 2014c); and*
- › *Considering Climate Change in the Environmental Assessment Process (MOECC, 2017).*

Table 20-2 provides a summary of provincial regulatory milestones for the Project and estimated dates.

Table 20-2: Provincial Regulatory Milestones

| Milestone | Provincial Process Estimated Dates |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Notice of Commencement of Terms of Reference (ToR) | May 4, 2021 |
| Circulation and Notice of Draft ToR | November 24, 2021 |
| Submission of Proposed ToR to MECP | April 29, 2022 |
| Minister’s Decision on Proposed ToR | March 3, 2023 |
| Notice of Commencement of EA | April 1, 2023 |
| Submission of Draft EAR/IS | 2026 |
| Notice of Draft EA/IA for Review | 2026 |
| Submission of Final EAR/IS | 2027 |
| Minister issues Decision on EA | 2027 |
| Consultation and engagement | Throughout the duration of the Project |
| Other permits and approvals | TBD |

EA = Environmental Assessment, EAR/IS = Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement, MECP = Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

20.2.1 Class Environmental Assessments

The Project may require the completion of Class EAs prior to proceeding with construction, including Class EAs under MNR for aggregate resources. The Province of Ontario is undergoing a modernization process for Class EAs, where a new set of legislative, regulatory and policy changes have been proposed and are currently being consulted on (Government of Ontario, 2021). Required Class EAs for the Project will be identified in consultation with provincial agencies, including the potential application of a Class EA for Resource Stewardship and Facility Development projects. The Comprehensive EA, and appropriate notices, will specify the intent to meet some or all of the Class EAs applicable to the Project in conjunction with the Comprehensive EA requirements, in consultation with relevant provincial agencies.

20.3 Process for Federal-Provincial Coordinated EA

Projects subject to both the EA Act and the IAA may have different environmental assessment/impact assessment approval requirements under each Act. Such projects need a coordinated process to meet the requirements of both Acts concurrently. To guide this coordinated process, Canada and Ontario entered into an agreement entitled “Canada-Ontario Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation (2004)” (Minister of the Environment [Ontario] and Minister of the Environment [Canada], 2004). It is anticipated that the Project may undergo a coordinated Federal-Provincial assessment process. If so, the proponent will produce one body of documentation, referred to as the EAR/IS. The EAR/IS will address the requirements of both the provincial ToR and the federal TISG. To help facilitate a coordinated process, an “EA/IA Coordination Team” has been established for this Project that includes representatives of both the federal and provincial governments. The purpose of this team is to address and coordinate the requirements of both processes in an efficient manner.

The EA/IA Coordination Team consists of representatives from the following provincial agencies and federal authorities:

- › MECP;
- › MINES;
- › MNRF;
- › MTO; and
- › The Agency.

The EA/IA Coordination Team meets with the proponent on a regular basis, in a forum where team members can exchange information, including providing each other with updates on the EA/IA process; explore issues and collectively try to resolve them; work on coordinating and keep the processes moving forward in lockstep to the greatest possible extent; and seek feedback on Indigenous, public and stakeholder consultation and engagement. Meetings with the EA/IA Coordination Team are scheduled to occur every two weeks via teleconference, and in-person when it is determined to be of assistance.

Projects undergoing a coordinated Federal-Provincial process are subject to two separate decisions, one for the EA from the province and one for the IA from the federal Agency. In a coordinated EA/IA, the Agency and the MECP will determine, on a project by project-basis, the relevant milestones for the coordinated process.

Guidance and tools that may help inform the EA/IA requirements and process will include but not be limited to:

- › Practitioner’s Guide to Federal Impact Assessments under the IAA (the Agency, 2021b);
- › Cumulative Effects Assessment Practitioners Guide (Hegmann et al., 1999); and
- › Assessing Cumulative Environmental Effects under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 2018 [interim guidance until new guidance is released under the IAA]).

In addition, the EA/IA may be informed by the ongoing Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area as the information becomes available.

20.4 Other Relevant Legislation and Permits

The EAR/IS will include a detailed list of other approvals that may be needed for the Project.

The Project will likely require various additional federal and provincial permits, licences, approvals, authorizations and other forms of clearance in order to implement the Project, for activities related to the construction and operations phases. The proponent and relevant authorities will discuss applicable approvals with potentially affected Indigenous communities and other affected parties, as required, through the EA/IA process. Depending on the status of consultation and engagement efforts through the EA/IA process, additional consultation on permits and approvals may be required following completion of the EAR/IS. A summary of these potential permits and approvals is presented in the following sections and is based on the current concept for the Project. This preliminary list of permits/approvals is not exhaustive and will be refined as the Project design is further advanced through the EA/IA, with input provided by applicable authorities.

20.4.1 Federal

In addition to approval under the IAA, the Project may require permits and approvals under federal legislation as identified in **Table 20-3**.

Table 20-3: Federal Legislation, Permits and Other Authorizations

| Regulator | Legislation/Permit/Act | Applicability to the Project |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transport Canada | <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> | Consult with Transport Canada on any work in or over a navigable waterbody that may interfere substantially with navigation (e.g., construction of a bridge, boom, dam or causeway, dumping of fill in or excavation of materials from the riverbed, placement of any power cable, wire, structure or device). There are no crossings of waterbodies listed in the Schedule to the Act designating Navigable Waters, but there will be major, minor and other works on unlisted waterways deemed to be navigable that will be subject to the Act's provisions. |
| Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) | Authorization under <i>Fisheries Act</i> | Work or undertaking that may result in harmful alteration, disruption or destruction (HADD) of fish or fish habitat. |
| ECCC | Permit under <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (2002) <i>Section 73</i> | Work that causes a specified effect to a terrestrial, avian or aquatic species listed under SARA Schedule 1, or its habitat, and which contravenes the Act's general or critical habitat prohibitions (includes intrusive methods for sampling). |
| | Letter of Advice or Damage/Danger Permit under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> | Prohibits the disruption or loss of active migratory nests, or harm or loss of eggs, young, and breeding adults. Mitigation required when working during nesting periods. |
| Natural Resources Canada | Licence under the <i>Explosives Act</i> | Storage of explosives. |
| Transport Canada | Permit under the <i>Dangerous Goods Act, 1992</i> | A permit may be required for transportation of explosives. |

20.4.2 Provincial

In addition to approval under the EA Act, the Project may require approvals, permits or other authorizations, or may otherwise be affected by requirements under the provincial legislation as identified in **Table 20-4**.

Table 20-4: Provincial Legislation, Permits and Other Authorizations

| Regulator | Permit/Act | Corresponding Applicability to the Project |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MNRF | Permit to Collect Fish for Scientific Purposes under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (1997) | A Permit is required to allow the capture and transfer of fish during in-water works, such as cofferdam construction and/or dewatering. |
| | Permit to Collect Wildlife for Scientific Purposes under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (1997) | A Permit is required to allow the capture and transfer of wildlife. |
| | Authorization under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> (1997) | Project construction, operation and maintenance activities, including clearing, grubbing dewatering and damming of water, could impact the nests or eggs of birds, or beaver dams, or the dens of black bears or some furbearing wildlife, or interfere with black bears in their dens. During operations, some maintenance activities in particular, also could have an effect on wildlife, including nests and dens. Authorization to destroy/take/possess nests or eggs under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> may be required. Authorization under the <i>Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act</i> is also required to interfere with or destroy a black bear or furbearing mammal den, beaver den or black bear in a den. |
| | A Permit to Remove or a Sale and Purchase Agreement under the <i>Crown Forest Sustainability Act</i> (1994) | A Permit to Remove or a Sale and Purchase Agreement will be required to harvest and/or cut timber. Either instrument can only be obtained where the activity for which trees must be harvested (ex. road construction, aggregate extraction) has received prior approval under the appropriate legislation. |
| | Burn Permit under <i>Forest Fires Prevention Act</i> (1990) and Ontario Regulation 207/96 | A Burn Permit is required to allow burning of materials from forest clearing, if required. |
| | <i>Public Lands Act</i> (1990) | The Project includes works on Crown lands and/or shore lands, including geotechnical investigations, construction/upgrade of access roads and trails, and culverts/bridges. Road construction is typically authorized via a Work Permit under the <i>Act</i> . Water crossings (culverts, bridges, snowfill) are authorized via a Work Permit under the <i>Act</i> . |
| | Land Use Permits under the <i>Public Lands Act, 1990</i> | Activities requiring occupation of public lands (e.g., worker camps, waste areas and/or laydown yards) are typically authorized by a Land Use Permit under the <i>Act</i> . A Land Use Permit may be required for roads where access restrictions are applied. |

Table 20-4 (Cont'd): Provincial Legislation, Permits and Other Authorizations

| Regulator | Permit/Act | Corresponding Applicability to the Project |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MNR (Cont'd) | <i>Far North Act</i> (2010) | Amendments to the <i>Far North Act</i> were approved December 9, 2021. Amendments include the removal of Section 12 (Development if no Community Based Land Use Plan). The Project will not require a Lieutenant Governor in Council Order or Minister's Order under the <i>Far North Act</i> before proceeding. CBLUPs have not yet been finalized for the area where corridor alternatives for the Project are proposed. Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) are currently developing Draft CBLUPs for this area and will ensure there are no conflicts between the Project and CBLUPs. Project components and activities that affect land use will be consistent with the approved CBLUPs. |
| | Aggregate Permit under <i>Aggregate Resources Act</i> (1990) | A Permit will be required to extract aggregate on all provincial Crown Land and on all private land in areas designated under the <i>Aggregate Resources Act</i> . |
| | Approval under <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act (LRIA)</i> | Approval for bridges, culverts and causeways may be required where the <i>Public Lands Act</i> does not apply and the drainage area above the proposed site is greater than 5.0 km ² . |
| MECP | Research Authorization in Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves, under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act (2006)</i> | For proposed research and field investigations (e.g., ecology, geotechnical, groundwater, surface water) in the Otokwin/Attawapiskat River Provincial Park. |
| | Permit to Take Water (PTTW) or Environmental Activity and Sector Registration (EASR) under the <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> (1990) | Where Project construction requires water taking – pumping, draining, dewatering, wells. Takings up to 50,000 litres per day (L/d) require no permit/registration. Dependent upon meeting specific criteria (e.g., water source, purpose) of the Water Taking EASR Regulation – O. Reg. 63/16, some takings between 50,000 L/d and 400,000 L/d may qualify for registry (EASR), while other takings (e.g., associated with aggregate sites) may require a PTTW. Takings over 400,000 L/d require a PTTW. |
| | Authorization under the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> | Potential for corridor/road construction to have effects on listed species or habitat. |
| | Approval under the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i> (1990) | Facilitates provision of potable water and on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems at temporary construction camp(s). |

Table 20-4 (Cont'd): Provincial Legislation, Permits and Other Authorizations

| Regulator | Permit/Act | Corresponding Applicability to the Project |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> (1990) | Permits waste to be transported by haulers from the Project work site and permits emissions from on-site equipment. An ECA may be required for the discharge and treatment of wastewater generated from some water takings. An ECA will be required for aggregate wash water systems with capacity greater than 10,000 L/d. An ECA will be required for on-site sewage systems with a design capacity in excess of 10,000 L/d. An ECA will be required for activities related to noise and air effects resulting from aggregate extraction. An ECA may be required for waste disposal if the proponent establishes a waste disposal site for final disposal, or a transfer station to collect and store waste from other sites (with a volume no greater than 1,000 tonnes per day of waste for final disposal). |
| | Authorization under the <i>Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006</i> | Authorizations for construction may be required for clearing of ROW, laydown areas, and related activities. |
| Ministry of Health | Permit to Construct – Sewage System under the <i>Building Code Act</i> | A district Health Unit permit will be required for on-site sewage systems with a design capacity of up to 10,000 L/d. |
| Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development | <i>Occupational Health and Safety Act</i> (1990) | Notice of Project under Section 23(2). |
| Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism | <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> (1990): Part III.1 (Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties) Part VI (Archaeological Resources) Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists | Letters for archaeological and other cultural heritage assessment(s) as part of environmental assessment and <i>Ontario Heritage Act</i> due diligence. |

Part F: Potential Effects of the Project

Appendix C summarizes the preliminary mitigation measures proposed for the construction and operations phases, in tabular format, by each component of the environment including physical, biological, health, socio-economic, cultural heritage resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. Additional mitigation measures will be included in management plans that will be developed prior to construction and operations. Proposed management plans are listed in **Section 26** (see **Table 26-1**).

There are no fish species protected under the *Species at Risk Act* that could be present in the study area. Lake Sturgeon (Southern Hudson Bay – James Bay Population) are present and currently listed as Special Concern hence not afforded any protections under the *Species at Risk Act*.

The Project is unlikely to lead to Project-related changes in the harvest of marine plants within the coastal waters of Canada as defined under Section 47 of the *Fisheries Act* and Section 2(1) of *The Species at Risk Act*. As such, no preliminary mitigation measures are proposed.

The Project will not occur on federal lands and as a result no known changes to the environment on federal lands are anticipated. The Project will not cause changes to the environment in either a province other than Ontario or outside of Canada.

21 Accidents and Malfunctions

The proponent will carry out an assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions for the Project including 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). As part of the assessment of accidents and malfunctions, the proponent will carry out a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment of accidents and malfunctions across all phases of the Project, determine their potential effects, and present preliminary emergency response measures, systems, and associated response capacities. If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal IA under the *Impact Assessment Act*, the proponent's approach to the assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions will be refined based on the Project's TISG and the details of the assessment will be included in the EAR/IS.

22 Cumulative Effects

The EAR/IS will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will identify the residual effects from the Project that have the potential for interaction (spatial and temporal) with the residual effects of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects.

22.1 Identifying Past, Present or Reasonably Foreseeable Projects and/or Activities

The following development categories will be considered in the EAR/IS:

- › Existing projects or activities for which the environmental effects overlap with those of the proposed Project (i.e., past and present); and
- › Proposed projects for which the environmental effects overlap the proposed Project (i.e., reasonably foreseeable).

Reasonably foreseeable projects to be included in the cumulative effects assessment will consider but not be limited to mine development and exploration, proposed road construction (e.g., MFCAR and WSR), and other utilities and associated infrastructure to support mine development. The cumulative effects assessment will also consider, where appropriate, any publicly available information that may be generated through the federal Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area (**Section 8.1**) that is considered to be relevant to the Project.

The EAR/IS will describe the methods for identifying potential interactions between residual Project effects and the effects of other developments, including:

- › The residual effects to be carried forward to the cumulative effects assessment;
- › The spatial boundaries for the cumulative effects assessment for each environmental component, including maps;
- › The spatial and temporal boundaries of other developments; and
- › The potential for interaction (spatial and temporal) and linkages (overlap) of environmental components with other developments.

The EAR/IS will include:

- › A table of all past, present and reasonably foreseeable developments that will be included in the cumulative effects assessment, should one be required for a particular environmental component;
- › A general description of the information sources used to identify reasonably foreseeable developments and activities; and
- › A map showing the location of other developments.

22.2 Conducting a Cumulative Effects Assessment

The EAR/IS will summarize the process and methods used to conduct the cumulative effects assessment, including the identification of potential cumulative effects, identification of additional mitigation measures, and evaluation of any (residual) cumulative effects using the same methods described in **Section 24**. The proponent will develop a cumulative effects assessment study plan to provide a framework for the cumulative effects assessment. The methodology the Project will follow to assess cumulative effects is consistent with evolving best practice and the federal approach under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 2018 [interim guidance until new guidance is released under the *Impact Assessment Act*]).

22.3 Consultation on the Cumulative Effects Assessment

Indigenous communities and regulators will be consulted on the cumulative effects assessment study plan, methodology, results and mitigation/impact management measures during preparation of the EAR/IS. This will include targeted consultation opportunities to participating Indigenous communities, including methods of engagement that the Indigenous communities might request.

The EAR/IS will include a cumulative effects consultation report to accompany the cumulative effects assessment. The report will include:

- › A summary of the consultation completed with Indigenous communities and any other organizations/agencies regarding the development of the cumulative effects assessment; and
- › Comment-response tables showing how comments from Indigenous communities and any other organizations/agencies were considered and incorporated, as appropriate, in the development of the cumulative effects assessment.

23 Project's Contribution to Sustainability

The EA/IA will assess the Project's contribution to sustainability, in recognition of the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems and well-being of present and future generations. The effects assessment will include mitigation measures that are feasible and that may be needed to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on sustainability of human-ecological systems and well-being of present and future generations.

If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal Impact Assessment under the under the IAA, the proponent's approach to the assessment of the Project's contribution to sustainability will be refined in alignment with the Project's TISG and the details of the assessment will be presented in the EAR/IS.

24 Effects Assessment Methods

As noted in **Section 14.1**, the proponent will consider “alternative means” of carrying out the Project. The sum of the preferred methods will constitute the Project. Further detail on the assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project is provided in the Proposed Terms of Reference (MFFN and WFN, 2022). Once the preferred means (i.e., the Project) have been identified, an effects assessment will be completed for the Project. Effects assessment methods will be described in detail on the EAR/IS, including:

- › Selection and scoping of Valued Components (VC);
- › Baseline characterization;
- › Identification of Project-VC interactions and potential effects;
- › Selection of mitigation measures;
- › Identification and characterization of residual effects;
- › Cumulative effects assessment; and
- › Follow-up commitments and monitoring programs.

The EAR/IS will provide a detailed description of the methods used to support the assessment of project-related effects on VCs within the following disciplines: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, physical environment, biological environment, socio-economic environment, cultural heritage resources, and human health.

Study plans will be prepared for some disciplines/VCs to provide more detail on specific VC assessments. Study plans will be prepared for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, the physical environment (including Surface Water), the biological environment (including Species at Risk), the socio-economic environment, cultural heritage resources and human health. A cumulative effects assessment study plan will also be prepared, as described in **Section 22**. The full list of study plans will be developed through consultation with the regulators, Indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. All study plans will be provided to provincial and federal regulators for review and comment after both the provincial and federal planning phases are complete. Plain language fact sheets summarizing each study plan will be prepared and presented for input early in the EA/IA as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program. Fact Sheets for each study plan will be provided as supportive hand-out at Indigenous and public open house events, posted on the project website, and presented at livestreaming and radio information sessions to provide an opportunity for comment and discussion.

Available IK/ILRU information will be incorporated into the EA/IA as appropriate and as it becomes available, as will information received from Indigenous groups through consultation and engagement.

If an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. The proponent would identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.

25 Follow-up and Monitoring

25.1 Follow-up Strategy

Follow-up strategies will be developed for Project-related effects, as appropriate. Follow-up strategies may be applied for example when:

- › There is uncertainty in the effects prediction.
- › The effectiveness of mitigation measures should be evaluated.
- › The concerns of the public or Indigenous groups warrant follow-up, regardless of the confidence in the prediction.
- › Effects are expected to disproportionately effect vulnerable populations.

Where a residual adverse effect and/or cumulative effect has been identified for a specific VC, the EAR/IS will include a description of a follow-up strategy, where appropriate, that:

- › Identifies the measures to evaluate the accuracy of the original effects prediction;
- › Identifies the measures to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures; and
- › Proposes an appropriate strategy to apply in the event that original predictions of effects and mitigation effectiveness are not as expected. This includes reference to further mitigation, involvement of key stakeholders, Indigenous groups, federal and provincial regulators, and any other measures deemed necessary to manage the issue.

A monitoring framework will be developed based on the follow-up strategies identified for the Project, as described in **Section 25.2**. Adaptive management will be incorporated into the follow-up program where applicable.

25.2 Monitoring

The Project will be carried out in full compliance with federal and provincial laws and best management practices, and environmental procedures for road construction and operation. The proponent will prepare a monitoring framework which will initially be developed during the EA/IA. The EAR/IS will include a description of the monitoring programs that have been recommended during the development of the EA/IA. The framework for monitoring will be identified for each Project phase (construction and operations, including decommissioning of temporary construction support works) and will be based on the follow-up strategies identified for the Project as described in **Section 25.1**. Monitoring programs will consider the particular environment in the Far North. The Project will be operated for an indeterminate period (i.e., as a permanent facility) and therefore, decommissioning/retirement of the Project is not anticipated. As such, a decommissioning monitoring program will not be included in the EA/IA, although monitoring associated with decommissioning of temporary supporting infrastructure will be conducted as part of the construction and operation monitoring programs. The EAR/IS include a conceptual monitoring plan to encompass two types of monitoring, as follows:

- › Compliance monitoring; and
- › Effects monitoring.

Compliance monitoring is the assessment and evaluation of whether an undertaking has been constructed, implemented and/or operated in accordance with commitments made during the EA/IA, and any conditions of the EA/IA approval and other approvals required to implement the Project. The compliance monitoring program will be further described in the EAR/IS, including the preparation of management plans, to meet the commitments identified during the EA/IA. A preliminary list of proposed Management Plans is provided in **Section 26**.

Effects monitoring involves activities designed to verify the predictions of the effects assessment (e.g., water quality and effects on fish communities), and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measure(s). The effects monitoring program will initially be developed during the latter stages of the EA/IA. Both physical and risk-based monitoring of the effects and associated mitigation will be employed, where appropriate. Construction and operational monitoring will identify actual effects, assess the effectiveness of the mitigation/restoration/enhancement measures to minimize (or in the case of potential benefits optimize these effects), and evaluate the need for any additional action to meet environmental commitments and obligations and confirm that mitigation/restoration/enhancement measures are effective.

26 Management Plans

The proponent will prepare management plans for the construction and operations phases of the Project. Although decommissioning is not anticipated, if decommissioning occurs the proponent will also develop a management plan for decommissioning. The applicable management plans will be prepared prior to the start of each Project phase and will incorporate feedback from consultation and engagement with federal and provincial government agencies, stakeholders, Indigenous communities and the public during the development of the EA/IA as appropriate and applicable.

The purpose of the management plans is to guide the proponent and its contractors in complying with applicable environmental legislation, best practice and industry standards, and commitments made in the EAR/IS by providing criteria, standard protocols, and mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential environmental effects throughout all phases of the Project.

Both the construction and operation management plans will include numerous component management plans. The list of component management plans needed for construction will vary from those needed for operation, and component management plans that apply to both construction and operation will be tailored for the applicable phase. The management plans may require updates during each Project phase in the event of changes in legislation, best practice or industry standards. A preliminary list of component management plans is outlined below.

- › Aboriginal Rights and Impact Interests Management;
- › Air Quality and Dust Control Management;
- › Blasting Management;
- › Cultural Resources Management;
- › Dewatering Management;
- › Emergency Response Management;
- › Environmental Awareness and Education;
- › Erosion and Sediment Control;
- › Fish and Fish Habitat Management;
- › Health and Safety Management;
- › Light Management;
- › Noise Management;
- › Petrochemical Storage and Handling;
- › Preventative Maintenance;
- › Site Restoration;
- › Spill Prevention and Response Management;
- › Soil Management;
- › Surface Water and Storm Water Management;
- › Traffic Management;
- › Training Management;
- › Vegetation Management (includes Sensitive Habitat, Noxious and Invasive Plants);
- › Waste Management (including Hazardous, Contaminated and Controlled Materials); and
- › Wildlife Management.

26.1 Applicable Legislation and Standards

The plans will incorporate applicable environmental legislation and best practice and industry standards. A preliminary list of legislation and standards is outlined below.

Communities/Municipalities

- › Community-based Land Use Plans.

Provincial

- › Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.18;
- › Ontario *Environmental Protection Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.19;
- › Ontario *Water Resources Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.40;
- › Ontario *Safe Drinking Water Act*, 2002, S.O. 2002, c. 32;
- › Ontario *Clean Water Act*, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 22;
- › Ontario *Heritage Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18;
- › Ontario *Endangered Species Act*, 2007, S.O. 2007, c.6;
- › Ontario *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act*, 1997, S. O. 1997, c. 41;
- › Ontario *Invasive Species Act*, 2015, S.O. 2015, c. 22;
- › Ontario *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, 1994, S.O. 1994, c. 25;
- › Ontario *Forest Fires Prevention Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. F.24;
- › Ontario Regulation 207/96: Outdoor Fires (*under Ontario Forest Fires Prevention Act*);
- › Ontario *Public Lands Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. P.43;
- › Ontario *Far North Act*, 2010, S.O. 2010, c. 18;
- › Ontario *Aggregate Resources Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.8;
- › Ontario *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. L.3;
- › Ontario *Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act*, 2006, S.O. 2006, c. 12;
- › Ontario *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7;
- › Ontario *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.1;
- › Ontario *Building Code Act*, 1992, S.O. 1992, c. 23;
- › Ontario Regulation 903, Wells R.R.O. 1990, Wells (*under Ontario Water Resources Act*);
- › Ontario Regulation 169/03, Ontario Drinking Water Quality Standards (*under Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002*);
- › Ambient Air Quality Criteria (AAQC) (MECP, 2020b);
- › Ontario Ministry of Transportation, 2020: Environmental Guide for Assessing and Mitigating the Air Quality Impacts and Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Provincial Transportation Projects;
- › Environmental Noise Guideline – Stationary and Transportation Sources – Approval and Planning – NPC 300 (MOECC, 2013);
- › Ministry of Transportation of Ontario Environmental Guide for Noise (MTO, 2022);
- › MTO Provincial Standard OPPS.MUNI 120, General Specification of the Use of Explosives;
- › A Protocol for Dealing with Noise Concerns During the Preparation, Review and Evaluation of Provincial Highways and Environmental Assessments (MTO, 1996);
- › Water management: policies, guidelines, provincial water quality objectives (*Ministry of the Environment and Energy, 1994, as amended*);
- › Ontario Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (as appropriate depending on the species present, [DFO, 2013]);
- › Ontario Provincial Standard Specification (OPSS) 517 – Dewatering of Pipeline, Utility, and Associated Structure Excavation and OPSS 518 – Construction Specification for Control of Water from Dewatering Operations;

- › Ontario Provincial Standard Specification (OPSS) 805 – Construction Specification for Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Measures;
- › Draft Guidelines for Ministries on Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples related to Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights and the documentation on the Duty to Consult with Aboriginal Peoples in Ontario (MIA, 2021);
- › MTO/DFO/MNRF Protocol for Protecting Fish and Fish Habitat on Provincial Transportation Undertakings (MTO, 2006);
- › MNRF/DFO Protocol for Review and Approval of Forestry Water Crossings (MNRF and DFO, 2020);
- › Woodland Caribou Recovery Strategy (MECP, 2021b);
- › Wolverine Recovery Strategy (MECP, 2021c);
- › Moose Management Policy (MECP, 2021d);
- › Significant Wildlife Habitat Technical Guide (MNR, 2000);
- › Significant Wildlife Habitat Criteria Schedules – 3E (MNRF, 2015) and 3W (draft – MNRF, 2017a);
- › Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (MNR, 2010);
- › Bats and bat habitats: Guidelines for wind power projects (MNR, 2011);
- › Guide for the Avoidance Alternatives Form for activities that may require an overall benefit permit under clause 17(2)(c) of the Endangered Species Act (MNR, 2012);
- › Best Management Practices for Aggregate Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario (MNRF, 2016);
- › Survey Protocol for Species at Risk Bats within Treed Habitats: Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis & Tri-Coloured Bat (MNRF, 2017b);
- › Model Municipal Noise Pollution Control By-Law – Publication NPC 119 – Blasting (MOE, 1978a);
- › Model Municipal Noise Control By-Law – Publication NPC 115) – Construction Equipment (MOE, 1978b);
- › Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Terms of Reference for Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MOE, 2014a);
- › Code of Practice: Preparing and Reviewing Environmental Assessments in Ontario (MOE, 2014b);
- › Code of Practice for Consultation in Ontario’s Environmental Assessment Process (MOE, 2014c);
- › Best Management Practices for Mineral Exploration and Development Activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario (MECP, 2020c);
- › Best Management Practices for renewable energy, energy infrastructure, and energy transmission activities and Woodland Caribou in Ontario (MECP, 2020d);
- › Recovery Strategy for the Eastern Whip-poor-will (*Antrastomus vociferus*) in Ontario. Ontario Recovery Strategy Series (MECP, 2020e);
- › Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists (MTCS, 2011); and
- › Standard Practice for Aggregate Resource Evaluation (MTO, 2002).

Federal

- › *Impact Assessment Act* [S.C. 2019, c. 28, s. 1];
- › *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* [S.C. 1999, c. 33];
- › *Fisheries Act* [R.S.C., 1985, c. F-14 (last amended on 2019-08-28)];
- › *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and regulations [S.C. 1994, c. 22];
- › *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* [R.S.C., 1985, c. N-22];
- › *Species at Risk Act* [S.C. 2002, c. 29];
- › *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and regulations [S.C. 1992, c. 34];
- › *Explosives Act* [R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17];
- › Canadian Environmental Quality Guidelines (CCME, 2022);
- › CCME Canadian Sediment Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life;
- › CCME Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life;
- › CCME Canada-wide Standards for Particulate Matter and Ozone;

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- › ECCC General Nesting Periods for Migratory Birds (ECCC, 2018);
- › Guidelines to Avoid Harm to Migratory Birds (GoC, 2022);
- › DFO Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Policy Statement (DFO, 2019);
- › DFO Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat (DFO, 2022);
- › DFO Best Management Practices for Pile Driving and Related Operations (DFO, no date);
- › DFO Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters (Wright and Hopky, 1998);
- › Environmental Assessment Best Practice Guide for Wildlife at Risk in Canada (Lynch-Stewart, 2004);
- › National Fire Code (National Research Council Canada, 2015);
- › Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS, 2022); and
- › Aerial waterbird survey protocols (Ducks Unlimited Canada, 2003).

26.2 Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

Table 26-1 provides a preliminary summary of the anticipated management plans and mitigation measures associated with them. The full list of management plans and mitigation measures will be developed during the EA/IA and presented in the EAR/IS.

Table 26-1: Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact | C / O&M | <p>The proponent will engage with participating Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan specific to the rights and interests-based activities of participating Indigenous communities pertaining to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Traditions, customs, protocols, and values; › Spirituality, rituals, and ceremonies; › Connections to the land, culturally important sites, areas, and resources including any structure, site, or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance; › Cultural heritage landscapes and access to travel routes; › Environmental stewardship and Indigenous management of culturally important areas; › The experience of being on the land including the perception of availability and fragmentation of land for rights-based activities; › Cultural traditions and ways of life, being, and knowing tied to health, resilience, and well-being and the outlook of Indigenous communities; › Community cohesion; › Re-purposing cleared materials such as vegetation, including trees and plants used for traditional medicine; › Diet and food security; and › Cultural knowledge transfer and protection of language. <p>The plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects listed above.</p> <p>The plan will further describe cross-cultural awareness training, which will be developed in collaboration with engaged Indigenous communities and groups where applicable. This training is expected to build awareness and reduce potential adverse interactions with Indigenous communities and will include cultural awareness education and training for staff and on-the-ground personnel during construction.</p> |

Table 26-1 (Cont'd): Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Air Quality and GHG | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use of efficient, lower emission vehicles and equipment where practical; › Require appropriate catalytic converters, mufflers and exhaust systems are in place on equipment and functioning as designed; › Minimize idling where practical; › Spray overburden and soils with water prior as needed; and › Use of water sprays to control dust on roads. |
| Blasting | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Protective measures (e.g., use of blasting mats) to mitigate adverse noise and vibration effects, impacts to air quality or geotechnical stability, and impacts of blasting activities to the receiving environment; › Blast management: charge quantity and charge delay to be designed for site-specific conditions to minimize impact; › Sensitive time periods to be considered during scheduling blasting; › Procedure to visually check that no wildlife is visible on the site before commencing blasting; and › Delineation of a blast zone and safe zone. |
| Cultural Resources | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › General procedures to identify, report, and manage archaeological and heritage resources during construction; › Procedure for chance finds to give on-site personnel information to identify archaeological materials if encountered in the construction area, resources to report the find, and actions to follow to protect the site from impacts; and › Monitor areas of archaeological potential during construction to identify archaeological deposits, if present. |
| Dewatering | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Dewatering activities should, at a minimum, follow the Ontario Provincial Standard Specification (OPSS) 517 – Dewatering of Pipeline, Utility, and Associated Structure Excavation and OPSS 518 Construction Specification for Control of Water from Dewatering Operations; › Dewatering of groundwater (e.g., from excavations) should be carried out in a manner that will preserve the strength of the foundation soils and prevent the loss of fine materials. A combination of typical geotextiles, clear stones, and perforated or slotted pipes (filters) should be placed/installed in the sumps to prevent migration and loss of fine-grained materials during dewatering; › Pumping of surface water will be conducted using a pump equipped with a fish screen and in accordance with the DFO (2000) guideline; › Wherever possible, avoid any in-water or near-water work including pumping and dewatering during the Ontario Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (as appropriate depending on the species present, [DFO, 2013]). If in-water work is required during this period, DFO and MNRF will be consulted well in advance to request an extension to the fisheries timing window; › Complete fish rescues in isolations prior to pumping/dewatering activities taking place. The fish rescue will consist of capturing fish trapped within the isolated area and relocating them downstream of the work site; › Downstream flows will be maintained during the pumping/dewatering work by either in-stream diversion or active by-pass pumping; › Water will be filtered prior to being pumped downstream of the isolation, likely by pumping it through rip rap which will also prevent scour/erosion. The water will also be drawn from the near surface to minimize turbidity; › All in-stream works will be carried out to ensure that turbidity/total suspended solids (TSS) levels do not exceed the applicable water quality standards; |

Table 26-1 (Cont'd): Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Dewatering (Cont'd) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Refuelling of the pumps will take place at least 30 m away from the water bodies; and › Avoid leaking of oil and hydraulic fluids from dewatering related equipment and machines by performing daily inspections. Contingency measures should be developed to control and contain the spills. |
| Emergency Response | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › To be developed in accordance with applicable best practices. |
| Environmental Awareness and Education | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Procedures for orientation, meetings and training to provides information for all personnel and contractors regarding environmental sensitivities and appropriate mitigation measures. |
| Erosion and Sediment Control | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) measures (e.g., OPSS 805, Construction Specification for Temporary Erosion and Sediment Control Measures) should be incorporated into the design and implemented during the construction, at a minimum, to prevent erosion and migration of soils from the site; › Procedures to be used during clearing and other construction or maintenance activities with the potential to result in erosion or sedimentation due to rainfall, flowing water, wind, and steep slopes; › Specifications for protection for steep slopes, stockpiles, and disturbed areas during storm events; › Provisions for re-contouring the site to manage drainage and minimize potential for erosion; › Employ erosion controls (e.g., silt fences, berms, ditches) and erosion protection (e.g., mats, staking, re-sloping) to reduce the potential for transport of sediments to water bodies; › Use of ditches and storm water lagoons, as available, to manage storm water during decommissioning; › Restore surface drainage conditions to a state congruent with the surrounding environment; and › Procedures for removal and disposal of construction ESC measures. |
| Fish and Fish Habitat | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Include maps to show relevant attributes, such as fish habitat, no-go zones, limits of construction, etc.; › Wherever possible, avoid any in-water or near-water work during the Ontario Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (as appropriate depending on the species present, [DFO, 2013]). If in-water work is required during this period, DFO and MNR will be consulted well in advance to request an extension to the fisheries timing window; › Construction activity specific Stop Work Protocols that allow for the temporary cessation of Project-related activities and account for site-specific species and observation conditions; › Specification of construction activities for which fish monitoring would be necessary and procedures for monitoring construction activities by a qualified person; › Minimize the duration of in-water work as much as possible and avoid the high spring flows to further reduce risk to fish and fish habitat; › Restrict or limit access to watercourses to reduce recreational fishing pressure; and › Provide information on fish species that are, or may be present in the aquatic environment. |

Table 26-1 (Cont'd): Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Health and Safety | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Personal protective equipment, proper protocols for working in and around machinery, and location of existing structures, utilities, and potential hazards within the work site; › Plan to reduce communicable disease outbreaks; › Safety orientation, incident reporting, drugs and alcohol, security; › Safety requirements (e.g., housekeeping, personal protective equipment) and Job requirements (safety audits, toolbox/safety meetings); › Protocols for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Permit to Work; – Lockout and Tagout; – Confined Space Entry; – Excavation; and – Working at Heights. |
| Light | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use an industrial low-profile light fixture that side casts light; › Use smart, low consumption light-emitting diode (LED) lighting; › Illuminate those parts of the Project that need lighting; › Schedule illumination through motion and occupancy sensors for both indoor and outdoor applications, thereby reducing the amount of light trespass; › Procedure for community notification of any unusual nighttime activities (e.g., if needed for maintenance); and › Communication procedures for public inquiry or complaint. |
| Noise | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Procedure for community notification of noisy activities; › Procedure for scheduling noisy activities (e.g., avoid co-occurrence of activities with significant noise impact, avoid activities with significant noise impact during nighttime hours); › Communication procedures for public inquiry or complaint; › Implement permanent noise mitigation features such as earth berms to eliminate the direct line of sight between the source (road) and receptor areas for locations where noise impact is determined to be significant, if applicable; and › Implement permanent operational mitigation measures such as reduced speed limit along the segments of the road where noise impact is determined to be significant. |
| Petrochemical Storage and Handling | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Designated areas for storage of petrochemicals, refuelling and maintenance of vehicles, equipment, and machinery; › Specifications for the proper storage of petrochemical products, e.g., minimum distances from sensitive locations or work sites, containment, and safety requirements; › Specifications for the handling of petrochemical products and refuelling of vehicles, equipment, and machinery; › Specifications for the proper disposal of petrochemical products; › Specifications for training of workers that handle petrochemicals; and › Environmental monitoring and reporting requirements. |
| Preventative Maintenance | O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Schedule of planned maintenance and periodic inspections for the roadway and structures. |

Table 26-1 (Cont'd): Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Restoration | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identification of location(s) of site-specific restoration; › Outline timing requirements and environmental monitoring requirements; › Description of procedures for soil salvage and management; › Details of planting requirements, e.g., plant species list, number, size, and plant spacing, specifications for hydroseeding; and › Outline post-construction maintenance and care. |
| Spill Prevention and Response | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identification of responsible Project personnel and external contacts; › A description of the communication procedure and notification requirements in the event of a spill or emergency; › Specification of the containment, recovery, and clean-up procedures (including those applicable to equipment refuelling and servicing, and spill preparedness, such as spill kits and booms); › A list and a description or purpose of spill abatement materials and equipment to be stored and available on-site; › Specification of the location of spill clean-up materials and equipment; › A description of equipment refuelling and servicing procedures and limitations; › A description of follow-up and reporting requirements; › A list of training requirements for personnel; › Communication procedure and notification requirements in the event of a spill and/or emergency; and › Containment, recovery, and clean-up procedures (including those applicable to equipment refuelling and servicing, and spill preparedness, such as spill kits and booms). |
| Soil | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Specifications for stripping/removal of soils and organics; › Designation of areas for temporary stockpiling and measures to prevent soil loss; › Specifications for transportation of soil, including covering loads and/or spraying overburden and soil with water if needed; › Specifications for establishing ground cover on soil stockpiles to prevent or minimize erosion and sediment transport; and › Specifications for establishing ground cover on exposed soil surfaces to prevent or minimize erosion and sediment transport. |
| Surface Water and Storm Water | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Protective measures for maintaining current surface water quality and avoiding exceedances of water quality standards or criteria; › Outline surface water quality criteria (federal and provincial); › Methods for surface water diversion or dewatering if it is necessary for site preparation, including ponds, drainage ditches, and culverts as necessary; › Environmental monitoring for water quality and quantity, as needed to monitor for flow and sediment events during in-water works, and reporting requirements; and › Establish setbacks around water bodies; limit the extent of temporary disturbance. |
| Traffic | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Worker safety training to ensure that all vehicles and equipment are operated in a safe manner; › Worker education on how to respect and work with wildlife; › Require construction and maintenance related equipment to be operated in a safe and appropriate manner; and › Implement speed limits. |
| Training | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Measures to train local, including Indigenous, people for construction and operation jobs; and › Cultural awareness education and training for staff and on-the-ground personnel during construction. |

Table 26-1 (Cont'd): Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans

| Management Plan | Project Phase | Mitigation Measures |
|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vegetation | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize disturbance to the existing vegetation, including sensitive habitat such as riparian zones and wetlands; › Reduce and avoid impacts outside of the project footprint; › Require vehicles to arrive on-site clean and free of soil and debris which might contain invasive plant species; › Procedures to identify and control the spread or introduction of invasive or noxious plants; › Designate areas for temporary stockpiling of vegetation; › Specifications for the handling, storage, and disposal of vegetation, including noxious and invasive plants; › Pre-construction survey protocol for vegetation management, as appropriate (e.g., pre-clearing plant survey, delineating areas of invasive or noxious vegetation, and no-go zones for clearing); › Provide information on rare and sensitive habitat to be protected from disturbance located within and surrounding the site; and › Re-purposing cleared vegetation. |
| Waste | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › All waste management procedures will be conducted in compliance with provincial and federal statute and regulations including but not limited to the collection, storage and disposal of food waste, hazardous waste (including contaminated soil and used spill kit materials), sewage, waste construction materials, and recyclables in a manner consistent with regulation and inaccessible to wildlife; and › Describe procedures and Best Management Practices for general housekeeping. |
| Wildlife | C / O&M | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Describe and identify sensitive wildlife habitat, including drawings to show them relative to the Project footprint and make them available to construction personnel; › Establish setbacks around sensitive species and/or habitat features during construction; › Avoid any vegetation clearing between April 21 and August 14, within the nesting period for nesting zone C6; › Avoid clearing vegetation during the roosting season to reduce impacts to bats; › If vegetation clearing is proposed during the sensitive timing windows, then pre-clearance nest and roost surveys will be done to identify active bird nests and establish buffers; › Pre-construction survey protocols for practical wildlife management (e.g., bird/nesting surveys, wildlife surveys, small wildlife salvage and relocation, as required); › Establish reduced speed limits and signage in areas where wildlife interactions are expected; › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; › Manage vegetation along ditches to ensure good visibility for wildlife; › Implement provisions to avoid disturbing or removing active bird nests within the facility other than those not protected by-law; › Specifications for wildlife (including birds) monitoring requirements; › Prohibit the feeding of wildlife; › Procedures to conduct reptile and amphibian rescues where needed; › Install perimeter fencing to deter access by large wildlife where necessary; › Instruct drivers on wildlife awareness; and › Report wildlife observations and wildlife roadkills. |

27 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimate

Construction and continued operation of the Project will result in the generation of GHGs. GHGs contribute to climate change and are a concern to provincial agencies and federal authorities, as well as the public. Emissions of GHGs are expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_{2e}) units (ktCO_{2e}).

The primary sources of GHG emissions during the construction stage of the Project include emissions from construction vehicles and equipment and emissions from construction camps. During the operations phase, emissions of GHGs will result from vehicle transportation on the road, as well as emissions from equipment used for maintenance operations. All Project-related sources of greenhouse gas emissions during both construction (e.g., land clearing, construction vehicle tailpipe emissions, aggregate extraction and transportation) and operation phases (e.g., maintenance-related tailpipe emissions, vehicle emissions) will be described and assessed in the EAR/IS. Greenhouse gas emissions will be quantified in accordance with relevant methodologies such as ECCC's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program and other relevant methods (see Section 25.2.1 of the Detailed Project Description).

Preliminary conservative estimates of GHG emissions are not available for the construction phase. Preliminary conservative estimates of GHG emissions from the Project for the operations phase are 80 kilotonnes of CO_{2e}/year. Project emission estimates for the operations phase are based on an assumed traffic loading of 1,000 AADT travelling the full length of the roadway, and an average fleet fuel usage (assuming heavy vehicles) specified by Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN, 2019). An additional 25% safety factor is incorporated in this estimate for to allow for conservatism in the estimates.

Detailed estimates of GHG emissions from construction and operation of the Project are not available, but will be provided in the EAR/IS, along with an assessment of changes in sources and sinks of carbon from the clearing of vegetation and disturbance of peatlands/wetland. Emissions rates specific to construction related activities will be quantified during the air quality and GHG assessments. These assessments will utilize the following guidance:

- › Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a); and
- › Draft Technical Guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Guidance on quantification of net GHG emissions, impact on carbon sinks, mitigation measures, net-zero plan and upstream GHG assessment (ECCC, 2021).

In addition to GHG emissions estimates, a climate adaptation and resiliency assessment will be conducted in accordance with the following guidance:

- › Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (ECCC, 2020a); and

Draft Technical Guide related to the Strategic Assessment of Climate Change: Assessing Climate Change Resilience (ECCC, 2022).

28 Waste, Discharges and Emissions

Table 28-1 summarizes the waste, discharges and emissions that are likely to be generated during the Project.

Table 28-1: Project Waste, Discharges and Emissions

| Waste, Discharge, or Emission | Project Activity and Potential Mitigation | Phase |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Air | | |
| Noise Emissions | Generated from equipment and vehicles during site preparation, hauling, blasting, pile driving, road maintenance, and road use. These will be managed using Best Management Practices, such as use of proper equipment and adherence to manufacturer's specified maintenance frequencies. Noise control using current Best Management Practices for construction and maintenance equipment, including but not limited to using newer, well-maintained equipment, using boring/augering equipment instead of pile drivers, and quieter diesel generators, as well as specified/original exhaust and intake muffling. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Air and Greenhouse Gas Emissions | Generated from exhaust of vehicles and equipment during site preparation, hauling, blasting, road maintenance, and road use. These will be managed by applying Best Management Practices for construction and maintenance equipment, including but not limited to minimization of idling time by shutting equipment off when not in use, or reducing idling times, maintaining equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications, and use of speed limits. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Fugitive Dust Emissions | Dust generated from cleared areas, equipment/vehicle activities, and road traffic during site preparation, earthworks, blasting, soil stockpiling, maintenance, and road use. These will be managed by applying Best Management Practices, which may include barriers/enclosures around storage piles, wetting storage piles, covers and limiting the number and height of storage piles. Other control measures could include wetting road surfaces during dry periods, cleaning of construction and maintenance equipment and use of speed limits. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Land | | |
| Waste Oil | Maintenance of heavy equipment would occur at specific temporary construction camps/work sites and ancillary facilities. Any waste oil will be contained and disposed of at a licensed facility. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Hazardous and Non-Hazardous Solid Waste | Generated at temporary construction camps/work sites and ancillary facilities during operations and maintenance activities (e.g., construction waste, domestic waste, wood, cardboard, plastics, foods, metals). Reduce, re-use and recycle materials and recover resources in all aspects of the Project, prior to disposal into the solid waste stream (i.e., at existing landfill sites or licensed facility), including appropriate separation, storage, transport and disposal in accordance with applicable provincial and federal laws and regulations, and with respect for Indigenous communities' traditional use of lands and surrounding environment. It is also expected that litter may be generated during construction and operations and will be managed via a litter management program. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Slash and Root Waste | Generated from clearing and grubbing operations including but not limited to chipping, leaving in place and scattering. | Site Preparation |
| Excavated Spoils | Unsuitable construction materials generated during roadbed excavation and construction (soils and organics) will be generated. These materials are expected to be used in road construction if possible (e.g., roadbeds/berms). | Site Preparation and Construction |

Table 28-1 (Cont'd): Project Waste, Discharges and Emissions

| Waste, Discharge, or Emission | Project Activity and Potential Mitigation | Phase |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Water | | |
| Domestic Wastewater and Sewage | Both hazardous and non-hazardous, in the form of liquid effluent generated by the temporary workforce/construction camps and ancillary facilities. Depending on available facilities, these may be treated on-site using portable facilities and/or transported offsite by tanker truck for treatment at approved disposal facilities. | Site Preparation, Construction, and Operations |
| Dewatering Discharge | Groundwater and surface water will be dewatered to facilitate construction of roads and watercourse crossings. Water generated from dewatering activities will be treated if necessary and returned to the natural environment. | Site Preparation and Construction |
| Stormwater | Site runoff is expected to be managed through stormwater ditches and ponds. | Operations |
| Erosion and Sedimentation | These processes and discharges will be managed through best ESC management practices, including but not limited to sediment fences, sediment ponds, check dams and erosion control fabric. | Site Preparation, Construction and Operations |
| Metal Leaching and Acid Rock Drainage | Metal leaching and acid rock drainage may result from aggregate source locations and quarried materials. Materials will be tested for acid rock drainage/metal leaching potential prior to use in construction. Runoff from the aggregate sources will be tested and treated (if required) prior to discharging to the natural environment. | Site Preparation and Construction |

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Appendix A

Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process

A.1 Key Issues Raised by Provincial Agencies and Federal Authorities

Table A-1: Summary of Key Issues Raised by Provincial Agencies and Federal Authorities during Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process

| Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Federal Authorities | | |
| Indigenous Services Canada | | |
| Community Safety | Recommendation to include violence against women, elders, youth and gender-diverse individuals, other members of the community within crime rate factors. | The Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) will consider how vulnerable communities (e.g., women, elders, youth and gender-diverse individuals) may be disproportionately affected by changes to crime rates. |
| Women and Gender Equality Canada | | |
| Consultation/GBA+ | The Project consultation and engagement plans should consider how to reach diverse population groups (e.g., women, Elders, youth, gender-diverse people and those with disabilities). Consultation and engagement should allow for diverse people across and within equity-deserving populations to have opportunities to influence the design and implementation of the Project. | If subject to a federal IA, the Project will be required to apply Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) to the IA, which incorporates consideration of equality, diversity and inclusion. |
| Provincial Agencies | | |
| Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Natural Resources (now Ministry of Northern Development, Ministry of Mines [MINES], and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry [MNR]) | | |
| Assessment of Alternative Means/Methods | Request for more detailed description of how alternatives will be evaluated and when the criteria will be developed. | The proponent will identify the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative method across various criteria. The Preliminary Criteria and Factors for the Evaluation of “Alternative Methods” presented in the Proposed ToR are preliminary. Further consultation and engagement will be conducted with Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, and regulators to finalize the criteria, as well as incorporate information collected through the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program. |
| Indigenous Knowledge | Concerns about confidentiality in the use of IK in the EA/IA. | IK and information on Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) shared and/or collected for the EA/IA will be governed by IK Sharing Agreements. |

| Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks | | |
| Assessment Methods | Request to include Species at Risk (SAR) as a separate valued component (VC). | SAR has been included as a separate VC. |
| | Request to ensure Indigenous communities can provide input to all aspects of the EA/IA including baseline studies. | The proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during the EA/IA through the IK and Consultation and Engagement Programs, including input into baseline data. |
| Assessment of Alternative Means/Methods | Recommendation to consider future permitting requirements (including the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>) in the assessment of alternative methods/means (i.e., alternative corridors and alternative supportive infrastructure). | The alternatives assessment will consider requirements of the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> . |
| | Request that the proponent includes a commitment that all alternative methods and project components will be identified and assessed in the EA; or clarified in the ToR how the EA will address potential gaps in assessing and selecting alternative methods for any project components. | The ToR has been revised to clarify the assessment of alternative methods of carrying out the Project. A new section has been added describing supportive infrastructure alternatives (temporary and/or permanent) that will be assessed in the EA/IA. |
| Climate Change | Concerns about specific mitigation measures to reduce potential Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions caused by the disruption of carbon sinks. | Mitigation measures will be developed to address potential Project related effects for each VC. The EA/IA will identify specific mitigation measures to reduce potential GHG emissions caused by the disruption of carbon sinks. |
| Commitments | Request to develop ToR commitments with consideration of the review comments made on the Draft ToR. | The list of ToR commitments has been developed with consideration of the comments received on both the Draft and Proposed ToR. |
| Consultation and Engagement | Concerns related to ensuring meaningful consultation with Indigenous communities through all stages of the EA/IA. | Steps will be taken to ensure consultation with Indigenous communities is meaningful. |
| Cumulative Effects | Recommendation to consider the anticipated cumulative effects assessments in the Webeque Supply Road (WSR) and Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) EAs. | The cumulative effects assessment will consider proposed projects for which the environmental effects overlap with the Project, including reasonably foreseeable projects such as MFCAR and WSR. |
| Parks and Protected Areas | Request that obligations under the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (CEAPPCR) be consolidated and fulfilled through the comprehensive EA process to greatest extent possible. | If a CEAPPCR is required for the Project, the EA/IA will meet its requirements.. |

| Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Species at Risk | Consider mitigation measures that avoid or minimize adverse effects to SAR and develop reasonable alternatives to the Project through the EA/IA which may meet application requirements for an Endangered Species Act (ESA) authorization, should one be required. | The Project EA/IA will consider requirements of the <i>Endangered Species Act, 2007</i> . The proponent will follow provincial and federal guidelines in all stages of the EA/IA to prevent and/or mitigate effects on SAR, including application requirements for an ESA authorization. |
| | Avoid or minimize effects to SAR and their habitat. | The EA/IA will identify mitigation measures to avoid/minimize effects to SAR. |
| Attawapiskat River | Ontario Parks would like to note that access control from the right-of-way (ROW) to the Attawapiskat River at its crossing is of particular interest. Ontario Parks is not presently looking to establish new access points to the river and these developments would be subject to further park planning processes and environmental assessment. | The proponent understands that Ontario Parks does not want to establish new access points to the Attawapiskat River and will discuss this further with Ontario Parks during the EA/IA. |
| Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture (now Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport [MTCS], and Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism [MCM]) | | |
| Cultural Heritage Resources | Suggestion to include two valued components under cultural heritage resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Archaeological Resources; and › Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes. | The proponent will include the following preliminary VCs for Cultural Heritage Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Archaeological Resources; and › Built Heritage Resources and Cultural Heritage Landscapes. |
| Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry | | |
| Assessment Methods | Assessment of effects on peatlands. | Effects on peatlands will be considered in the Groundwater, Surface Water, Geology, Terrain and Soils, GHG emissions, and Plants and Vegetation Communities assessments. |
| Class Environmental Assessments | Clarification requested about MNRF Class EAs required for the Project. | The EAR/IS will provide information on Class EAs required for the Project and how the Class EA requirements will be met. |
| Species at Risk | Recommendation to add Eastern Migratory Caribou, Eastern Wood-pewee and Lake Sturgeon to the list of components on which the EA/IA will assess the effect of the Project on Species at Risk. | Eastern Migratory Caribou, Eastern Wood-pewee and Lake Sturgeon will be added to the list of SAR to be assessed in the EAR/IS. |

A.2 Key Issues Raised by Stakeholders and the Public

Table A-2: Summary of Key Issues Raised by Stakeholders and the Public during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wildlands League Friends of the Attawapiskat River | Alternatives to the Project | <p>The rationale employed for discounting a wider array of alternatives, and imposing this “focused approach,” is poorly supported.</p> <p>The “Alternatives to the Project” have been prematurely narrowed, in that the alternatives assessment will only consider the “do nothing” alternative.</p> | <p>The ToR Code of Practice allows for proponents to limit the discussion of previously examined alternatives in the EA/IA when alternatives have been previously considered through a separate decision-making process. The need to build all-season road access to northern communities was identified in the following provincial planning processes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 25-year Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, 2011. › Building Better Lives: Ontario’s Long-term Infrastructure Plan 2017. › Connecting the North: A Draft Transportation Plan for Northern Ontario. <p>Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) have entered into a Voluntary Agreement with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under which the proponent has agreed to undertake an EA for the Project, as an all-season road.</p> <p>Since the Project was identified to be an all-season road before the study for this Project commenced under the EA Act, the EA/IA process will not re-examine past planning processes and decisions and therefore will not assess “alternatives to” the Project other than the “do nothing” alternative, which will be included for comparison against the proposed undertaking (i.e., the Project).</p> <p>The Project would be linking two roads, MFCAR and WSR. As such, the Northern Road Link (NRL) is also proposed to be a road (i.e., connecting the proposed roads with the same modal option). For transportation projects, “alternatives to” the undertaking typically include options such as new or improved roads, new or improved rail service or air service. However, these alternatives to the Project would be less viable than a road due to the need for inter-modal transfers. Furthermore, these alternatives to the Project would not meet the purposes of the Project, which is the design, construction, and operation/maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR.</p> <p>As such, the EA/IA will consider “do nothing” as the only “alternative to” the Project.</p> |

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wildlands League | Assessment Themes | Hydrological impacts of the proposed road, due to barrier effects is insufficiently addressed. Impacts to the hydrology of this area could produce effects that are wide-spread, substantially delayed, and prone to additional climate change feedback effects – all contributing significant uncertainty to this project that should be custom-assessed with specific EA design tailored to these mechanisms. | The proponent recognizes the value of and potential impacts to peatlands. Peatlands will be considered in the hydrology, groundwater, vegetation, and climate change assessments. The proponent will evaluate design and mitigation measures to reduce impacts to peatlands. |
| Mineral Rights Holder | Climate Change Resilience | The EAR/IS should include consideration of the resilience of the Project design and operations to the effects of climate change. | Climate Resilience Assessment reporting will include sections on climate change resilience for project design and operations. |
| Mineral Rights Holder | Consultation and Engagement | Include a “Known Mineral Resource” criterion and a “Mineral Potential” criterion for alternatives selection. The road should not go over currently known development areas or high priority exploration areas that may lead to future mine development. | The Preliminary Criteria and Factors for the Evaluation of “Alternative Methods” has been updated to include known mineral resource/areas of high mineral potential. |
| Wildlands League | Cumulative Effects | The Project will trigger industrial development in the Ring of Fire, bringing regional-scale pressures to the broader Ring of Fire area, including potential impacts spanning multiple watersheds geographically, on an irreversible timeline. The Project ToR must clearly anticipate and fully contemplate those regional pressures here in its assessment plans. | The Project’s EA/IA will include an assessment of cumulative effects that will consider reasonably foreseeable undertakings with temporal and/or spatial overlap with the Project. Reasonably foreseeable projects are expected to include mine development and exploration, proposed roads, and other associated infrastructure/utilities to support mine development. Additional details will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan. |

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WWF-Canada | Cumulative Effects | Understanding the ecosystem consequences of the cumulative stressors on the peatland and boreal forest within the Hudson and James Bay lowlands resulting from the NRL as well as from the industrial mining activity that may be facilitated by its construction, will be exceedingly challenging. | The proponent acknowledges the importance of peatlands, the boreal forest, carbon sinks, wetlands and the regional hydrology. These will be assessed during the EA/IA within the effects assessment for various valued components including surface water, groundwater and vegetation, as well as within the climate change assessment, as applicable. |
| WWF-Canada | Cumulative Effects | The NRL, WSR and MFCAR projects should be included in the Regional Assessment to better assess cumulative effects. | The Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire is being led by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency). As indicated by the Agency, the ongoing impact/environmental assessments for proposed road developments in Northern Ontario will continue according to their legislated processes and timelines. The Regional Assessment scope will not include or duplicate these ongoing assessments, including their project-specific assessments of effects, analyses of the purpose and need for these projects, or other factors and components. The Project will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will include other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects and activities, including reasonably foreseeable mineral exploration and mining development projects. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan. |
| WWF-Canada | Cumulative Effects | As the NRL is explicitly predicated upon the possibility of mining activity, the EA must explicitly consider the impacts associated with potential future mining projects in order to be meaningful. | The NRL is a transportation project, not a mining project. The Project objectives related to the generation of community and regional benefits are not secondary to the provision of industrial access to the Ring of Fire. Improved land access to remote communities (i.e., WFN) is widely recognized as a mechanism for achieving social and health benefits (in addition to economic benefits), elevating levels of community well-being, and is an integral component of provincial growth and development policies for the region. The Project's EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will include other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects and activities, including reasonably foreseeable mineral exploration and mining development projects. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan. |

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wildlands League WWF-Canada | Cumulative Effects / Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area | The NRL EA/IA should not proceed until the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire has been completed. | <p>Completion of the Regional Assessment is not a requirement for the proponent to proceed with the EA process for the Project. The Project is following the EA process to support the development of a vital transportation corridor for two First Nation communities (MFFN and WFN). The proponent has entered into a Voluntary Agreement with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under which the proponent has agreed to undertake an Individual EA for the Project under the Ontario EA Act, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario. The decision to proceed with the provincial EA process for the Project is consistent with the agreement between the proponent and the Province to proceed with the Project in accordance with provincial EA legislation, which entails completing the process in a timely manner. The proponent has also committed to realizing the Project's intended/perceived benefits for their respective communities, and the region as a whole, within a reasonable timeframe. Deferring/pausing the Project's EA/IA does not align with these objectives.</p> <p>The Project's EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan.</p> |
| Friends of the Attawapiskat River | Cumulative Effects / Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area | Request for a moratorium on development activities in the Ring of Fire until meaningful Indigenous engagement had been undertaken, the Regional Assessment process is complete, and protection plans for sensitive wetlands and watersheds are in place. | <p>Pausing the Project's EA/IA until meaningful Indigenous engagement had been undertaken on development activities in the Ring of Fire, the Regional Assessment process is complete, and protection plans for sensitive wetlands and watersheds are in place, is inconsistent with the agreement between the proponent and the Province to proceed with the Project in accordance with provincial EA legislation, which entails completing the process in a timely manner. The proponent has also committed to realizing the Project's intended/perceived benefits for their respective communities, and the region as a whole, within a reasonable timeframe. Deferring/pausing the Project's EA/IA does not align with these objectives.</p> <p>The proponent is taking the necessary steps to ensure meaningful consultation and engagement for the Project, including opportunities to review the Draft and Proposed ToR.</p> |

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| <p>Friends of the Attawapiskat River</p> <p>Wildlands League</p> <p>WWF-Canada</p> | <p>Project Splitting</p> | <p>Three clearly associated Terms of References (TORs) are being concurrently advanced – Multiple, overlapping and integrated projects are concurrently being contemplated – each examining incremental parts of a region-changing project (i.e., MFCAR, WSR and NRL projects).</p> <p>The three road projects (NRL, MCAR and WSR) ought to be scoped together for the purposes of a meaningful environmental assessment.</p> <p>The decision to conduct separate EAs for the Project, the proposed MFCAR, the proposed WSR, and the Ring of Fire mine development (the “related projects”) amounts to project splitting. As a result of project splitting, the full scale and impact of the project cannot be fully presented, either to the federal government or the public and Indigenous nations.</p> | <p>The Ontario EA process is proponent-led. The proponents for each of the three proposed road projects separately requested to enter into agreements with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under the Ontario EA Act to make their respective projects subject to the requirements of the EA Act, because the purpose of each project is different. As a result of those agreements, each of the proposed road projects are undergoing Individual EAs, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario.</p> <p>Separating large projects into smaller ones (i.e., project splitting) has been attempted in the past by some proponents to: i) avoid regulatory thresholds like the federal Impact Assessment or, ii) have the ability to understate project impacts. The proponent is not doing either. The proponents chose to undertake separate projects because their purpose is different.</p> <p>The three proposed road projects are distinct and unique, with different purposes designed to meet the specific objectives of their respective proponents. The Proposed ToR is specific to the NRL Project and as such it is scoped for this individual project.</p> |
| <p>Wildlands League</p> | <p>Proponent</p> | <p>At least two proponents – or key proponent relationships – are not being adequately represented here: the apparent default financier and owner, the Province; and the primary targeted beneficiary, the mining sector, as represented by at least the contemplated projects to date.</p> | <p>The Province and the mining sector are not proponents of the Project. The Ontario EA Act defines "proponent" as a person (or entity) that: carries out or proposes to carry out a project, or is the owner or person having charge, management or control of a project. The proponent of the Project's EA/IA and preliminary design are MFFN and WFN, referred to collectively as 'the proponent'. The proponent has entered into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under the Ontario EA Act to make the Project subject to the requirements of the EA Act. Proponent options for road ownership, operation/maintenance activities and liability are being considered in ongoing discussions with the Province. It is recognized that should there be a change in Project proponentcy, all Project conditions, commitments and responsibilities agreed upon during the planning phase and the EA/IA, including proposed mitigation, would be transferred to or shared by the new proponent.</p> |

| Stakeholder | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Wildlands League | Purpose | The purpose of this project is multiple, but primarily economic, with mineral extraction obviously being positioned as the primary economic driver. | The Project objectives related to the generation of community and regional benefits are not secondary to the provision of industrial access to the Ring of Fire, and are paramount in the minds of the Project proponents. Improved land access to remote communities (in this case, to WFN) is widely recognized as a mechanism for achieving social and health benefits (in addition to economic benefits), elevating levels of community well-being, and is an integral component of provincial growth and development policies for the region. |
| Wildlands League | Traffic | Not enough information is provided about anticipated traffic (e.g., target road use, loading and design standards, characterization of associated transportation needs and pressures over the indefinite temporal horizon expected). | The Project is currently undergoing preliminary engineering design, and a more detailed characterization of the nature and volume of anticipated road traffic will be provided in the EAR/IS. |

A.3 Key Issues Raised by Indigenous Communities and Groups

Table A-3: Summary of Key Issues Raised by Indigenous Communities and Groups during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Kashechewan First Nation Marten Falls First Nation Weenusk First Nation Fort Albany First Nation Nibinamik First Nation | Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests | Acknowledgement and protection of Aboriginal or Treaty Rights. | As part of engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities during the EA, the proponent will identify concerns communities may have about potential adverse impacts on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights, including inviting communities to share IK or information about traditional land uses that may be impacted by the Project. A Memorandum of Understanding between MECP, NDMNRF (now Ministry of Northern Development, MINES, and MNRF), MFFN and WFN has been signed and sets out the roles and responsibilities between the proponent and Ontario, as the Crown, for conducting Statutory and Crown Consultation. Through the Consultation and Engagement and IK Programs, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods for all valued components, including Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. |
| Weenusk First Nation | Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests | Weenusk First Nation will undertake an assessment of potential impacts to their rights. Concerns about whether the proponent the proponent(s) will: (1) accept and, where applicable, implement the approach as defined by Weenusk First Nation, and (2) work collaboratively with Weenusk First Nation to identify the level of impact to Weenusk First Nation's rights. | The proponent plans to collaborate with Weenusk First Nation through the Consultation and Engagement and the IK Programs regarding Weenusk's Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests. As described in the Proposed ToR, "it is expected that communities undertaking a Project-specific study will employ a methodology that will suit their needs and community protocols". |
| Marten Falls First Nation | Alternative Means/Methods | Selected routes should avoid adverse impacts on the use of land and resources for traditional purposes, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, and cultural sites and features. | During the development of the EA/IA, Indigenous communities will have opportunities to provide feedback on "alternative methods" for carrying out the Project, including the alternative corridors. Twelve alternative corridor segments are identified in the ToR; however, additional alternative corridors may be identified during the development of the EA/IA through the consultation and IK programs. The assessment of alternative corridors will consider ways to avoid or minimize impacts to the various criteria. |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Kashechewan First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Weenusk First Nation | Climate Change Assessment | Concerns related to greenhouse gases (GHG) exacerbating the climate crisis and inclusion of IK in the climate change assessment. | As described in the Proposed ToR, a climate change assessment will be conducted. The assessment of effects of the Project on climate change will quantify and qualify the Project's contribution to climate change due to GHG emissions and changes to the landscape that may affect carbon sinks. Further details on the assessment of climate change will be presented in the Climate Change Assessment Study Plan. |
| Attawapiskat First Nation | Climate Change Assessment | Considering the climate impacts of development in the Ring of Fire one road segment at a time is inadequate and misses the long-term climate effects of opening an entire region, containing vast expanses of carbon-storing peatland, to development. | The EA/IA will include a climate change assessment for the Project which will include consideration of cumulative effects. A climate change assessment for the entire Ring of Fire is outside of the scope of the EA for the Project. |
| Aroland First Nation Eabametoong First Nation Fort Albany First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Neskantaga First Nation Nibinamink First Nation | Consultation and Engagement | Concerns that Indigenous communities are not being consulted in a meaningful manner. | The proponent is taking the necessary steps to ensure meaningful consultation and engagement for the Project. The proponent has requested that Indigenous communities share their consultation protocols/consultation frameworks and has offered to meet with communities to understand the principles of consultation they would like to see as a framework to meaningful consultation and engagement. In addition, the Province has made participant funding available to Indigenous communities whose Aboriginal or Treaty Rights may be adversely affected by the Project. |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Eabametoong First Nation | Consultation and Engagement | Disseminating of Project information in a manner that ensures that project information is understood, and feedback from Indigenous communities is based on actual knowledge of the issues being presented. | <p>The proponent is taking steps to ensure the project information is understood, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use of language that is easy to understand and free of technical jargon. › Translation of some communication materials and documents into Indigenous languages, including the Plain Language Summary of both the Draft and Final ToR and newsletters. <p>As described in the Proposed ToR, the proponent will prepare written progress reports on consultation activities. These progress reports will show how feedback from Indigenous communities is being incorporated to the EA/IA process. Community-specific sections of the progress reports will be distributed to Indigenous communities. The proponent will respond to any questions or concerns raised by Indigenous communities regarding the progress reports and revise the progress reports as appropriate.</p> |
| Aroland First Nation Attawapiskat First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Nibinamik First Nation | Cumulative Effects | Concerns that the scope and methods of the cumulative effects assessment are not adequate to fully assess cumulative effects. | The Project's EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will follow existing federal guidance, in the absence of clear provincial guidance. The cumulative effects assessment will include other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects and activities. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan. |
| Attawapiskat First Nation Eabametoong First Nation | Guiding Principles for Consultation and Engagement | Concern about how the EA/IA will incorporate MFFN's Guiding Principles and WFN Elders' Principles. | <p>Examples of how the MFFN and WFN principles have been incorporated include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Kezhikanawabajikateg kaye ji tepwaaniwaang kekikinozhiwemakaang – “Everything on our land and water is living and needs to be respected” – The proponent is conducting an EA/IA to identify the potential effects of the Project, identify measures to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects, and identify opportunities to enhance benefits to the environment. › Kawininitojikateg nikan onajikewining ineke – “The Anishinabek relationship to the land should be seen as a cultured landscape; also an area that is continuously being used by the Anishinabek as a habitation and as a resource” – The EA/IA will include an assessment of effects on Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests. Details on the assessment will be included in the Aboriginal or Treaty Rights and Interests study plan, and data for this assessment will be collected through the Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program described in the Proposed ToR. |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Kakina ji wiinda mawa nowaht anishinabek ka onjiwatch – “Engage the Anishinabek on all issues that affect our shared and communal lands” – The proponent is undertaking a consultation and engagement program to promote effective two-way communication between the proponent and members of potentially affected Indigenous communities; to present and receive information; and to identify and address issues and concerns related to the Project through mitigation and/or accommodation. The proponent also plans to collaborate with affected Indigenous communities through the IK Program. › Jih ishi kanawejikatey kakina kekon – “Respect the natural and Anishinawbe customs and teachings at all times” – The consultation and engagement program has been designed to include their guiding principles at the forefront of the EA/IA process. The proponent also plans to collaborate with affected Indigenous communities through the IK Program. We believe that the IK Program provides an opportunity to integrate Indigenous Knowledge into the EA/IA in a meaningful way to improve and enhance the overall assessment. › Chi Mamow waban ji kateg emishiinonaniwang mashkawisiinaniwang – “Looking at it together. In numbers there is strength” – The proponent plans to collaborate with affected Indigenous communities through the IK Program. |
| <p>Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Kashechewan First Nation Weenusk First Nation Neskantaga First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation</p> | <p>Indigenous Input</p> | <p>Concerns over how input provided by Indigenous communities will be incorporated into the assessment.</p> | <p>The proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during multiple stages of the EA/IA through the IK and Consultation and Engagement Programs.</p> |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| <p>Aroland First Nation Attawapiskat First Nation Fort Albany First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council</p> | <p>Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area</p> | <p>Concerns that the Project EA/IA proceeds before the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area is completed. The Project EA/IA should not proceed until a comprehensive First Nation co-led and co-developed Regional Assessment is completed.</p> | <p>Completion of the Regional Assessment is not a requirement for the proponent to proceed with the EA/IA for the Project. The Project is following the EA process in order to support the development of a vital transportation corridor. The proponent has entered into a Voluntary Agreement with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under which the two First Nations have agreed to undertake an Individual EA for the Project under the Ontario EA Act, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario. The decision to proceed with the provincial EA process for the Project is consistent with the agreement between the proponent and the Province to proceed with the Project in accordance with provincial EA legislation, which entails completing the process in a timely manner. The proponent has also committed to realizing the Project's intended/perceived benefits for their respective communities, and the region as a whole, within a reasonable timeframe. Deferring/pausing the Project's EA/IA does not align with these objectives.</p> <p>The Project's EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will include other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects and activities, including reasonably foreseeable mineral exploration and mining development projects. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan.</p> |
| <p>Attawapiskat First Nation</p> | <p>Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area</p> | <p>The MFCAR, WSR, and NRL projects should be included in the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area.</p> | <p>The Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire is being led by the Agency. As indicated by the Agency, the ongoing impact/environmental assessments for proposed road developments in Northern Ontario will continue according to their legislated processes and timelines. The Regional Assessment scope will not include or duplicate these ongoing assessments, including their project-specific assessments of effects, analyses of the purpose and need for these projects, or other factors and components.</p> <p>The Project will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will include other past, present or reasonably foreseeable projects and activities, including the MFCAR and WSR road projects, reasonably foreseeable mineral exploration and mining development projects. Additional details on the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Study Plan.</p> |
| <p>Kashechewan First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Weenusk First Nation</p> | <p>Human Health</p> | <p>Concerns related to contamination of traditional food sources and the need for health assessments to model traditional Indigenous country food harvesters.</p> | <p>A country foods tissue sampling program will be developed to support the assessment of potential Project effects on country foods, if deemed necessary.</p> <p>If sufficient appropriate data are available, the Human Health Risk Assessment can include an exposure scenario that assumes an Indigenous human receptor who consumes only traditional country foods.</p> |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Kashechewan First Nation Mushkegowuk Tribal Council Weenusk First Nation | Indigenous Knowledge | Integration of IK into the EA process. | Through the Consultation and Engagement and IK Programs, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in collecting and integrating IK into the EA/IA. |
| Marten Falls First Nation Muskegowuk Tribal Council Fort Albany First Nation | Peatlands | Concerns around impacts to peatlands. Complexity of the hydrology of the James Bay Lowlands, one of the world's largest wetlands and carbon sinks. | The EA/IA will identify potential effects to peatlands and measures to prevent and/or mitigate potential effects. The proponent recognizes the value of peatlands in the James Bay Lowlands, and peatlands will be considered in the surface water, groundwater, vegetation, and climate change assessments. Various field studies are proposed to collect baseline data on wetlands, as described in the Proposed ToR. Further details on the wetland surveys and assessment will be provided in the applicable study plans. |
| Aroland First Nation Fort Albany First Nation Neskantaga First Nation | Project Splitting | The MFCAR, WSR, and NRL projects should be assessed as a single project. | The proposed MFCAR, WSR, and NRL projects are not a single continuous road project from an EA standpoint. The three projects are distinct and unique, with different purposes designed to meet the specific objectives of their respective proponents. The Ontario EA process is proponent-led. The proponents for each of the three road projects separately requested to enter into agreements with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under the EA Act to make their respective projects subject to the requirements of the EA Act. As a result of those agreements, each of the three projects are undergoing Individual EAs, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario. Each project will include a cumulative effects assessment. Separating large projects into smaller ones (i.e., project splitting) has been attempted in the past by some proponents to: i) avoid regulatory thresholds like the federal Impact Assessment or, ii) have the ability to understate project impacts. The proponent is not doing either. The proponents chose to undertake separate projects because their purpose is different. |
| Aroland First Nation Nibinamik First Nation Ginoogaming First Nation | Study Areas | Concerns that the study areas are not adequate to properly assess potentially effects to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests. | A Preliminary Study Areas memorandum for Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests will be provided to Indigenous communities for feedback. |

| Indigenous Community or Group | Key Issue Raised | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response |
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| Neskantaga First Nation | Lake Sturgeon | Lake Sturgeon, the oldest living fish species in Neskantaga’s territory, carry great cultural and spiritual significance for Neskantaga. Lake Sturgeon are uniquely susceptible to habitat loss and disturbance. Concerns about how the conclusion was arrived at those conditions at the new proposed crossing (West Bridge) are expected to not be conducive to Lake Sturgeon spawning. | The proponent will identify further methods for determining habitat suitability for spawning sturgeon as the Project progresses that are appropriate. Community members from Marten Falls First Nation indicated the conditions at the new (west) proposed crossing are expected to not be conducive to Lake Sturgeon spawning. However, it is well known that rapids are typically associated with Lake Sturgeon spawning habitat. Baseline studies will assess upstream and downstream aquatic habitat and characterization of the fish community. Studies will include fish community sampling including standard methods such as seine netting, minnow traps, angling and eDNA. The crossings are preliminary and may be adjusted based on environmental and engineering considerations. |
| Mushkegowuk Tribal Council | Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat | Request for more detail to be incorporated from IK related to potential fragmentation of Caribou habitat. Barriers to caribou migration routes and disruption to calving grounds. | Through the Consultation and Engagement and IK Programs, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in validating information utilized in the EAR/IS where applicable and in collecting data related to VCs and indicators. This includes characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts (e.g., impacts to Caribou migration patterns, fragmentation of Caribou habitats), and identifying mitigation measures. |
| Nibinamik First Nation | Women and Girls’ Specific Analysis | The VCs do not include GBA+ or women and girls’ specific analysis or criteria. In light of the recommendations of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry, this should be distinctly identified as part of a specific VC and assessment process to ensure community safety and assess subjects such as increased risk of human trafficking, risk of violence or assault, etc. | The Proposed ToR identifies safety concerns related to women and girls, specifically with respect to experience with resource development projects near Indigenous communities. The proponent expects the Project will be required to undergo a federal IA. If subject to a federal IA, the Project will be required to apply GBA+ to the Impact Assessment. |

Appendix B

Response to the Summary of Issues

Table B-1: Response to Summary of Issues

| Item No. | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response | Cross-Reference to Section of the Detailed Project Description | Cross-Reference to Section of the Summary DPD |
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| Fish and Fish Habitat | | | | |
| 1 | Request for information about potential watercourse crossing locations, known fish species distribution, and proposed mitigation | <p>As described in Section 11.1 (Project Infrastructure and Temporary and Permanent Structures) and shown in Figure 11-2 (Potential Water Crossings), there are approximately 76 watercourses and waterbodies that intersect all alternative corridor segments. The actual number of water crossings will not be known until a corridor is chosen as well as the road alignment within that corridor, and could range from approximately 21 to 49 individual watercourse crossings.</p> <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. Some preliminary information of local fish species is identified in Section 16.2.1 (Fish and Fish Habitat), and baseline studies are underway to further characterize fish and fish habitat. Some proposed mitigation measures are identified in Section 21.1.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), however further information on mitigation measures will be developed during the EA/IA.</p> | Section 11.1, Section 16.2.1, Section 21.1.2 | Section 11.1, Section 16.2.1, Appendix C |
| 2 | Request for further information on the changes to the movement and dispersion of fish populations, spawning and reproductive behaviour, due to construction and operation activities, including construction of watercourse crossings. | <p>As described in Section 11.1 (Project Infrastructure and Temporary and Permanent Structures) and shown in Figure 11-2 (Potential Water Crossings), there are approximately 76 watercourses and waterbodies that intersect all alternative corridor segments. The actual number of water crossings will not be known until a corridor is chosen as well as the road alignment within that corridor, and could range from approximately 21 to 49 individual watercourse crossings.</p> <p>Some preliminary information of local fish species is identified in Section 16.2.1 (Fish and Fish Habitat), and baseline studies are underway to further characterize fish and fish habitat. Once baseline data and project design information is advanced, the potential effects and mitigation measures mentioned in this issue can be further assessed.</p> <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 21.1.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat under the</p> | Section 11.1, Figure 11-2, Section 16.2.1, Section 21.1.1, Section 21.1.2 | Section 11.1, Figure 11-2, Section 16.2.1, Appendix C |

| Item No. | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response | Cross-Reference to Section of the Detailed Project Description | Cross-Reference to Section of the Summary DPD |
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| | | <p><i>Fisheries Act</i>) and 21.1.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), potential effects as well as the mitigation measures for Fish and Fish habitat, including but not limited to those identified in this issue, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> | | |
| 3 | <p>Need for further information on effects to fish and fish habitat from changes to water quality, increased fishing activity, borehole drilling near rivers, runoff from roads, and contamination from gas, oil, road salt and hazardous waste pollutants.</p> | <p>As described in Section 21.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>), potential effects to fish and fish habitat including, but not limited to those identified in this issue will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. Once baseline data and project design information is advanced, the potential effects mentioned in this issue can be assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed.</p> | Section 21.1 | Appendix C |
| 4 | <p>Concerns about potential effects on fish and fish habitat during all project phases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › death or harm to fish, including from the temporary relocation of fish; › alteration, disruption, fragmentation or destruction of fish habitat, including spawning habitat; › changes to water quality, quantity and flow; and › obstruction of fish passages from in-water works during construction and maintenance of watercourse crossings and culverts, and filling in wetlands and other waterbodies. | <p>As described in Section 21.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>), potential effects to fish and fish habitat including, but not limited to those identified in this issue will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. Once baseline data and project design information is advanced, the potential effects mentioned in this issue can be assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed.</p> | Section 21.1 | Appendix C |

| Item No. | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response | Cross-Reference to Section of the Detailed Project Description | Cross-Reference to Section of the Summary DPD |
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| 5 | <p>Comments about lake sturgeon gathering in spring spawning aggregations in fast flowing water at locations favoured for road construction across rivers. This would increase the accessibility of spawning lake sturgeon to fishers, and increase the vulnerability of lake sturgeon to potentially unsustainable population levels due to harvesting pressure.</p> | <p>As described in Section 21.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>), increased harvesting pressure is identified as a potential effect. Section 21.1.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation) identifies mitigation measures, including limiting public access to watercourses crossed by the roadway which will alleviate some potential pressure. Once baseline data and project design information is advanced, the potential effects mentioned in this issue can be assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures can be developed.</p> | <p>Section 21.1, Section 21.1.2</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |
| Migratory Birds, Other Birds and Their Habitats | | | | |
| 6 | <p>Request for additional information on the potential effects on birds, including federally-listed species at risk, migratory birds and species of importance to Indigenous communities (e.g., eagles, geese, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse), and their habitats (including nesting sites), during all project phases, including disturbance or mortality from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › habitat loss, alteration or fragmentation; › site alteration and vegetation clearing; › introduction of invasive species, parasites and diseases to the region; › traffic; | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 21.3 (Potential Changes to Migratory Birds under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>, 1994) and Section 25.9.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on bird species including but not limited to those identified in this issue, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. The preliminary potential effects to Indigenous communities are also identified in Section 23.2.1 (Potential Effects). More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects to both Birds and Bird Habitat, as well as their importance to Indigenous communities will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Section 21.3, Section 23.2.1, Section 25.9.1</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |

| Item No. | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response | Cross-Reference to Section of the Detailed Project Description | Cross-Reference to Section of the Summary DPD |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › construction and maintenance activities, including winter de-icing; › accidents and spills; › air emissions; › noise levels; and › light pollution. | | | |
| 7 | Request for additional information on the potential effects to migratory patterns and corridors of birds (e.g., geese and other migratory birds) due to impacts to important habitats, such as wetlands, eskers and islands in the muskeg lakes, which represent habitat for nesting and breeding. | As described in Section 16.2.3.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), Waterfowl Aerial Migration surveys identifying the features mentioned in this issue are underway (such as migration routes, nesting habitat, and breeding habitat). The loss of migration routes is included as a potential effect in Section 25.9.1 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures). More detailed information on migratory corridors and patterns, as well as potential effects and mitigation measures, will be presented in the EAR/IS. | Section 16.2.3.2, Section 25.9.1, Appendix G | Appendix C |
| 8 | Request for information on the potential presence of any species on Schedule 1 of the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i> , that may breed in the project area. | As described in Section 16.2.3.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Birds and Bird Habitat) and Section 16.2.5.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Species at Risk), the presence and usage of the landscape by species on Schedule 1 of the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> and the <i>Migratory Bird Regulations, 2022</i> is currently underway. Specifically, Schedule 1 of the <i>Migration Bird Regulations, 2022</i> refers to a number of seabirds found along the coastlines of North America and the time that is required before an unused nest can be removed. These birds are unlikely to be found near the NRL study areas and as such do not breed in the area. However, a number of Schedule 1 species under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> are known to occur within the NRL study areas and their presence will be assessed during the EA/IA. | Section 16.2.3.2, Section 16.2.5.2 | N/A |

| Item No. | Summary of Issue | Proponent Response | Cross-Reference to Section of the Detailed Project Description | Cross-Reference to Section of the Summary DPD |
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| 9 | Request for additional information on mitigation measures proposed to avoid mortality and disturbance of birds, particularly with respect to light pollution, increased noise, and accidents and spills. | <p>As discussed in Sections 21.3.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Potential Changes to Migratory Birds under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i>, 1994) and Section 25.9.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Birds and Bird Habitat), preliminary proposed mitigation measures for light pollution include: "Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution."</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects and development of mitigation measures can be conducted. Additional information on mitigation measures with respect to birds will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 21.3.2, Section 25.9.2 | Appendix C |
| Species at Risk, Terrestrial Wildlife and Their Habitats | | | | |
| 10 | <p>Request for information on baseline data collection on federally listed species at risk and COSEWIC- listed species¹, including wolverine, lake sturgeon, caribou (Boreal and Eastern Migratory populations of migratory and sedentary ecotypes, and notably the Missisa Range), golden eagles, little brown myotis, northern myotis and tricolored bat.</p> <p>--</p> <p>¹ COSEWIC stands for Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, an independent advisory panel to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that assesses the national status of wildlife species at risk of extinction.</p> | <p>Baseline data collection on federally listed species at risk and COSEWIC-listed species is discussed in Section 16.2.5.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies). More detailed information on the studies will be provided in the Study Plans (including the Species at Risk Study Plan) and in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 16.2.5.2 | N/A |

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| 11 | <p>Request for more information on potential impacts on species at risk (including individual mortality) and their habitats, resulting from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to home range and migration/movement patterns; › habitat alteration and fragmentation (which can lead to difficulty finding food, mates and suitable habitat); › loss or reduction of upland habitats, such as eskers and bat roosting habitat; › peatland dewatering; › aggregates pits and quarries near eskers; › potential changes to water and air quality; › increased pollution; › vehicular collisions; and › increased human access for recreational activities. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.11.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on Species at Risk, including but not limited to those identified in this issue, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects on Species at Risk will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.11.1 | Appendix C |
| 12 | <p>Concerns about potential effects on caribou populations (Boreal and Eastern Migratory) including population stress, impacts on migration patterns and habitat fragmentation from linear infrastructure, as well as cumulative effects from future foreseeable projects.</p> | <p>As described in Section 25.11.1 (Potential Effects), effects to SAR species (including habitat loss, population stress, impacts on migration routes, and habitation fragmentation) are identified as potential effects. This applies to both Caribou populations (Boreal and Eastern Migratory) as well.</p> <p>An assessment of cumulative effects will be completed for the EA/IA as indicated in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). The results of the cumulative effects assessment (which will include current and anticipated projects and activities) will be presented in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.11.1, Section 25.13 | Section 22, Appendix C |

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| 13 | <p>Concerns about the residual effects to individual, local or regional populations of species at risk and their habitat.</p> | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.11.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on Species at Risk, including but not limited to those identified in this issue, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects, mitigation measures, and residual effects regarding Species at Risk will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.11.1 | Appendix C |
| 14 | <p>Request for information on potential effects on wildlife populations from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › mortality, including from vehicular collisions, as increased mortality may lead to population decline and impacts on genetic diversity (especially for large mammals, such as ungulates); › sensory disturbances from project activities or components, over the life of the Project that may lead to the spread of white-nose syndrome in bats, and other disturbances such as noise effects from road traffic or blasting; › changes to migration patterns; | <p>As discussed in Section 25.8.1 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat - Potential Effects), Section 25.9.1 (Birds and Bird Habitat - Potential Effects), and Section 25.11.1 (Species at Risk - Potential Effects), the effects identified in this issue have been identified and will be considered during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects, mitigation measures, and residual effects regarding the effects identified in this issue will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.8.1, Section 25.9.1, Section 25.11.1 | Appendix C |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › increased public access, including access for recreational hunting; and › loss, alteration or fragmentation of habitats (including wetlands and upland habitats). | | | |
| 15 | <p>Commented that the transition zone between the James Bay Lowlands and the Ontario Shield is a critical area for species with larger habitat ranges.</p> | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.11.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on Species at Risk will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. The proponent recognizes the importance of the transition zone between the James Bay Lowlands and the Ontario Shield to species with larger habitat ranges. As indicated in Section 16.2.5.1 (Preliminary Baseline Description): "The Project includes areas of transition between the Boreal Forest and the Canadian Shield and provides important habitat for many of these Species at Risk which have large home ranges (such as Caribou and Wolverine)."</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects, mitigation measures, and residual effects regarding Species at Risk will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Section 16.2.5.1, Section 25.11.1</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |
| 16 | <p>Need for information on potential effects from changes to forested land (e.g., impacts to species of importance to Indigenous communities) and clarity on the mitigation measures proposed to minimize adverse effects.</p> | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on land cover, including but not limited to those identified in this issue (forested land), will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. Preliminary potential effects to Indigenous communities are identified in Section 23.2.1 (Potential Effects) and preliminary potential effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat are identified in Section 25.8.1 (Potential Effects).</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional</p> | <p>Section 23.2.1, Section 25.8.1, Section 25.10.1</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |

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| | | information on the potential effects to both Plant and Vegetation Communities, as well as their importance to Indigenous communities will be included in the EAR/IS. | | |
| 17 | Concerns about potential effects on forests from vegetation clearing, edge effects, and changes to hydrology and soil (e.g., quality, loss, compaction and erosion). | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on forests and wetlands (including those from clearing, edge effects, and changes to hydrology and soils), will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>A potential effect is included in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures) for the Construction phase as following: "Habitat degradation, including changes to areas of edge habitat caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, changes to soils, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes, reductions in habitat connectivity, and habitat fragmentation."</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects to both Plant and Vegetation Communities will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.10.1, Appendix G | Appendix C |
| 18 | Concerns about potential effects on native and rare vegetation due to dust from project activities (including road use), the application of herbicides during all project phases and from the introduction of invasive plant species. | <p>As discussed in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects), the effects of dust deposition on vegetation and introduction of invasive species will be considered in the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects to both Plant and Vegetation Communities will be included in the EAR/IS. The effects of herbicide use will be considered if it is determined it is required for the project, but at this time is not currently being considered.</p> | Section 25.10.1 | Appendix C |

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| Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions | | | | |
| 19 | Need for additional information on all sources of greenhouse gas emissions associated with the Project and on the methods to estimate them, to demonstrate how the requirements of the latest Strategic Assessment of Climate Change guidance document would be met. | <p>As indicated in Section 8.2 (Strategic Assessment of Climate Change) the proponent will conduct a strategic assessment of climate change for the Project following ECCC guidance.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 29 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimate), all Project-related sources of greenhouse gas emissions during both construction (e.g., land clearing, construction vehicle tailpipe emissions, aggregate extraction and transportation) and operation phases (e.g., maintenance-related tailpipe emissions, vehicle emissions) will be described and assessed in the EAR/IS. Greenhouse gas emissions will be quantified in accordance with relevant methodologies such as ECCC's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program and other relevant methods.</p> | Section 8.2, Section 29 | Section 8.2, Section 27 |
| 20 | <p>Need for further information about the project-related effects from land use change and loss or disruption of carbon storage function, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › quantification of net greenhouse gas emissions, including from impacts on above-ground and below-ground carbon stocks in the boreal forests, soils, and peatlands; › hydrological assessment of how impacts to wetlands (including peatlands and muskeg) would influence both carbon stocks and the ability to continue to sequester carbon into the future; | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Projects effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed. The items included in this issue are discussed in the DPD as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 29 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimate) provides a preliminary conservative estimate of GHG emissions for the operations phase. A detailed estimate of GHG emissions for all Project phases, along with an assessment of changes in sources and carbon sinks from the clearing of vegetation and disturbance of peatlands/wetland, will be provided in the EAR/IS. › Section 8.2.1.1 (Initial and Detailed Project Description) provides the Project activities that may affect carbon sinks by Project phase. Potential effects to carbon sinks will be assessed in the EAR/IS under multiple components of the environment. › Section 25.5.1 (Potential Effects) provides information on the hydrological assessment that will be conducted during the EA/IA. Peatlands will be considered in the surface water, groundwater, plants | Section 8.2, Section 8.2.1.1, Section 25.2.1, Section 25.2.2, Section 25.4.2, Section 25.5.1, Section 25.10.2, Section 29 | Section 8.2, Section 8.2.1.1, Section 29, Appendix C |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › proposed mitigation measures to minimize loss of carbon storage function, greenhouse gas emissions and effects to climate change; and › implications of the Project to Canada’s national greenhouse gas inventory. | <p>and vegetation communities, geology, terrain and soils, and climate change assessments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Preliminary mitigation measures related to loss of carbon sinks are presented in Section 25.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), Section 25.4.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), and Section 25.10.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation). Further information on mitigation measures related to loss of carbon sinks will be provided in the EAR/IS. › As described in Section 8.2 (Strategic Assessment of Climate Change) the proponent will conduct a strategic assessment of climate change for the Project following ECCC guidance. › As indicated in Section 25.2.1 (Potential Effects), anticipated Project GHG emissions will be quantified and compared against sectoral and federal totals. | | |
| Indigenous Peoples' Spiritual, Physical, and Cultural Heritage | | | | |
| 21 | <p>Concerns about the potential effects to Indigenous cultural heritage, practices and ways of life, including the right to self-govern and speak traditional languages, due to project activities and the increased traffic for industrial and public-access purposes.</p> | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Projects effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed.</p> <p>As described in Sections 23.1 (Potential Effects - Cultural Heritage Resources) and 23.2 (Potential Effects - Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential effects to Indigenous cultural heritage, practices, and ways of life including related concerns, due to Project activities and increased traffic for industrial and public-access purposes will be considered and assessed in the EA/IA.</p> <p>As discussed on Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program will be conducted to collect IK/Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA. Additional information on the potential effects to Indigenous cultural heritage, practices, and ways of life as well as related concerns will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Section 17.4.2, Section 23.1, Section 23.2, Appendix G</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |

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| 22 | <p>Concerns about potential effects to waterways, including features such as rapids, and landforms of cultural importance and the way of life of local Indigenous communities, including due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › proposed watercourse crossings (particularly on the Attawapiskat River) › geotechnical and borehole drilling on eskers, and changes to the land. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Project effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed.</p> <p>Table 11-2 (Summary of Project Activities by Phase) provides Project activities, including construction of water crossings and earthworks. Potential effects related to these project activities are further described in Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures) and will be further assessed in the EAR/IS.</p> <p>Geotechnical drilling required to support preliminary engineering design has commenced and is subject to permitting by multiple agencies including MECP, MNRF and Ontario Parks.</p> | Table 11-2, Section 23.2.1, Section 25.11.1 | Table 11-2, Appendix C |
| 23 | <p>Concerns about potential impacts to cultural, spiritual and sacred sites, from potential project-related changes to the watershed and muskeg.</p> | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Projects effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed.</p> <p>As described in Section 23.1 (Potential Effects - Cultural Heritage Resources) and Section 23.2 (Potential Effects - Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests), potential impacts to cultural, spiritual, and sacred sites, from potential project-related changes to the environment, including surface water, groundwater, and plants and vegetation communities (e.g., muskeg) will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on potential impacts to cultural, spiritual, and sacred sites, from potential project-related changes to the watershed and muskeg will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 17.4.2, Section 23.1, Section 23.2 | Appendix C |

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| 24 | Concerns about potential impacts to Indigenous communities and their ability to preserve and transfer their traditional and cultural knowledge to future generations. | As described in Section 23.2.1 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential impacts to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, the ability of Indigenous communities to preserve and transfer their traditional and cultural knowledge to future generations, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential impacts to Indigenous communities and their ability to preserve and transfer their traditional and cultural knowledge to future generations will be included in the EAR/IS. | Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2.1, Appendix G | Appendix C |
| Indigenous Peoples' Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes | | | | |
| 25 | Request for information about the plans for re-purposing cleared materials such as vegetation, including trees and plants used for traditional medicines. | As indicated in Table 28-1 (Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans) the proponent will develop multiple management plans for the project. Re-purposing of cleared materials, where re-purposing is possible, will be included in the Vegetation Management Plan and the Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan. | Table 28-1 | Table 26-1 |
| 26 | <p>Concerns about the potential effects on hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and spiritual practices and cultural teachings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to the current use of traditional lands, waterbodies, and areas of historical importance to Indigenous communities; › ease of access by non-Indigenous peoples to Indigenous traditional territories; › loss of access to traditional lands (e.g., from potential | As described in Section 23.2.1 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G, potential effects on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, which includes hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and spiritual practices and cultural teachings, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential effects on hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and spiritual practices and cultural teachings will be included in the EAR/IS. | Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2.1, Appendix G | Appendix C |

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| | <p>changes to navigability, the Project overprinting traditional territories); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to the way of life and traditional use of land by future generations. | | | |
| Country Foods | | | | |
| 27 | <p>Request for the development or support of a dietary and food security survey, including a traditional food harvesting study for Indigenous communities whose access would be affected, to determine potential food security issues and impacts to the health of community members.</p> | <p>As described in Section 17.1.1 (Preliminary Baseline Description), the human health assessment will draw on knowledge gathered with respect to country foods and community diet. As part of the IK collection program, Indigenous communities will be consulted for further information on dietary patterns. As indicated in Section 17.1.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the proponent plans to conduct numerous surveys to collect information that will include questions on foods security and harvesting practices to provide information to support various VC assessments (e.g., Socio-economic, Human Health, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests).</p> <p>As described in Section 23.2 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), concerns about effects on the access, quality, and availability of country foods will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential effects on the access, quality, and availability of country foods will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Section 17.1.1, Section 17.1.2, Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |
| 28 | <p>Concerns about effects on the access, quality and availability of country foods, including wildlife (such as caribou), plants and traditional medicines.</p> | <p>As described in Section 23.2 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), concerns about effects on the access, quality, and availability of country foods will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential effects on the access, quality, and availability of country foods will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Section 23.2, Appendix G</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |

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| 29 | Concerns about the potential effects on human health from consuming country food contaminated through soil and water, including from increased mercury methylation processes in wetlands, stemming from project activities. | As described in Section 17.1.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), if the problem formulation step of the Human Health Risk Assessment (which is the initial component of the overall human health assessment) identifies that an assessment of country food consumption is required, a country foods tissue sampling program will be developed to generate primary data on potential Project-related contaminant levels in country foods. This program will involve working with Indigenous communities to collect appropriate tissue samples from commonly harvested country food items. If deemed necessary, this will include mercury and methylmercury. However, there is no reason to suspect at this time that Project activities will enhance or increase mercury methylation rates beyond that which occurs presently. This topic will be further addressed in the EAR/IS. | Section 17.1.2 | N/A |
| Structures, Sites, Things of Historical, Archaeological, Paleontological, or Architectural Significance to Indigenous Peoples | | | | |
| 30 | Request for the Proponent to determine the location of any structure, site or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in consultation with Indigenous communities. | Through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities to identify any structure, site or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in consultation with Indigenous communities. In addition, as indicated in Section 17.3.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the Cultural Heritage Baseline Study will include a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment that will document existing archaeological sites and identify areas of archaeological potential. Should results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment confirm archaeological potential within the corridor of the preferred alternative route, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment would be completed as early as possible before detailed Project design is completed. | Section 17.3.2 | N/A |

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| 31 | Request for the Proponent to complete an archeological assessment. | As indicated in Section 17.3.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the Cultural Heritage Baseline Study will include a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment that will document existing archaeological sites and identify areas of archaeological potential. Should results of the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment confirm archaeological potential within the corridor of the preferred alternative route, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment would be completed as early as possible before detailed Project design is completed. The results of the Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment would inform the need for further archaeological investigations where the effects to identified archaeological resources cannot be avoided through detail design. | Section 17.3.2 | N/A |
| Indigenous Peoples' Exercise of Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights | | | | |
| 32 | See sections on Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes; Human Health and Well-being; and Spiritual, Physical and Cultural Heritage. | Please see the responses to sections on Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes; Human Health and Well-being; and Spiritual, Physical and Cultural Heritage. | N/A | N/A |
| 33 | Comment that the Detailed Project Description should state explicitly all Indigenous peoples engaged by the Proponent have rights under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> , not just the Proponent communities, and should list all Indigenous communities in a non-hierarchical format. | As indicated in Section 4.1 (Indigenous Communities and Groups Identified for Consultation and Engagement), the proponent acknowledges that according to Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed. (2) In this Act, aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada. Section 4.1 (Indigenous Communities and Groups Identified for Consultation and Engagement) lists Indigenous communities and groups in alphabetical order not hierarchical order. As per the footnote in Section 4.1, the Agency provided a list of Indigenous communities and organizations whose Aboriginal and/or treaty rights may be affected by the Project or who may have an interest in the Project (17 communities). These communities and organizations are identified with an asterisk. | Section 4.1 | Section 4.1 |

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| Indigenous Knowledge | | | | |
| 34 | Concerns about the Proponent not incorporating Indigenous Knowledge into planning, management, and operational decisions, as well as during environmental data collection, within monitoring studies and when identifying mitigation measures related to environmental, social, economic and health impacts stemming from the Project and other activities or potential developments. | <p>As described in Section 17.4.2, an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) information and incorporate it throughout the EA/IA.</p> <p>The IK Program is a critical component of the information base upon which the assessment will be conducted. The information generated through the IK Program will be used in concert with western scientific approaches to form the foundation for characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods. The program will include collection of existing IK/ILRU information as well as completion of Project-specific studies. The IK Program will provide funding for Indigenous communities, and work with communities where requested, to collect IK relevant to the various technical disciplines and support the meaningful integration of IK throughout the EA/IA and Project planning.</p> <p>In addition, the proponent has and will continue to provide opportunities for Indigenous communities to participate in field programs, where possible.</p> | Section 17.4.2 | N/A |
| 35 | Concerns with how the Proponent would ensure the privacy and confidentiality of shared Indigenous Knowledge and other information deemed sensitive. | As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), it is anticipated that all IK and information on ILRU shared through the program will be governed by IK Sharing Agreements that indicate how confidential/sensitive information will be used to inform the effects assessment but will be protected from public or third-party disclosure. | Section 17.4.2 | N/A |
| Indigenous and Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation | | | | |
| 36 | Commented that First Nation communities are eligible for Economic Development and Infrastructure Funding. | The proponent acknowledges that First Nation communities are eligible for Economic Development and Infrastructure Funding. | N/A | N/A |

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| 37 | <p>Concerns about Indigenous communities being adequately supported to participate in engagement and consultation activities throughout the federal impact assessment process, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › having access to sufficient and timely capacity funding; › being provided with sufficient time to provide comments; and › being shown consideration for the challenges Indigenous communities face, such as community emergencies, poor bandwidth and consultation fatigue. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please see the response to Issue #38 for information on funding. 2. The proponent has supported extensions to time periods for comments during both the Draft ToR and Proposed ToR periods. The proponent will continue to work with Indigenous communities to provide adequate time periods for communities to provide feedback, while also balancing progressing the overall Project schedule. 3. The proponent has developed a consultation and engagement program that considers the challenges Indigenous communities face. As indicated in Table 4-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities), to date, the proponent has engaged with Indigenous communities through various methods.). The proponent will continue to consult and engage with interested Indigenous communities, organizations and groups through the development of the EA/IA using a variety of tools as described in Table 6-1 (Communication and Engagement Tools). As indicated in Section 6.3.1 (General Engagement Principles), consultation and engagement activities will be transparent and flexible. As indicated in Section 4.3 (Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement), consultation and engagement activities planned in the future will be tailored to Indigenous communities, organizations and groups whose input is required. | Table 4-1, Section 4.3, Table 6-1, Section 6.3.1 | Table 4-1, Section 4.3, Table 6-1, Section 6.3.1 |
| 38 | <p>Concerns about adequate support being provided to Indigenous communities to conduct studies on the use of lands and resources to inform the federal impact assessment process.</p> | <p>Funding to support IK/ILRU studies is available from both the Province of Ontario and the proponent. The provincial funding Initiative supports three key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Indigenous knowledge and land use studies to identify and evaluate potential impacts to traditional land uses and asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights associated with the Project; › Community engagement and participation in the review and consultation activities related to the terms of reference; and, › Community engagement and participation in the review and consultation activities related to the environmental assessment phase (should the terms of reference be approved). <p>The proponent welcomes the opportunity to meet with interested Indigenous communities to discuss funding.</p> | N/A | N/A |

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| 39 | <p>Request that engagement activities be conducted respectfully of Indigenous protocols by incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › any existing Consultation and/or Engagement Protocols that Indigenous communities have shared with the Proponent; and › individual Indigenous community's preferences for engagement and consultation throughout the assessment process, including language preferences and health and safety measures that should be followed. | <p>As described in Section 6.3.2 (Guiding Principles for Engagement), the proponent has a mutual recognition of inherent rights, ancestral knowledge, traditional knowledge and practices, clan families and relationships, sustainable livelihood and traditional protocols. The proponent will conduct consultation and engagement in accordance with participating Indigenous communities' individual protocols to the extent possible if they are available and shared. To ensure greater understanding and participation, the proponent strives to include translators and ensure health and safety protocols are adhered to.</p> | Section 6.3.2 | Section 6.3.2 |
| 40 | <p>Request that in-person engagement activities be offered at multiple locations, on multiple dates, in each of the surrounding communities that would be impacted by the Project.</p> | <p>As described in Table 6-1 (Communication and Engagement Tools), the proponent will use a variety of tools to provide information and receive input from Indigenous communities and organizations, such as in-person community meetings in multiple locations including in-community and off-reserve. As indicated in Table 6-2 (Consultation Milestones), consultation and engagement will be held at multiple milestones of the EA/IA.</p> | Table 6-1, Table 6-2 | Table 6-1, Table 6-2 |
| 41 | <p>Request for involvement of, and transparent information sharing with, Indigenous communities (particularly with knowledge holders and youth) regarding baseline data collection (e.g., archeological baseline studies), spatial boundaries and study areas, and other project-related</p> | <p>As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), various study plans will be prepared to provide more detail on specific Valued Component assessments. Plain language fact sheets summarizing each study plan will be prepared and presented for input early in the EA/IA as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program. Fact Sheets for each study plan will be provided as supportive hand-out at Indigenous and public open house events, posted on the project website, and presented at livestreaming and radio information sessions to provide an opportunity for comment and discussion.</p> | Section 26 | Section 24 |

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| | information used to inform the federal impact assessment process. | | | |
| 42 | Request for the Proponent to share baseline data and project-related information with potentially impacted Indigenous communities, particularly regarding wildlife matters of importance to the communities (such as caribou and the collaring program), to increase understanding and trust of the approach used, collect input from the communities and comply with Ownership, Control, Access and Possession principles. | Sharing agreements are mentioned in Sections 16.2.1.2, 16.2.3.2, 16.2.4.2, and 16.2.5.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies). The proponent will continue to sign confidential sharing agreements with participating Indigenous communities regarding sensitive data, such as the caribou collaring program and other baseline data and other project-related information. The sharing agreements will comply with the spirit of Ownership, Control, Access and Possession (OCAP) principles. | Section 16.2.1.2, Section 16.2.3.2, Section 16.2.4.2, Section 16.2.5.2, Section 17.4.2 | N/A |
| 43 | Concerns about how Indigenous customs would be considered, including worldviews and laws, to inform decisions made about the Project. | As referenced in Section 6.3.3 (Marten Falls First Nation Elders' Guiding Principles) and Section 6.3.4 (Webequie First Nation Three-Tier Approach), the proponent will adhere to a combination of mutual guiding principles of MFFN and WFN. Elders from both communities provided guidance to the proponent to honour the traditional lands in which this Project will be developed. This includes to respect the traditional teachings of these communities, including to "respect the natural and Anishinaabe customs and teachings at all times". These teachings (i.e., laws) will be utilized to inform decisions about the Project. Other worldviews of those Indigenous communities which the proponent is consulting with will be respected throughout the EA/IA process. | Section 6.3.3, Section 6.3.4 | Section 6.3.3, Section 6.3.4 |

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| 44 | Comments about the importance of establishing and maintaining good relationships and a unified approach to consultation between Indigenous communities in the region, whether they support or oppose development in the Ring of Fire area. | The Proponent's Guiding Principles are described in Section 6.3.1 (General Engagement Principles), Section 6.3.2 (Guiding Principles for Engagement), Section 6.3.3 (Marten Falls First Nation Elders' Guiding Principles), and Section 6.3.4 (Webequie First Nation Three-Tier Approach). These principles outline the importance of respectful relationships with affected Indigenous communities as well as managing issues, comments and questions, which will be documented in the RoC. The proponent is committed to ongoing discussions and proposed issue resolution approaches as described in Section 6.5 (Issues Resolution), which will be documented to record the issue resolution process for any issues raised. | Section 6.3.1, Section 6.3.2, Section 6.3.3, Section 6.3.4, Section 6.5 | Section 6.3.1, Section 6.3.2, Section 6.3.3, Section 6.3.4, Section 6.5 |
| 45 | Request for the adequate involvement of potentially impacted Indigenous communities throughout the federal impact assessment process, including in the determination of the project definition and spatial and temporal boundaries, the selection of valued components and mitigation measures, the validation that concerns raised have been substantially addressed, and in shared decision-making. | Through the Consultation and Engagement Program, potentially impacted Indigenous communities will be consulted throughout the EA/IA. Table 3-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date) and Table 4-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities) show consultation conducted to date with federal and provincial agencies, and Indigenous communities, respectively. As shown in Table 6-2 (Consultation Milestones) the proponent plans to consult Indigenous communities, stakeholders and interested persons on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Baseline Data Collection; › Identification of Alternatives; › Evaluation of Alternatives; › Selection of Preferred Methods; › Preliminary Effects Assessment; and › Cumulative Effects Assessment. A preliminary consultation schedule is provided in Table 6-3 (Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule). | Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Table 6-3 | Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Table 6-3 |
| 46 | Comments about meaningful and ongoing Proponent-led engagement with off-reserve and on-reserve members of Indigenous communities, including the community leadership, in a manner that enables full and free participation. | The proponent will continue to provide engagement opportunities both off-reserve and on-reserve with all interested Indigenous participants, following the General Engagement Principles described in Section 6.3 (Guiding Principles). Table 6-1 (Communication and Engagement Tools) describes the proponent's methods to engage with both on-reserve and off-reserve members of communities, including community leadership. | Section 6.3, Table 6-1 | Section 6.3, Table 6-1 |

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| 47 | <p>Need for meaningful Indigenous consultation and Proponent-led engagement throughout the federal impact assessment process (including during the definition of project design and spatial and temporal boundaries), that takes into consideration Indigenous Knowledge, the capacity of Indigenous communities and the traditional land and resource uses of potentially impacted Indigenous communities, and allows for verification of how input from Indigenous communities are reflected in documents prepared for the assessment process.</p> | <p>The response to Issue #44 describes the proponent's engagement principles to set the stage for meaningful consultation and engagement.</p> <p>The proponent has conducted various engagement activities during development of the provincial Terms of Reference for the Project, as described in Table 3-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date), Table 4-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities), Table 6-3 (Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule), Appendix D (Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process), and Appendix E (Additional Information on Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Groups). The proponent plans to further engage with Indigenous communities on the effects assessment methods as well as through the EA/IA process, as indicated in Table 6-2 (Consultation and Engagement Milestones).</p> <p>The response to Issue #37 provides information on how the proponent has taken into consideration the capacity of Indigenous communities.</p> <p>As described in Section 4.3 (Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement), "through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program (see Section 17.4.2), the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods. The proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during multiple stages of the EA/IA through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program."</p> <p>As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the proponent is developing an IK Guidance Document which describes our plans to work with Indigenous communities to validate or confirm that the information collected has been documented accurately in the EAR/IS.</p> | <p>Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Section 4.3, Table 6-2, Table 6-3, Section 17.4.2, Appendix D, Appendix E</p> | <p>Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Section 4.3, Table 6-2, Table 6-3, Appendix A</p> |

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| 48 | <p>Need for all engagement activities to be meaningful that encourages participation from Indigenous communities through two-way communication, in order to gather input that informs the Proponent's conduct in the federal impact assessment. Examples of meaningful engagement include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › in-community meetings where oral information can be submitted; › allowing for participants to lead engagement sessions to share information; › providing clarity on how information, including Indigenous Knowledge, can be shared, and how it would be used to ensure it is not reworded or misrepresented; › incorporating views from Indigenous communities on the use of studies conducted by the communities; and › incorporating views on the project alternatives. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As described in Table 6-1 (Communication and Engagement Tools), the proponent will use a variety of tools to provide information and receive input from Indigenous communities, including in-person community meetings. 2. On April 6 and 7, 2023, the proponent sent a letter to Indigenous communities inviting them to provide feedback on their preferred engagement methods, such as focus groups, kitchen table sessions, community information sessions, as well as virtual options, with the aim of making engagement on the Project as accessible as possible for communities. The proponent also requested communities to provide their written consultation protocols or guidelines. With respect to allowing participants to lead engagement sessions to share information, the proponent welcomes the opportunity to meet with communities to discuss this further. 3. As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the proponent is developing an IK Guidance Document which describes how the proponent plans to work with Indigenous communities to validate or confirm that the information collected has been documented accurately in the EAR/IS. 4. As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information and incorporate it throughout the EA/IA. The program will include collection of existing IK/ILRU information as well as completion of Project-specific studies. The IK Program will provide funding for Indigenous communities, and the proponent can work with communities where requested, to collect IK relevant to the various technical disciplines and support the meaningful integration of IK throughout the EA/IA and Project planning. 5. As indicated in Section 14.1 ("Alternatives Means" to Carry Out the Project), the proponent will conduct an assessment of alternative means to carry out the Project. The assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project will incorporate input from Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, and federal and provincial regulators, to be obtained through the consultation and engagement process, as well as IK/ILRU and other baseline data. | Table 6-1, Section 14.1, Section 17.4.2 | Table 6-1, Section 14.1, |

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| 49 | Need for the Detailed Project Description to include information on the Proponent's engagement with Indigenous communities up to the submission of the Detailed Project Description, including any issues raised by Indigenous communities, as required in Schedule 2 of the <i>Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations</i> . Information in Appendix E of the Initial Project Description only covers engagement activities that took place up to April 2022. | <p>Table 3-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date), Table 4-1 (Consultation and Engagement Activities to Date – Indigenous Communities), Table 6-3 (Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule), and Appendix E (Additional Information on Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Groups) have been updated to reflect all consultation activities that took place up to mid-April 2023.</p> <p>Appendix D (Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process) did not require updates as it already contained all key issues raised by Indigenous communities during the ToR stage in Table D-3 (Summary of Key Issues Raised by Indigenous Communities and Groups during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process). The ToR comment period closed for Indigenous communities closed on December 14, 2022.</p> | Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Table 6-3, Appendix E | Table 3-1, Table 4-1, Table 6-3 |
| 50 | Need for the Detailed Project Description to include information on the Proponent's schedule for future engagement with Indigenous communities. | Table 6-3 (Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule) presents the proponent's estimated dates for future engagement with Indigenous communities. The schedule is subject to change, and updates will be communicated to communities as well as posted on the Project website (https://northernroadlink.ca/). | Table 6-3 | Table 6-3 |
| 51 | Request for the Detailed Project Description to include "self-determined" and "consensual" in the list of guiding principles for engagement with Indigenous communities. | <p>As described in Section 6.3.2 (Guiding Principles for Engagement), "Elders from both communities have provided guidance to the proponent so that consultation and engagement for the EA/IA is conducted in a respectful manner that reflects their culture and traditions of MFFN and WFN as Indigenous proponents of the Project."</p> <p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p> | Section 6.3.2 | Section 6.3.2 |

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| 52 | Comments on the Proponent's approach to engagement, including that engagement activities should consider barriers to participation for local, underrepresented groups. | <p>As described in Table 6-1 (Communication and Engagement Tools), the proponent will use a variety of tools to provide information and receive input from Indigenous communities.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 6.3.1 (General Engagement Principles), consultation and engagement activities will be inclusive and accessible. This includes providing and reasonably adjusting timeframes where necessary to consider working schedules, community meetings, in-person engagements as well as call-in options for those without a computer or reliable internet connection. Documents and materials will use language that is easy to understand and free of technical jargon and, where feasible, key documents/presentations may be translated into the Indigenous language of participating communities.</p> | Table 6-1, Section 6.3.1 | Table 6-1, Section 6.3.1 |
| 53 | Comment that the Proponent should have specific workshops and feedback sessions for Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals, and offer child-care onsite for individuals who have children and want to attend in-person. | <p>As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), the proponent will identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. The proponent plans to develop methods to collect disaggregated information through the GBA+ analysis.</p> <p>Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> <p>The proponent will consider hosting workshops that allow for collaboration with Indigenous women and gender diverse individuals with child-care options. We welcome the opportunity to meet with community leadership and further discuss options for these workshops.</p> | Section 26 | Section 24 |
| Health Conditions of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples | | | | |
| 54 | <p>Concerns about potential effects from biophysical pathways of exposure such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to air quality from vehicular emissions and dust, which can cause adverse impacts on human health; › effects on quality and quantity of drinking water; and | <p>As indicated in Section 17.1.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies) and Section 24.1.1 (Potential Effects) the potential effects to human health due to consumption of contaminated country food items, outdoor air/dust inhalation, and drinking water ingestion will be assessed in the human health risk assessment, as deemed necessary, given the types and environmental behaviour of Project emissions. This topic will be further addressed in the EAR/IS and the details of the assessment will be included in the human health study plan.</p> | Section 17.1.2, Section 24.1.1 | Appendix C |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to country food quality caused by air, soil or water contaminants, including carcinogens, heavy metals (e.g., chromium, mercury) and other toxic substances released by project activities (e.g., aggregate sourcing, vehicle emissions), potential accidents and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area. | | | |
| 55 | <p>Request for information on indicators related to baseline health conditions in the area, to assess the Project's potential effects to a range of health determinants, including socio-economic conditions and the potential impact to the health and well-being of Indigenous communities.</p> | <p>Many aspects of the environment are interconnected. As such, social determinants of health fall under multiple disciplines, including Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, Socio-economic, and Human Health. As per the approved Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Project (https://northernroadlink.ca/terms-2/), the proponent is undertaking a comprehensive assessment of potential effects to the social determinants of health under these three disciplines.</p> <p>Preliminary baseline information on indicators related to baseline health conditions in the Project area is provided in Section 17.1.1 (Human Health Context - Preliminary Baseline Description), Section 17.2.1 (Socio-economic Context - Preliminary Baseline Description) and Section 17.4.1 (Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context - Preliminary Baseline Description). Further information will be provided in the EA/IA.</p> <p>If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal Impact Assessment under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>, the proponent's approach to the assessment of potential effects to human health will be refined based on the Project's Tailored Impact Assessment Guidelines (TISG) and the details of the assessment will be presented in the applicable study plans. As outlined in Section 6.2 of the ToR, the proponent will seek input from Indigenous communities on the study plans.</p> | Section 17.1.1, Section 17.2.1, Section 17.4.1 | N/A |

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| 56 | Concerns about the lack of information used in the problem formulation exercise of the Human Health Risk Assessment, including the identification of all potentially consumed country food species and human receptors. | The problem formulation step of the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) has not been conducted yet. The proposed HHRA is further described in Section 17.1 (Human Health Context) and Section 24.1 (Human Health), and will be conducted during the EA/IA. Data that will be assessed in the HHRA problem formulation is currently being identified and collected. If it is deemed necessary to conduct a full HHRA (based on the outcomes of HHRA problem formulation), it is anticipated that all human receptor types would be assessed. IK engagement activities will strive to identify all potentially consumed country food items that are of concern/interest to local communities. Supplemental diet surveys within study area communities may also be conducted, if/as necessary, to identify the key country food items of concern/interest. | Section 17.1, Section 24.1 | N/A |
| 57 | Request for information on the scenarios considered by the Proponent for potential accidents and malfunctions in the Human Health Risk Assessment, as well as on the proposed emergency responses. | Scenarios for potential accidents and malfunctions are not typically included in human health risk assessments (HHRA). As indicated in Section 25.12 (Accidents and Malfunctions), the proponent will carry out an assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions for the Project including 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). As part of the assessment of accidents and malfunctions, the proponent will carry out a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment of accidents and malfunctions across all phases of the Project, determine their potential effects, and present preliminary emergency response measures, systems, and associated response capacities. If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal IA under the under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> , the proponent's approach to the assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions will be refined based on the Project's Tailored Impact Assessment Guidelines (TISG) and the details of the assessment will be included in the EAR/IS. | Section 25.12 | Section 21 |

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| 58 | Concerns that the Proponent has not considered an adaptive mitigation/management plan that would provide a timely response, if country food or water quality were impacted due to project activities and/or accidents. | Potential effects to country food and water quality will be assessed in the EA/IA under the applicable VCs (e.g., human health, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, surface water), including proposed mitigation measures. Follow-up strategies will be developed for Project-related effects, as appropriate, and will include adaptative management where applicable. As described in Section 27 (Follow-up and Monitoring) the proponent will prepare a monitoring framework for the Project which will initially be developed during the EA/IA. Preliminary proposed management plans are presented in Section 28 (Management Plans). | Section 27, Section 28 | Section 25, Section 26 |
| 59 | Request for information on the potential effects on human health and well-being and to social determinants of health from the influx of workers and the potential increase in cost of living and stress on available social services and health care, as well as from increased vehicular collisions. | Please see the response to Issue #55. In addition, the potential effects of vehicular collisions will be included in the assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions. Please see the response to Issue #57 for further information about the assessment of accidents and malfunctions. | N/A | N/A |
| Social and Economic Conditions of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Peoples | | | | |
| 60 | Concerns about potential impacts to Indigenous peoples' economic conditions, including changes to the social assistance rate of Indigenous communities, which would no longer be considered remote after connecting to the provincial highway network through the Project. | The proponent acknowledges that there are concerns about potential impacts to Indigenous peoples' economic conditions, including changes to the social assistance rate of indigenous communities. This will be further assessed in the EA/IA. The proponent made the following commitment (Commitment #63) during the provincial Terms of Reference (ToR) phase: "The proponent will engage with applicable provincial ministries and federal departments to determine how communities will be financially impacted by band support funding, social assistance rates and any other funding. The consultation and engagement program includes consultation with government agencies as well as Indigenous communities." Completion of this commitment will be tracked in the EAR/IS. | Section 17.2, Section 24.2 | Appendix C |

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| 61 | Concerns about the potential effects to species that are of socio-economic importance to Indigenous communities, including moose, caribou, beaver, muskrat, hare, ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, lake sturgeon, pickerel, whitefish, pike, burbot, geese, ducks, as well as vegetation and medicinal plants. | As described in Section 23.2 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential effects to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interest, including potential effects to species that are important to Indigenous communities, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential effects to species that are important to Indigenous Communities will be included in the EAR/IS. Many of these species will also be assessed under the Biological Environment assessment as indicated in Section 16.2 (Biological Environment), Section 21 (Fish and Fish Habitat, Aquatic Species and Migratory Birds), Section 25.8 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat), Section 25.9 (Birds and Bird Habitat), Section 25.10 (Plants and Vegetation Communities), and Section 25.11 (Species at Risk). | Section 16.2, Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2, Section 25.8, Section 25.9, Section 25.10, Section 25.11, Appendix G | Appendix C |
| 62 | Comment regarding the spur roads, which may change the remoteness classification of Indigenous communities. This may improve conditions and decrease social issues by providing reliable and regular transportation to Indigenous communities. | The proponent acknowledges that the Project may improve conditions and decrease some social issues by providing reliable and regular transportation to Indigenous communities. Section 24.2.1 (Potential Effects) presents preliminary potential effects of the Project on the Socio-economic Environment. Potential effects (positive and negative) will be assessed in the EA/IA. | Section 24.2.1 | Appendix C |
| 63 | Request for a cost-benefit analysis of Indigenous communities' costs associated with transportation and spoilage of goods due to the current winter road, and the potential for future saving opportunities that would be realized through the Project. | The Project has the potential to increase employment and business opportunities in road construction and the mining sector, as well as facilitating the supply of and reducing the costs of goods and services. As indicated in Section 24.2.1 (Potential Effects) the assessment of the Regional and Local Economy will consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in labour force participation and unemployment. › Changes to training and education programs. › Changes in income levels. | Section 24.2.1 | Appendix C |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in living costs including prices of goods. › Changes in municipal government revenues and costs. <p>However, a cost-benefit analysis of Indigenous communities' costs associated with transportation and spoilage of goods due to the current winter road, and the potential for future saving opportunities, is not anticipated to be included in the EA/IA.</p> | | |
| 64 | Request for further information on employment opportunities for members of Indigenous communities. | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), one of the project objectives is to provide employment and other economic opportunities to MFFN, WFN and local Indigenous community members. As described in Section 24.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), the Project will include education, training and hiring practices to encourage the employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network.</p> <p>Further information on employment opportunities for members of Indigenous communities will be provided in the EAR/IS. It is too early in Project development to include this information in the Detailed Project Description.</p> | Section 9.1, Section 24.2.2 | Section 9.1, Appendix C |
| 65 | Request for information on potential impacts to social conditions and social well-being (including on familial relationships), due to changes in quality of life, urbanization, increased connectivity, alteration of social values and increased mobility. | <p>As described in Section 23.2 (Potential Effects - Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests) and 24.2 (Potential Effects - Socio-economic Environment) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential effects on socio-economic conditions, and cultural continuity and well-being, including due to changes in quality of life, urbanization, increased connectivity, alteration of social values, and increased mobility, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA and additional information on the potential impacts to social conditions and social well-being will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2, Section 24.2, Appendix G | Appendix C |

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| 66 | Comments that the Proponent should engage with potentially impacted Indigenous communities to identify opportunities to enhance the positive effects of the Project, including training and employment opportunities, social assistance and wage subsidies. | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), Project objectives include providing employment and other economic opportunities to MFFN, WFN and local Indigenous community members and enabling experience and training opportunities for youth.</p> <p>As described in Table 6-2 (Consultation Milestones), the proponent plans to consult with Indigenous communities and obtain input on the effects assessment.</p> <p>As described in Section 24.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), the proponent will encourage employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network.</p> <p>The proponent will continue to engage with potentially impacted Indigenous communities to identify opportunities to enhance the positive effects of the Project, through the Consultation and Engagement and IK Programs.</p> | Table 6-2, Section 9.1, Section 24.2.2 | Table 6-2, Section 9.1, Appendix C |
| 67 | Request for information on the potential effects on social conditions, including community services and infrastructure, community safety, cultural continuity and well-being, because of potential increase in access to drugs. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 24.2 (Socio-Economic Environment), potential effects related to changes in levels of substance use (e.g., drugs, alcohol) will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects related to substance use will be provided in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 24.2 | Appendix C |
| 68 | Request for information on profiles of Indigenous communities, including demographic characteristics, to allow for a greater understanding of the existing conditions. | Table 17-1 (Community Profiles of Indigenous Communities Potentially Affected by or Interested in the Project) provides brief community profiles for Indigenous communities and organizations identified as potentially affected by or interested in the Project. Additional information on these Indigenous communities, including demographic characteristics will be included in the EA/IA. | Table 17-1 | Table 17-1 |

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| 69 | <p>Concerns about potential economic impacts on local businesses (including tourism) due to project activities that would cause changes in scenic viewscales, as well as potential economic disruptions to municipalities, local agencies, and provincial systems.</p> | <p>As indicated in Section 16.1.7.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Visual Environment), tourism will be included in the detailed mapping dataset for the purpose of the Visual Environment Assessment.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 25.5.1 (Potential Effects - Visual Environment), potential effects to the visual environment, changes in scenic viewscales, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. Potential effects to tourism will also be considered in the Socio-economic assessment Section 17.2.1 (Preliminary Baseline Description - Socio-economic Context), Section 24.2.1 (Potential Effects - Socio-economic Environment).</p> <p>Further details will be provided in the applicable study plans.</p> | <p>Section 16.1.7.2, Section 17.2.1, Section 24.2.1, Section 25.5.1</p> | <p>Appendix C</p> |
| 70 | <p>Request for further information on the existing local and regional economy to assess the potential impacts of the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › information on how workers would be hired locally, nationally or internationally; › the number and types of jobs the Project would create (direct, induced) during different project phases; › estimated salaries and compensation for those jobs in comparison to other provincial and local employers; › whether assistance would be provided during any temporary layoffs; › local employment barriers and availability of childcare for workers; and | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), one of the project objectives is to provide employment and other economic opportunities to MFFN, WFN and local Indigenous community members.</p> <p>The project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 24.2.1 (Potential Effects - Socio-economic Environment), the socio-economic assessment will include: potential effects on labour force participation and unemployment; changes to training and education programs; and changes in income levels. As described in Section 24.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Socio-economic Environment), the Project will include education, training and hiring practices to encourage the employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Further information on employment, training and related topics will be provided in the EAR/IS. It is too early in Project development to include this information in the Detailed Project Description.</p> | <p>Section 9.1, Section 24.2.1, Section 24.2.2</p> | <p>Section 9.1, Appendix C</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › any training and skills development programs to develop local job candidates. | | | |
| 71 | Request for information on the Proponent's efforts to recruit and train underrepresented groups in the labour market, including Indigenous peoples, youth, women and people with disabilities. Request for information on how these underrepresented groups would be supported to access equal economic benefits and opportunities, and information on mitigation measures that reflect intersectional principles and address barriers of marginalized persons. | As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), the proponent will identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project. Please see the response to Issue #70 for information on employment. | Section 9.1, Section 24.2.1, Section 24.2.2, Section 26 | Section 9.1, Appendix C, Section 24 |
| 72 | Request that the Detailed Project Description clarify how the employment rate would be calculated. It is incorrect to compute the employment rate based on the participation rate. | As indicated in Section 11 (Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works), the proponent will estimate approximate employment needs for the construction and operations of the Project during the preliminary engineering. This information will be included in the EAR/IS. The proponent will look for opportunities to boost local employment. The data presented in Section 17.2.1 (Preliminary Baseline Description) represents preliminary information about existing employment rates in the region based on data from Statistics Canada (2017). The 'participation rate' mentioned in this section is the participation rate in Statistics Canada surveys. <u>References:</u> Statistics Canada. 2017. Census Profile, 2016 Census. Release date: February 8, 2017. Updated on: June 18, 2019. Available: https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E%20() | Section 11, Section 17.2.1 | Section 11 |

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| 73 | Request for clarification on who would be responsible for building, leading, and funding community social services and related support systems. | Building, leading, and funding community social services and related support systems is not a component of the Project. However, as described in Section 24.2 (Socio-Economic Environment), the EA/IA will include an assessment of potential Project effects on the socio-economic environment and development of mitigation measures. | Section 24.2 | Appendix C |
| 74 | <p>Request for the Proponent to engage with the following local Indigenous Skills and Employment Training agreement holders for information on the local labour force and training opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Kiikenomaga Kikenjigewen Employment and Training Services › Wabun Tribal Council (MamoNuskomitowin) › Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve. › Mamaweswen – The North Shore Tribal Council › Anishinabek Nation (Union of Ontario Indians) › Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (First Nation) › Shooniyaa Wa-Biitong › Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board › Mushkegowuk Council Employment & Training Service. | As described in Section 24.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), the proponent will encourage the employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network. The proponent welcomes the information provided here on local Indigenous Skills and Employment Training resources for consideration during engagement. | Section 24.2.2 | Appendix C |

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| 75 | Need for the Detailed Project Description to identify the locations of permanent and temporary residences and known sensitive receptors, including the location of drinking water sources and of waterbodies used for recreational purposes. | As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA. Information will also be collected through the primary socio-economic data collection such as community surveys, interviews, and focus groups (Section 17.2.2 Proposed Baseline Studies - Socio-economic Context). This will include information on location of drinking water sources and of waterbodies used for recreational purposes. This information will be presented in the EAR/IS, however, the level of detail will be dependent on the confidentiality of the data. | Section 17.2.2, Section 17.4.2 | N/A |
| 76 | Need for detailed information on potential adverse effects from improper disposal of wastewater and waste, including garbage and debris generated by public road users, and a plan that describes how waste and wastewater would be managed. | <p>Table 11-2 (Summary of Project Activities by Phase) recognizes that Project activities include various emissions, discharges, and waste, including wastewater and litter. Potential effects related to these project activities are further described in Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures) and will be further assessed in the EAR/IS.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 28 (Management Plans), the proponent will prepare management plans for the construction and operations phases of the Project, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Surface Water and Storm Water Management; › Waste Management (including Hazardous, Contaminated and Controlled Materials). <p>Further detail on the Management Plans that will be prepared for the Project will be provided in the EAR/IS.</p> | Table 11-2, Section 28, Appendix G | Table 11-2, Section 26, Appendix C |
| Vulnerable Population Groups (Gender-Based Analysis Plus) | | | | |
| 77 | Comments on the need to consider Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA Plus) when collecting information on health, social and economic conditions. | As described in Section 17 (Description of the Health, Socio-economic, Cultural Heritage Resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. Baseline information for applicable components of the environment would be disaggregated to the extent practical to support the analysis of disproportionate effects of the Project on vulnerable or underrepresented groups, including Indigenous people or other community relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders). Consideration of GBA+ would be further | Section 17, Section 17.2.2, Section 17.4.2 | N/A |

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| | | <p>described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17.2.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Socio-economic Context), where sources provide disaggregated data based on subgroups (i.e., women, youth, Elders, others), this data will be used in the baseline to characterize the sub-groups and to support a gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) framework. Further, as indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests) the selection of participants for project-specific studies will consider the importance of selecting a diversity of participants (women, Elders, youth, gender diverse peoples and those with disabilities). Consideration of GBA+ will be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> | | |
| 78 | <p>Request for health and safety indicators in relation to gender-based violence and a table of key issues and mitigation measures to address the issues from the basis of a GBA Plus implementation framework.</p> | <p>As indicated in Section 17.2 (Socio-economic Context) and Section 24.2 (Socio-economic Environment), community safety will be assessed in the EA/IA and includes consideration of gender-based violence. Further information will be provided in the study plan.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. The proponent would identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> | <p>Sections 17.2, Section 24.2, Section 26</p> | <p>Section 24, Appendix C</p> |
| 79 | <p>Concerns about the potential effects on Indigenous women's safety due to new roads and potential mining activity.</p> | <p>As indicated in Section 17.2 (Socio-economic Context) and Section 24.2 (Socio-economic Environment), community safety will be assessed in the EA/IA, including women's safety (e.g., changes in rates of domestic violence, sexual and physical assault).</p> <p>As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. The proponent would identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> | <p>Sections 17.2, Section 24.2, Section 26</p> | <p>Section 24, Appendix C</p> |

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| 80 | Request for further clarity on the segments of the population that would benefit from the Project, including how the economic and social benefits brought to Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation would be distributed between youth, Elders, women, two-spirit people, and other marginalized identities. | <p>As described in Sections 17.2 (Socio-economic Context) and 24.3 (Socio-economic Environment), the EA/IA will assess the socio-economic effects of the Project. More detailed information on the Socio-economic assessment will be provided in the study plan.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. The proponent would identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. This includes consideration of how the economic and social benefits brought to Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation would be distributed between youth, Elders, women, two-spirit people, and other marginalized identities. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> | Section 17.2, Section 24.3, Section 26 | Section 24, Appendix C |
| 81 | Concerns about potential effects from road infrastructure on social change, and impacts on diverse subgroups of people during all phases of the Project. | <p>As described in Sections 17.2 (Socio-economic Context) and 24.3 (Socio-economic Environment), the EA/IA will assess the socio-economic effects of the Project. More detailed information on the Socio-economic assessment will be provided in the study plan.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. The proponent would identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> | Section 26 | Section 24 |
| 82 | Request for the Proponent to clarify the number of people that were engaged from each Indigenous community and specify how intersectional identities and GBA Plus factors were included in their engagement. | <p>Section 4 (Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Groups) and Appendix E (Additional Information on Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous Communities and Groups) provides information on engagement with Indigenous communities. Detailed information is provided in the Record of Consultation. Disaggregated GBA+ statistics are not available for consultation and engagement during the ToR stage.</p> <p>The proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA. The proponent expects that if a federal IA is required, the GBA+ requirements will</p> | Section 4, Section 17, Appendix E | Section 4, Section 17 |

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| | Request for a table of key issues and mitigation measures to address them from the basis of a GBA Plus implementation framework. | <p>be outlined in the TISG. At that time, the proponent would determine how GBA+ will be incorporated into the assessment.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17 (Description of the Health, Socio-economic, Cultural Heritage Resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context): "If an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. Baseline information for applicable components of the environment would be disaggregated to the extent practical to support the analysis of disproportionate effects of the Project on vulnerable or underrepresented groups, including Indigenous people or other community relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders). Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project."</p> <p>A summary table outlining impacts and mitigation measures will be included in the EAR/IS. This will include issues related to the GBA+ analysis.</p> | | |
| 83 | Request for the Proponent to consider education, childcare, and gender-based support systems (women's centers, shelters, and health and support services) in its description of the socio-economic environment. | <p>As described in Section 17 (Description of the Health, Socio-economic, Cultural Heritage Resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context), if an IA is required for the Project, the proponent intends to conduct a GBA+ analysis as part of the EA/IA, in alignment with the Project's TISG. Baseline information for applicable components of the environment would be disaggregated to the extent practical to support the analysis of disproportionate effects of the Project on vulnerable or underrepresented groups, including Indigenous people or other community relevant subgroups (e.g., women, youth, elders). Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project.</p> <p>The proponent will consider education, childcare, and gender-based support systems (women's centers, shelters, and health and support services) in its description of the socio-economic environment to the extent that the information is available.</p> | Section 17 | Section 17 |
| 84 | Request for a table of key issues and mitigation measures to address them from the basis of a GBA Plus implementation framework. | Please see the response to Issue #82. | Section 17 | Section 17 |

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| 85 | Request that the Proponent assesses the potential impacts on underrepresented subgroups within other local Indigenous communities and public groups that would be impacted by the Project. | As indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), the proponent will identify potential interactions with the Project in relation to underrepresented groups through GBA+ and potential mitigation measures to address impacts as part of the EA/IA. Consideration of GBA+ would be further described in the applicable study plans for the Project. | Section 26 | Section 24 |
| Atmospheric Environment (e.g., Air Quality) | | | | |
| 86 | Concerns about the potential effects on air quality from point and fugitive emission sources during construction (e.g., land clearing, stockpiling, material handling, blasting, operating diesel generators) and operation, including maintenance (e.g., road use, fuel combustion, mobile off-road machines operating diesel generators and other machinery). | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.1 (Potential Effects - Air Quality), potential effects on air quality, including but not limited to those identified in this comment, will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects on air quality will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.1 | Appendix C |
| 87 | Request for further information on the approach proposed for baseline data collection to assess impacts on air quality, including locations of the human receptors such as traditional land users, and a list of baseline air constituents that would be assessed (inclusive of compounds that would be generated from the Project). | <p>As indicated in Section 16.1.1.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Air Quality), baseline air quality data from the MFCAR ambient air quality monitoring program (including particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), ozone, nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), and BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene), will be used. As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), study plans will be developed to provide more detail on specific VC assessments.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 25.1.1 (Potential Effects - Air Quality), receptor locations will be included in the effects assessment and will represent sensitive receptor types (i.e., areas where occupants may be more susceptible to adverse effects). Sensitive receptors include but are not limited to hospitals, schools, child-care facilities and senior housing). Input will be sought to select sensitive receptor locations through discussions with Indigenous communities, government agencies and other stakeholders.</p> | Section 16.1.1.2, Section 25.1.1 | Appendix C |

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| 88 | Request for benzo(a)pyrene [BaP] to be used as a surrogate to assess total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), instead of BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene). | <p>As indicated in Section 16.1.1.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), BaP and diesel particulate matter were not sampled in the MFFN monitoring program due to equipment limitations coupled with serviceability challenges presented with the location of the community. Background levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (as BaP) will be obtained from monitoring programs and analysis conducted by CAREX Canada (CAREX, 2023). BTEX and particulate matter will be used as surrogates for diesel particulate matter. Concentrations of specific relevant contaminants such as acetaldehyde, formaldehyde, 1,3-butadiene, and acrolein will be estimated based on monitored BTEX concentrations and published emission factors, such as the US EPA AP-42 emissions database (US EPA, 2021). Further details will be provided in the study plan (Section 26 Effects Assessment Methods).</p> <p><u>References:</u> CAREX Canada (CAREX). 2023. PAHs Environmental Exposures. Retrieved from: https://www.carexcanada.ca/profile/polycyclic_aromatic_hydrocarbons-environmental-exposures/ United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). 2021. AP-42 Emission Factor Database. Available: https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-factors-and-quantification/ap-42-compilation-air-emissions-factors</p> | Section 16.1.1.2, Section 26 | Section 24 |
| Acoustic Environment | | | | |
| 89 | Concerns about potential effects of increased noise levels on Indigenous peoples and local businesses, including tourism businesses. | <p>As indicated in Section 25.3.1 (Potential Effects), quantitative noise impact assessments will be undertaken for the preferred corridor for both the construction and operations phases.</p> <p>The assessment will account for receptor locations (including Indigenous peoples and local businesses, including tourism businesses) within the zone of influence of the Project.</p> | Section 25.3.1 | Appendix C |
| 90 | Request for information on places that could be affected by increased noise levels, including places frequented for tourism and local businesses, such as hunting and fishing sites, and trapping cabins. | <p>As indicated in Section 25.3.1 (Potential Effects), the places (i.e., receptors) that will be impacted by increased noise levels will be mapped and identified upon completion of the quantitative noise impact assessment for both construction and operation phases of the project.</p> | Section 25.3.1 | Appendix C |

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| 91 | Comments on the identification of human receptors, particularly those that are noise-sensitive, through engagement activities. | Section 16.1.3.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Noise) describes the identification of noise-sensitive receptors/areas. Further information will be provided in the study plan. | Section 16.1.3.2 | N/A |
| Surface Water and Groundwater | | | | |
| 92 | Request for information on effects on surface water quality of wetlands (including peatlands), aquatic ecosystems, and the bottom of waterbodies and watercourses, due to dewatering, change in water temperature, contamination and vegetation clearing that leads to sedimentation and erosion. | <p>Potential effects to fish and fish habitat, surface water and groundwater, including but not limited to those mentioned in this issue, will be assessed in the EA/IA, as discussed in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 21.1.1 (Potential Effects - Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>) - Construction phase: Changes in fish and aquatic species (including SAR habitat) habitat due to water quality changes such as changes in temperature regime, flow regime, increased contaminants due to accidental releases, or changes to water quality as a result of erosion/sedimentation. › Section 25.4.1 (Potential Effects - Groundwater) - Construction phase: Potential construction effects include short-term dewatering during the construction of the foundations of the roads and structures (including bridges and culverts), the production of aggregates at the pits and quarries, and the water taking/pumping of groundwater from water supply wells at the construction camps can cause temporary decrease in groundwater tables and reduction of baseflow contributions to nearby groundwater dependent features (i.e., wetlands, streams, springs, and water supply wells, if any), especially within the dewatering zone of influence. › Section 25.5.1 (Potential Effects - Surface Water) - Construction phase: Discharge from dewatering can potentially cause erosion and mobilization of sediment and thus reduction of the water quality of receiving waterbodies at the discharge point and along the downstream flow path, with elevated total suspended solids (TSS) or turbidity. | Sections 21.1, Section 25.4.1, Section 25.5.1 | Appendix C |
| 93 | Request that Table F-1 of the Detailed Project Description include impact to surface water in relation to acid rock drainage/metal leaching. | This potential effect, and preliminary mitigation measures, have been added to Section 25.5.1 (Potential Effects - Surface Water), Section 25.5.2 (Preliminary Mitigation Measures - Surface Water), and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures). | Section 25.5.1, Section 25.5.2, Appendix G | Appendix C |

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| 94 | Request for information on potential effects to surface water quality from de-icing substances, gas, oil, contaminants from blasting and stockpiling of soil and aggregates, and for detail on potential mitigation measures. | The potential effects included in this issue will be assessed in the EA/IA under both the surface water, and geology terrain and soils effects assessments (Section 25.6 [Geology Terrain and Soils], Section 25.5 [Surface Water]). As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), various study plans will be prepared to provide more detail on specific Valued Component assessments. | Section 25.5, Section 25.6, Section 26 | Section 24, Appendix C |
| 95 | Request for detail on the potential constituents and contaminants released by project activities (e.g., de-icing, stockpiling, blasting) that may affect surface water quality, and for detail on potential mitigation measures. | Please see the response to Issue #94. Specific constituents of concern related to these activities will be further assessed in the EAR/IS. | Section 25.5, Section 25.6, Section 26 | Section 24, Appendix C |
| 96 | Request for the development of a management plan for surface water preservation (of quality, quantity and flow) during all project phases. | As indicated in Table 28-1 (Summary of Preliminary Component Management Plans), the Surface Water and Storm Water Management Plan includes "Environmental monitoring for water quality and quantity, as needed to monitor for flow and sediment events during in-water works". | Table 28-1 | Table 26-1 |
| 97 | Concerns about potential effects on waterbodies and watercourses, including physical characteristics (such as rapids). | As indicated in Section 11.1 (Project Infrastructure and Temporary and Permanent Structures), the actual number of water crossings will not be known until a corridor is chosen as well as the road alignment within that corridor, and could range from approximately 21 to 49 individual watercourse crossings. As indicated in Section 25.5 (Surface Water) and 21.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the Fisheries Act), the EA/IA will include an assessment of effects to surface water quality and quantity and fish and fish habitat. | Section 11, Section 21.1, Section 25.5 | Section 11, Appendix C |

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| 98 | Concerns about potential effects on surface water hydrology, including the timing and volume of natural water flows, and the installation of culverts and watercourse crossings. | As indicated in Section 11 (Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works), culverts at waterbody crossings will be sized to accommodate a minimum 25-year return period design flow for structures with a total span less than or equal to 6.0 metres (m), and a minimum 50-year return period design flow for structures with a total span greater than 6.0 m. As indicated in Section 25.5 (Surface Water), the EA/IA will include an assessment of effects to surface water quality and quantity. | Section 11, Section 25.5 | Section 11, Appendix C |
| 99 | Comments on the importance of culverts to preserve water flow. | Please see the response to Issue #98. | Section 11, Section 25.5 | Section 11, Appendix C |
| 100 | Request for information on groundwater characterization, faults, fracture zones, and groundwater- surface interactions based on KBM Resources Group's desktop analysis ² of conditions at the project site. Request that an appropriate groundwater model be prepared, using the desktop analysis. -- ² Cited from the Initial Project Description: KBM Resources Group (KBM). 2019. Marten Falls First Nation Industrial Supply Road Hydrogeology Baseline Study. Draft. Prepared for AECOM. December 13, 2019. | Section 16.1.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies) briefly describes the proposed groundwater studies. Additional information on groundwater modelling will be provided in the applicable study plan. As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), various study plans will be prepared to provide more detail on specific Valued Component assessments. Section 16.1.4.1 (Preliminary Baseline Description) identifies the KBM Resources study as a source of information for the proposed study. | Section 16.1.4.1, Section 16.1.4.2, Section 26 | Section 24 |

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| Navigation and Navigable Waters | | | | |
| 101 | Concerns about potential impacts on navigation caused by the Project, including activities that obstruct or restrict the access to navigable waterways (e.g., portage routes and access roads), in particular the Attawapiskat and the Albany rivers. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Projects effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed.</p> <p>Table 11-2 (Summary of Project Activities by Phase) provides Project activities, including construction of water crossings. Potential effects related to these project activities are further described in Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures) and will be further assessed in the EAR/IS.</p> <p>The proponent will adhere to requirements under the <i>Canada Navigable Waters Act</i> for major, minor and other works on unlisted waterways deemed to be navigable, as described in Table 20-3 (Federal Legislation, Permits and Other Authorizations).</p> | Table 11-2, Table 20-3, Appendix G | Table 11-2, Table 20-3, Appendix C |
| 102 | Request for information on existing navigable waters that could be impacted by the Project. Commented that the Proponent needs to identify all possible navigable waters in proximity to the Project, including all waterbodies and watercourses that are obviously navigable or obviously not navigable (with supporting rationale) and which waterbodies and watercourses still require a determination of navigability. | <p>As described in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) information and incorporate it throughout the EA/IA, including use of navigable waters.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 11.1 (Project Infrastructure and Temporary and Permanent Structures) structures and culverts will be sized to accommodate navigation where required and/or where watercourses have sufficient flow to support navigation. This issue will be further assessed in the EAR/IS and in the preliminary design report.</p> | Section 11.1, Section 17.4.2 | Section 11.1 |

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| Riparian Environments and Wetlands (e.g., Peatlands) | | | | |
| 103 | Concerns about potential effects to riparian and wetland environments, including from the introduction of invasive species, parasites and diseases, due to year-round access to the region. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects - Plants and Vegetation Communities), potential effects on land cover, including but not limited to those identified in this issue (riparian and wetland environments), will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA. Introduction of invasive species will be managed by a number of mitigation measures already identified in Section 25.10.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Plants and Vegetation Communities) such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize vegetation/habitat clearing as much as practical, especially in wetlands and riparian zones; › Limit temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Revegetate disturbed areas with native and/or non-invasive vegetation; › Designate locations for temporary stockpiling of vegetation and soils; › Develop protocol for equipment to arrive to site clean and free of debris. <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects to both Plant and Vegetation Communities, as well as their importance to Indigenous communities will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.10.1, Section 25.10.2 | Appendix C |
| 104 | Concerns about potential direct and indirect effects on wetlands, wetlands loss and wetland functions, which can be determined through a wetland functions assessment. | <p>As indicated in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects - Plants and Vegetation Communities), potential effects on Plants and Vegetation Communities, including wetlands, will be assessed in the EA/IA.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 16.2.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies - Plants and Vegetation Communities), wetland function will be assessed using an approach based on criteria derived from Wetland Ecological Functions Assessment: An Overview of Approaches (Hanson et al. 2008). Information to support the Wetland Functional Assessment was collected for each wetland sampled during the 2022 field season and will be collected during the 2023 field programs. The proponent will use the collected field data, as well as information derived from published sources to describe the functions of the various wetland types within the study areas according to categories of</p> | Section 16.2.4.2, Section 25.10.1 | Appendix C |

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| | | <p>wetland function (hydrological, hydrogeological, ecological, and sociological). Given the large number of wetlands involved, functional assessments will not be conducted on discrete individual wetlands. Instead, general functional values will be applied to account for hydrologic and hydrogeologic functions, and to capture ecological functions. Study area wide models will be developed to capture the potential usage/presence by waterfowl, breeding birds, mammal, and wetland vegetation indicators for of each wetland polygon. Spatial analysis processes will be used to define aquatic habitat support functions.</p> <p><u>References:</u> Hanson, A., L. Swanson, D. Ewing, G. Grabas, S. Meyer, L. Ross, M. Watmough, and J. Kirby. 2008. Wetland Ecological Functions Assessment: An Overview of Approaches. Canadian Wildlife Service Technical Report Series No. 497. Atlantic Region. 59 pp.</p> | | |
| 105 | Request for buffer zones and other mitigation measures that avoid and/or minimize effects to sensitive areas, such as wetlands. | Setbacks and Buffer zones are planned mitigation measures for areas requiring protection as per Section 25.5.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Surface Water) and Section 25.10.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation - Plants and Vegetation Communities). Mitigation measures will include establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features. These will be further developed in the EAR/IS. | Section 25.5.2 and 25.10.2 | Appendix C |
| 106 | Request for more information pertaining to building techniques that would prevent the road from causing water-flow barrier effects through peatlands. | <p>As indicated in Section 11 (Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works), the proponent acknowledges the importance of preserving the hydrology of the peatlands and will include design measures to minimize negative effects. Road construction on peatlands is complex from both an engineering and environmental perspective.</p> <p>Road construction techniques may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › leaving peat material in situ (e.g., building the road overtop peat); › the use of a geotextiles to manage migration of fine materials; › use of blast rock or large size screened aggregate placed on top of the peat to minimize or eliminate impacts to groundwater flow; and › equalization culverts. <p>This issue will be further assessed in the EAR/IS and in the preliminary design report.</p> | Section 11 | Section 11 |

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| 107 | Concerns about potential effects on muskegs, wetlands and forests, including on their functions, water quantity and hydrology. | <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. As described in Section 25.10.1 (Potential Effects - Plants and Vegetation Communities), potential effects on vegetation communities, including but not limited to those identified in this issue (muskegs, wetlands, and forests), will be considered and assessed during the EA/IA.</p> <p>More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Additional information on the potential effects to both Plant and Vegetation Communities, as well as their importance to Indigenous communities will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.10.1 | Appendix C |
| Geology, Topography, Soil and Sediments | | | | |
| 108 | Concerns about using locally sourced gravel, eskers or other glacial deposits as construction material, and their potential adverse effects on waterbodies and watercourses due to naturally abundant metals (such as chromium) in materials and their potential release into northern lakes and rivers. | <p>As described in Section 16.1.6.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), the geotechnical program will include testing for acid rock drainage/metal leaching (ARD/ML). The potential for ARD/ML is also identified in Section 25.6.1 (Potential Effects), Section 25.6.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), and Table 30-1 (Project Waste, Discharges and Emissions).</p> <p>Concerns regarding metal leaching from locally sourced aggregates will be further addressed through geochemical characterization of borrow source materials and the assessment of impacts on surface water resulting from metal leaching in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 16.1.6.2, Section 25.6.1, Section 25.6.2, Section, Table 30-1 | Table 28-1, Appendix C |
| 109 | Need for further information on the potential effects on permafrost, eskers, and other glacial deposits due to project activities, including the development of aggregate pits. | As indicated in Section 25.6.1 (Potential Effects), potential effects on Geology, Terrain and Soils, included but not limited to those mentioned in this issue, will be assessed in the EA/IA. | Section 25.6.1 | Appendix C |

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| Effect and Impact Assessment Methodology | | | | |
| 110 | Request for the Proponent to incorporate the Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines in their review of surface water quality data. As well, request for additional information on the methodology proposed for sampling surface water. | As described in Section 16.1.5.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), surface water quality will be reviewed against the best available water quality guidelines. In most cases sample results will be compared against provincial water quality objectives; however, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Canadian Water Quality Guideline for the Protection of Aquatic Life may also be used when appropriate, specifically for suspended sediment and turbidity, and where CCME guidelines are based on newer available science. Additional information on the methodology for sampling surface water will be described in the study plan and in the EAR/IS. | Section 16.1.5.2 | N/A |
| 111 | Request for further information on baseline data collection and approaches, including detail on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › flora and fauna, particularly birds, black bears, moose, species at risk, wetlands, as well as species of importance to eco-tourism; › how the absence of a species would be assessed (i.e., absence during baseline studies does not always mean that the species is not present); › survey design, effort and site selection, as well as analyses on sample bias and uncertainty, with descriptions and justifications for each factor; › seasonal and annual variations, distribution and habitat use; and | Proposed baseline studies are discussed in Section 16.2.1.2 (Fish and Fish Habitat), Section 16.2.2.2 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat), Section 16.2.3.2 (Birds and Bird Habitat), Section 16.2.4.2 (Plants and Vegetation Communities), and Section 16.2.5.2 (Species at Risk). As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), a study plan will be prepared for the biological environment to provide more detail on specific VC assessments. Additional information on the baseline environment, including data on the items identified in this issue will also be included in the EAR/IS. | Section 16.2.1.2, Section 16.2.2.2, Section 16.2.3.2, Section 16.2.4.2, Section 16.2.5.2, Section 26 | Section 24 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › maps with overlays that reflect wildlife habitat, migration routes and seasonal changes. | | | |
| 112 | Request for information on the indicators and methods proposed to assess potential impacts on Indigenous peoples' physical and cultural heritage. | Section 17 (Description of the Health, Socio-economic, Cultural Heritage Resources, and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Context), Section 23 (Indigenous Physical and Cultural Heritage, Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes, and Archaeological Resources), and Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods) provide information on the assessment of impacts on Indigenous people's physical and cultural heritage. Further information will be provided in the study plans. | Section 17, Section 23, Section 26 | Section 17, Section 24, Appendix C |
| 113 | <p>Comments that, in relation to increased industrial traffic along the proposed project route, the impact assessment process should assess:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › changes to the following valued components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – water and land; – remote, pristine and fragile environments; – species of importance to Indigenous communities, and their habitats; – the continued practice of traditional activities within the traditional territories of Indigenous communities; and – ability for Indigenous communities to steward the environment; and | As indicated in Part F (Potential Effects of the Project) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), the potential effects of anticipated roadway traffic from the Project, included but not limited to those mentioned in this issue, will be assessed within multiples components of the environment in the EAR/IS (e.g., Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, Air Quality, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Noise, etc.). | Part F, Appendix G | Part F, Appendix C |

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| | › how the effects due to the changes would be mitigated and addressed. | | | |
| 114 | Need for information on how the potential impacts from industrial traffic, between the provincial highway and the mineral deposits in the Ring of Fire area, travelling through Indigenous communities and their traditional territories would be addressed. | As indicated in Table 11-2 (Summary of Project Activities by Phase) the proponent recognizes traffic as a Project activity. As indicated in Part F (Potential Effects of the Project) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), the potential effects of anticipated roadway traffic from the Project will be assessed within multiples components of the environment in the EAR/IS (e.g., Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests, Air Quality, Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Noise, etc.). | Table 11-2, Part F, Appendix G | Table 11-2, Part F, Appendix C |
| 115 | Need for engagement with Indigenous communities to gather information on the species of economic and cultural importance, and to inform the baseline studies. | As indicated in Section 4.3 (Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement), the proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during multiple stages of the EA/IA through the Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement Programs. This includes input on species of economic and cultural importance. | Section 4.3 | Section 4.3 |
| 116 | Request for a description of how the cumulative effects assessment would be conducted. | The EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). | Section 25.13 | Section 22 |
| 117 | Concerns about the effectiveness of mitigation measures to address adverse effects to mammals including large game animals, as well as adverse effects from the release of contaminants in de-icing products, blasting and stockpiling of soils and aggregate, loss of flora and fauna (including fish, birds and species at risk, and their habitats), changes to water quality and quantity, and the introduction of invasive species, parasites and disease. | The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> , and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> . As described in Section 21.1 (Potential Changes to Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>), Section 21.3 (Potential Changes to Migratory Birds under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i>), Section 25.8 (Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat), Section 25.9 (Birds and Bird Habitat), Section 25.10 (Plants and Vegetation Communities), and Section 25.11 (Species at Risk), potential effects and preliminary mitigation measures relating the environmental sensitivities identified in this issue are being developed as part of the EAR/IS. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential effects can be conducted. Once these potential effects are identified, tailored mitigation measures to reduce and/or eliminate these potential effects will be identified. This information will be presented in the EAR/IS. Additional mitigation will also be identified during | Section 21.1, Section 21.3, Section 25.8, Section 25.9, Section 25.10, Section 25.11 | Appendix C |

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| | | detailed design stages of the project, which would occur after the EAR/IS submitted. | | |
| 118 | Concerns about the effectiveness of mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce potential impacts to Indigenous communities | As indicated in Section 27.2 (Monitoring) the EAR/IS will include a conceptual monitoring plan that will consider effects monitoring. Effects monitoring involves activities designed to verify the predictions of the effects assessment (e.g., water quality and effects on fish communities), and to verify the effectiveness of mitigation measure(s) to reduce potential impacts to Indigenous communities. | Section 27.2 | Section 25.2 |
| 119 | Request for follow-up and monitoring programs built in collaboration with and led by Indigenous communities that include a funded regional environmental monitoring program and consider the particular environment in the Far North. | As indicated in Section 4.3 (Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement), the proponent will collect and include input provided by Indigenous communities during multiple stages of the EA/IA through the Indigenous Knowledge and Consultation and Engagement Programs. This includes input into follow-up and monitoring programs. As described in Section 27 (Follow-up and Monitoring) the proponent will prepare a monitoring framework for the Project which will initially be developed during the EA/IA. Monitoring programs will consider the particular environment in the Far North. Preliminary proposed management plans are presented in Section 28 (Management Plans). Funding for the environmental monitoring programs will be discussed in the EAR/IS. | Section 4.3, Section 27, Section 28 | Section 4.3, Section 25, Section 26 |
| 120 | Concerns about potential long-term effects on Indigenous communities living on and/or using the land. Request that the determination of significance of residual effects and potential adverse impacts follows best practices, and that the methodology is thoroughly outlined in order for potentially impacted Indigenous communities to understand how conclusions were reached. | As described in Section 23.1.1 (Potential Effects - Cultural Heritage Resources), Section 23.2.1 (Potential Effects - Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential effects to Indigenous communities will be considered and assessed in the EA/IA. The effects assessment will follow provincial and federal requirements and best practices. As described in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods), a study plan will be prepared for the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests assessment. Plain language fact sheets summarizing each study plan will be prepared and presented for input early in the EA/IA as part of the Consultation and Engagement Program. As discussed on Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program will be conducted to collect IK/Indigenous Land and Resource Use (ILRU) information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA. An IK Guidance Document is being developed for the IK Program. | Section 17.4.2, Section 23.1.1, Section 23.2.1, Section 26, Appendix G | Section 24, Appendix C |

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| Cumulative Effects | | | | |
| 121 | Concerns about potential cumulative effects on the pristine natural environment and on the traditional territories of Indigenous communities, from industrial development (e.g., forestry, mineral exploration, mining activities) and the supportive infrastructure (e.g., power generation, power transmission) that would rely on the Project and the proposed road corridors to the Ring of Fire area. | The EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). | Section 25.13 | Section 22 |
| 122 | Concerns regarding potential cumulative effects on peatlands and their ability to sequester and store carbon. | <p>The EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects).</p> <p>The Project is undergoing a provincial environmental assessment under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, and is expected to require an impact assessment under the federal <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>. More baseline data and project design information is required before a detailed assessment of potential Projects effects can be conducted and mitigation measures can be developed. Carbon sinks are discussed in the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 29 (Greenhouse Gas Emissions Estimate) provides a preliminary conservative estimate of GHG emissions for the operations phase. A detailed estimate of GHG emissions for all Project phases, along with an assessment of changes in sources and carbon sinks from the clearing of vegetation and disturbance of peatlands/wetland, will be provided in the EAR/IS. › Section 8.2.1.1 (Initial and Detailed Project Description) provides the Project activities that may affect carbon sinks by Project phase. Potential effects to carbon sinks will be assessed in the EAR/IS under multiple components of the environment. | Section 8.2, Section 8.2.1.1, Section 25.2.2, Section 25.4.2, Section 25.10.2, Section 25.13, Section 29 | Section 8.2, Section 8.2.1.1, Section 22, Section 27, Appendix C |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 25.5.1 (Potential Effects) provides information on the hydrological assessment that will be conducted during the EA/IA. Peatlands will be considered in the surface water, groundwater, plants and vegetation communities, geology, terrain and soils, and climate change assessments. › Preliminary mitigation measures related to loss of carbon sinks are presented in Section 25.2.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), Section 25.4.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation), and Section 25.10.2 (Preliminary Proposed Mitigation). Further information on mitigation measures related to loss of carbon sinks will be provided in the EAR/IS. As described in Section 8.2 (Strategic Assessment of Climate Change) the proponent will conduct a strategic assessment of climate change for the Project following ECCC guidance. | | |
| 123 | Concerns about potential cumulative effects on cultural, social, health and economic conditions. | The EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). | Section 25.13 | Section 22 |
| 124 | Concerns about potential cumulative impacts on Indigenous peoples, stemming from the Project and future developments, including impacts from traffic, increased public access (particularly access to traditional territories), downstream effects and climate change. | The EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). Further information will be presented in the cumulative effects assessment study plan as indicated in Section 26 (Effects Assessment Methods). Indigenous communities and regulators will be consulted on the cumulative effects assessment study plan. | Section 25.13, Section 26 | Section 22, Section 24 |

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| 125 | Need for information on measures to address potential cumulative changes to the exercise of rights protected under section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> due to the Project, including due to industrial traffic, other projects that are reasonably foreseeable, as well as climate change. | <p>An assessment of cumulative effects will be completed for the EA/IA as indicated in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). The cumulative effects assessment will identify the residual effects from the Project that have the potential for interaction (spatial and temporal) with the residual effects of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects. The results of the cumulative effects assessment will be presented in the EAR/IS.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 23.2 (Potential Effects) and Appendix G (Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures), potential effects to Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interest will be considered and assessed in the EA/IA.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA, including information on potential effects to the exercise of rights protected under Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act, 1992</i> due to the Project.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 8.2 (Strategic Assessment of Climate Change) the proponent will conduct a strategic assessment of climate change for the Project following ECCC guidance.</p> | Section 8.2, Section 17.4.2, Section 23.2, Section 25.13, Appendix G | Section 8.2, Section 22, Appendix C |
| Project Activities, Components and Design | | | | |
| 126 | Comments about the lack of clarity about road ownership and the identity of the responsible party for proper operation, including maintenance, of the proposed road. | As indicated in Section 2.1 (Proponent Name), MFFN and WFN together are the proponent of the EA/IA and preliminary design for the Project. Proponent options for road ownership, operation/maintenance activities and liability are being considered in ongoing discussions with the Province of Ontario. These discussions will evolve during the development of the EA/IA. | Section 2.1 | Section 2 |
| 127 | Need for the Detailed Project Description to provide further information on the purpose of the Project, the construction, operation and the maintenance activities of an industrial road of this length. | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), the purpose of the Project is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR.</p> <p>As described in Section 11 (Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works) the DPD provides a general description of the Project activities, infrastructure, permanent or temporary structures and physical works. This description is based on conceptual design and is subject to change. The EAR/IS will include a more detailed description of the proposed Project based on the preliminary engineering</p> | Section 9.1, Section 11 | Section 9.1, Section 11 |

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| | | design for the preferred alternative, including construction, operation and the maintenance activities. | | |
| 128 | Need for the Detailed Project Description to provide additional information on the proposed project components, including the specific locations of aggregate pits, access roads and watercourse crossings. | <p>As described in Section 11 (Project Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works) the DPD provides a general description of the Project activities, infrastructure, permanent or temporary structures and physical works. This description is based on conceptual design and is subject to change.</p> <p>It is too early in Project design to determine the specific locations of aggregate pits, access roads and watercourse crossings. As indicated in Section 14.1 ("Alternative Means" to Carry Out the Project), the EA/IA will include an assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project. The proponent will consider the following alternative means of carrying out the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Corridor alternatives, for evaluation and selection of a preferred corridor for the Project. › Ancillary infrastructure alternatives for the preferred corridor (e.g., aggregate sites, water crossings, access roads, lay down areas, other associated infrastructure). <p>The location of aggregate pits, access roads and watercourse crossings cannot be determined until a preferred corridor has been selected. This information will be included in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 11, Section 14 | Section 11, Section 14 |
| 129 | Request for further clarity on the potential maximum volume of traffic on the road, expected primary users of the road, and future scenarios of mining, forestry, and hydroelectric projects for the alternative road corridors proposed. | <p>As indicated in Section 12 (Estimated Maximum Project Capacity), for the purposes of developing the preliminary design criteria for the Project, it is assumed the Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) volume will exceed 500 vehicles per day; however, this will be further evaluated in the EA/IA.</p> <p>The Project is currently undergoing preliminary engineering design, and a more detailed characterization of the nature and volume of anticipated road traffic is being developed to support the design.</p> <p>With respect to future scenarios related to other developments such as mining, forestry, and hydroelectric projects, the EAR/IS will include a cumulative effects assessment as described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects). The cumulative effects assessment will identify the residual effects from the Project that have the potential for interaction (spatial and temporal) with the residual effects of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects.</p> | Section 12, Section 25.13 | Section 12, Section 22 |

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| 130 | Request for transparent information on funding, permitting, and approvals, from government, private sector businesses, and the mineral development industries that support the Project. | As indicated in Section 2.1 (Proponent Name), funding for the costs of the EA/IA for this Project is being provided by the Province of Ontario. Information on funding, permitting, and approvals, from government, private sector businesses, and the mineral development industries that support the Project will be provided in the EAR/IS to the extent that this information is available and known. | Section 2.1 | Section 2 |
| 131 | Request that the Detailed Project Description references the responsibilities of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. | <p>The proponent understands that the responsibilities of the UNDRIP and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework lie with the signatories of these agreements, not with the proponent. However, while conducting the EA/IA the proponent will meet the requirements under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>, in alignment with the following sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Section 6(2) The Government of Canada, the Minister, the Agency and federal authorities, in the administration of this Act, must exercise their powers in a manner that fosters sustainability, respects the Government’s commitments with respect to the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Canada and applies the precautionary principle. › Section 22 (1)(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. | N/A | N/A |
| 132 | Comments about the need for further information on the proposed mitigation measures and the implementation of policies during the operation phase to enforce safe speed limits. Clarify who would be responsible for enforcing these speed limits (i.e., the Proponent or the Ontario Provincial Police). | As described in Section 12 (Estimated Maximum Project Capacity), the design speed for the Project is 100 km/h, with an anticipated posted speed limit of 80 km/h. Proposed mitigation measures, implementation of policies during the operation phase to enforce safe speed limits, and enforcement will be discussed in the EAR/IS. | Section 12 | Section 12 |

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| Need for the Project | | | | |
| 133 | Comments indicating that the Project would provide access to economic and social opportunities for local Indigenous communities and industry stakeholders, connecting Indigenous communities to the provincial highway network. | The proponent acknowledges the potential positive effects of the Project of providing access to economic and social opportunities for local Indigenous communities and industry stakeholders by connecting Indigenous communities to the provincial highway network. Potential benefits of the Project are discussed in Section 9.2 (Need for the Project) and will be further discussed in the EAR/IS. | Section 9.2 | Section 9.2 |
| 134 | Comment stating the Project would allow future mining developments that are critical to support de-carbonization efforts and net zero emission targets. | The proponent acknowledges the potential positive effect that the Project may allow future mining developments that are critical to support de-carbonization efforts and net zero emission targets. This potential positive effect will be further discussed in the EAR/IS under applicable disciplines. | N/A | N/A |
| 135 | Concerns about the scope of the Project not reflecting broader societal perspectives from Indigenous communities and grassroots organizations. | As indicated in Section 4.3 (Plan for Future Consultation and Engagement), through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities in characterizing baseline conditions, predicting potential project impacts, and determining appropriate mitigation and monitoring methods. This includes collecting broader societal perspectives from Indigenous communities and grassroots organizations to inform the EA/IA. | Section 4.3 | Section 4.3 |
| 136 | Request that the Detailed Project Description further clarifies the scope of the Project with respect to its purpose(s), alternative means considered, and the weight of negative effects versus positive effects, considering the context of the proposed Webequie Supply Road and the Marten Falls Community Access Road projects, the potential upgrades to the Anaconda and Painter Lake forestry roads and | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), the purpose of the Project is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 14.1 ("Alternative Means" to Carry Out the Project), the EA/IA will include an assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project. The proponent will consider the following alternative means of carrying out the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Corridor alternatives, for evaluation and selection of a preferred corridor for the Project. › Ancillary infrastructure alternatives for the preferred corridor (e.g., aggregate sites, water crossings, access roads, lay down areas, other associated infrastructure). | Section 9.1, Section 14.1, Section 25.13 | Section 9.1, Section 14.1, Section 22 |

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| | the connection to the mineral deposits in the Ring of Fire area. | As described in Section 25.13 (Cumulative Effects), the EA/IA will include a cumulative effects assessment. The cumulative effects assessment will identify the residual effects from the Project that have the potential for interaction (spatial and temporal) with the residual effects of past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects such as the proposed MFCAR, the proposed WSR, the potential upgrades to the Anaconda and Painter Lake forestry roads, and the connection to the mineral deposits in the Ring of Fire area. | | |
| Alternative Means of Carrying Out the Project | | | | |
| 137 | Need for further information in the Detailed Project Description regarding the alternative means to carry out the Project that would minimize effects to important wildlife areas, such as higher ground, eskers, travel routes, and spawning, denning, feeding and nesting sites. | <p>Thank you for providing these considerations for the assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project: minimize effects to important wildlife areas, such as higher ground, eskers, travel routes, and spawning, denning, feeding and nesting sites. The proponent will use it to inform the assessment.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 14.1 ("Alternative Means" to Carry Out the Project), the EA/IA will include an assessment of alternative means of carrying out the Project. The proponent will consider the following alternative means of carrying out the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Corridor alternatives, for evaluation and selection of a preferred corridor for the Project. › Ancillary infrastructure alternatives for the preferred corridor (e.g., aggregate sites, water crossings, access roads, lay down areas, other associated infrastructure). <p>The proponent has developed preliminary criteria to assess alternative means of carrying out the Project. These preliminary criteria are presented in Section 2.2.3 of the approved Terms of Reference (https://northernroadlink.ca/terms-2/). The assessment of alternative means to carry out the Project will incorporate input from Indigenous communities, the public, stakeholders, and federal and provincial regulators, to be obtained through the consultation and engagement process, as well as IK/ILRU and other baseline data. The proponent is currently reviewing feedback received during the review period for the Proposed ToR to update the criteria. Further consultation and engagement activities will be conducted to refine and finalize the criteria, the timing of which is still being determined.</p> | Section 14.1 | Section 14.1 |

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| Alternatives to the Project | | | | |
| 138 | Need for information on the alternatives to the Project that the Proponent considered. | <p>As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), the purpose of the Project is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed MFCAR and the proposed WSR.</p> <p>As indicated in Section 14.2 (“Alternatives to” the Project), there are no “alternatives to” the Project that meet the need and/or achieve the purpose of the Project. As such, the only “alternative to” the Project that will be included in the EA/IA for assessment is “do nothing”. The EA/IA will include an assessment and evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of proceeding with the undertaking (i.e., the Project) against the “do nothing” or null alternative.”</p> | Section 9.1, Section 14.2 | Section 9.1, Section 14.2 |
| 139 | Comment that the Proponent should include information on rail as a potential means of transportation to the Ring of Fire area. | Please see the response to Issue #138. The proposed NRL Project would connect to the proposed Marten Falls First Nation Community Access Road to the south, hence rail is not being considered. | Section 9.1 | Section 9.1 |
| Project Contribution to Sustainability | | | | |
| 140 | Request for information on how the Project’s contribution to sustainability would be determined, recognizing the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems and the well-being of present and future generations. | <p>As indicated in Section 25.14 (Project’s Contribution to Sustainability), the EA/IA will assess the Project’s contribution to sustainability, in recognition of the interconnectedness and interdependence of human-ecological systems and well-being of present and future generations. The effects assessment will include mitigation measures that are feasible and that may be needed to avoid or minimize potential adverse effects on sustainability of human-ecological systems and well-being of present and future generations.</p> <p>If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal Impact Assessment under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>, the proponent’s approach to the assessment of the Project’s contribution to sustainability will be refined in alignment with the Project’s TISG and the details of the assessment will be presented in the EAR/IS.</p> | Section 25.14 | Section 23 |

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| Accidents and Malfunctions | | | | |
| 141 | Request for information on potential effects from accidents and malfunctions and the measures to prepare for, and prevent them, particularly unintentional releases of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel) from vehicles and machinery, during all project phases. | As indicated in Section 25.12 (Accidents and Malfunctions), the proponent will carry out an assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions for the Project including 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). As part of the assessment of accidents and malfunctions, the proponent will carry out a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment of accidents and malfunctions across all phases of the Project, determine their potential effects, and present preliminary emergency response measures, systems, and associated response capacities. If it is determined that the Project is subject to a federal IA under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> , the proponent's approach to the assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions will be refined based on the Project's Tailored Impact Assessment Guidelines (TISG) and the details of the assessment will be included in the EAR/IS. | Section 25.12 | Section 21 |
| 142 | Request for information on emergency response plans and procedures to respond to any accidents or malfunctions, including fuel or chemical spills. | As indicated in Section 28 (Management Plans), the proponent will prepare management plans for the construction and operations phases of the Project. The applicable management plans will be prepared prior to the start of each Project phase and will incorporate feedback from consultation and engagement with federal and provincial government agencies, stakeholders, Indigenous communities and the public during the development of the EA/IA as appropriate and applicable. A preliminary list of proposed management plans is provided in Section 28 (Management Plans) and includes Emergency Response Management and Spill Prevention and Response Management. | Section 28 | Section 26 |

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| Assessment Type | | | | |
| 143 | <p>Comments on the need for support for a co-led regional assessment to assess the effects of future mineral development and supportive infrastructure in the Ring of Fire area, cumulative effects, effects on freshwater, impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights, and climate change, with a preference for the regional assessment to be completed prior to the individual road project assessments. Comments indicating that studies conducted for the regional assessment would also be applicable to the Project and potential effects of the proposed Ring of Fire road corridors should be included in the regional assessment.</p> | <p>As indicated in Appendix D (Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process) the completion of the Regional Assessment in the Ring of Fire Area is not a requirement for the proponent to proceed with the EA/IA for the Project. The proponent has entered into a Voluntary Agreement with the Ontario Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP, MFFN and WFN, 2020) under which the two First Nations have agreed to undertake an Individual EA for the Project under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario. The decision to proceed with the provincial EA process for the Project is consistent with the agreement between the proponent and the Province of Ontario to proceed with the Project in accordance with provincial EA legislation, which entails completing the process in a timely manner. The proponent has also committed to realizing the Project’s intended/perceived benefits for their respective communities, and the region as a whole, within a reasonable timeframe. Deferring/pausing the Project’s EA does not align with these objectives. In addition, the federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change has indicated in recent correspondence with the proponent that impact assessments of the proposed road projects, and those of future projects will proceed in accordance with their legislative timelines, and separately from the regional assessment timeline.</p> <p><u>References:</u> Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation (MECP, MFFN and WFN). 2020. Voluntary Agreement. Signed on October 28, 2020. Available: https://www.ontario.ca/page/northern-road-link-project#section-4</p> | Appendix D | Appendix A |

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| 144 | <p>Concerns about the level of involvement and participation of Indigenous communities to determine positive and negative effects in the region, including downstream effects.</p> | <p>As indicated in Section 6.2 (Objectives), the proponent is committed to conducting a comprehensive and meaningful consultation and engagement process for the Project.</p> <p>As shown in Table 6-2 (Consultation Milestones) the proponent plans to consult Indigenous communities for each EA/IA milestone, including the preliminary effects assessment and the cumulative effects assessment. These milestones would provide the opportunity for Indigenous communities to give feedback on positive and negative effects in the region, including downstream effects. A preliminary consultation schedule is provided in Table 6-3 (Proposed EA/IA Consultation and Engagement Schedule).</p> <p>As indicated in Section 17.4.2 (Proposed Baseline Studies), an IK Program will be conducted to collect IK/ILRU information for consideration and incorporation into the EA/IA. IK/ILRU data will be collected throughout the EA/IAs and will be incorporated directly into a number of aspects of the EA/IA database and assessment, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Establishment of existing conditions of the study areas as the baseline; › Input into the identification and evaluation of alternative road corridors; › Identification of Project interactions and potential effects, including potential impacts to community Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI); › Identification of effective and established mitigation measures to reduce potential effects to ATRI; › Identification of potential methods to accommodate for potential impacts to ATRI that cannot be mitigated; › Identification of residual effects (i.e., net effects) after applying mitigation measures and accommodation; › Assessment of cumulative effects to ATRI; and › Follow-up commitments and monitoring programs for the assessment. | <p>Section 6.2, Table 6-2, Table 6-3, Section 17.4.2</p> | <p>Section 6.2, Table 6-2, Table 6-3</p> |

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| 145 | <p>Concerns about separate assessments for each road segment diminishing the effectiveness of efforts to fully account for the potential regional, cultural and socio-economic impacts of the Project, and contributing to consultation and engagement challenges and burdens on Indigenous communities following their traditional decision-making procedures.</p> | <p>As indicated in Appendix D (Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process), the Ontario EA process is proponent-led. The proponents for each of the three proposed all-season road projects (MFCAR [MFFN], WSR [WFN], and NRL [MFFN and WFN], collectively the “proponent”) separately requested to enter into agreements with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> to make their respective projects subject to the requirements of the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, because the purpose of each of the three projects is different. As a result of those agreements, each of the three proposed road projects are undergoing Individual EAs, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario.</p> <p>The three proposed all-season road projects are distinct and unique, with different purposes designed to meet the specific objectives of their respective proponents.</p> <p>The three proposed road projects are proceeding through their respective environmental assessment/impact assessment processes as three separate projects because they have different proponents and different purposes. There is no intentional project-splitting in taking this approach.</p> <p>The proposed MFCAR is an all-season community access road whose purpose is to provide access from the community to the provincial highway system near Nakina via the Anaconda-Painter Lake Road. The proponent is Marten Falls First Nation. Marten Falls First Nation has been studying the potential for an all-season community access road for more than a decade.</p> <p>The proposed WSR is an all-season road project between the community of Webequie and the proposed mine site. Its purpose is an economic development opportunity for the community to serve mineral exploration and future mining activities from its community. The proponent is Webequie First Nation.</p> <p>The proposed NRL is an all-season road project between the MFCAR and the WSR to connect the mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area in the Ring of Fire to the highway network via the MFCAR. The proponents are Marten Falls and Webequie First Nation.</p> | Appendix D | Appendix A |

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| | | <p>The proposed MFCAR created the opportunity for the NRL, and the NRL in turn, has created an opportunity for Webequie First Nation to connect to the provincial highway via the NRL and MFCAR.</p> <p>It should be noted, that while the three projects are proceeding separately through the EA/IA process, all three projects will be considered in the cumulative effects assessment for the NRL. This will provide for the consideration of the impacts of all three projects. A study plan will be developed for the cumulative effects assessment, and there will be an opportunity to provide input into the study plan.</p> | | |
| 146 | <p>Comments about the need to conduct a First Nation community review panel, in addition to an impact assessment, before development begins.</p> | <p>Establishing a First Nation community review panel is beyond the scope of the EA/IA.</p> <p>However, through the Consultation and Engagement Plan and the Indigenous Knowledge Program, the proponent aims to collaborate with Indigenous communities to identify any structure, site or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological, or architectural significance in consultation with Indigenous communities. The response should refer to how the proponent plans to collaborate with Indigenous communities to incorporate and assess their concerns to the EA/IA as applicable.</p> | N/A | N/A |
| Other – Editorial Errors in the Initial Project Description | | | | |
| 147 | <p>Request that the following editorial changes are reflected in the Detailed Project Description:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolve the inconsistencies with the messaging for the Project’s purpose. 2. Replace Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS) with Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM) when used in the context of the Ontario Government’s cultural heritage programs, | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As described in Section 9.1 (Purpose of the Project), the purpose of the Project is the design, construction, and operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and the proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR). As indicated in Appendix D (Summary of Key Issues Raised during the Terms of Reference Stage of the Provincial Environmental Assessment Process): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The Ontario EA process is proponent-led. The proponents for each of the three proposed all-season road projects (MFCAR [MFFN], WSR [WFN], and NRL [MFFN and WFN, collectively the “proponent”]) separately requested to enter into agreements with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks under the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i> to make their respective projects subject to the requirements of the Ontario <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i>, because the | <p>Section 9.1, Section 17.3.2, Section 17.4.1, Section 23.2.1, Section 28.2, Table 16-2, Table 16-4, Table 20-3, Appendix D</p> | <p>Section 9.1, Section 17.3, Section 17.4, Section 26.2, Table 16-2, Table 16-3, Table 20-3, Appendix A, Appendix C</p> |

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| | <p>documents and functions.</p> <p>3. Replace "cultural landscape" with "cultural heritage landscape" when referring to the context of cultural heritage resources. Cultural landscape is not a defined term in the Cultural Heritage Conservation Policy and may be misleading.</p> <p>4. Update Table 15-2 to indicate 'Woodland Caribou' instead of Boreal population. Eastern Migratory Caribou and Boreal Caribou cannot be differentiated by observation, and it is possible Eastern Migratory Caribou could be in the project area.</p> <p>5. Update Table 15-4 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Caribou (Eastern Migratory population) – not currently listed under SARA³ but assessed by COSEWIC as EN (endangered) › Common Nighthawk – recently down listed to SC (special concern) under SARA | <p>purpose of each of the three projects is different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › As a result of those agreements, each of the three proposed road projects are undergoing Individual EAs, which is the most comprehensive form of EA in Ontario. Separating large projects into smaller ones (i.e., project splitting) has been attempted in the past by some proponents to: i) avoid regulatory thresholds like the federal Impact Assessment or, ii) have the ability to understate project impacts. The proponent is not doing either. The proponents chose to undertake separate projects because their purpose is different. › The three proposed all-season road projects are distinct and unique, with different purposes designed to meet the specific objectives of their respective proponents. Please also see the response to Issue #145. <p>2. 'Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)' has been replaced with 'Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM)' when used in the context of the Ontario Government's cultural heritage programs, documents and functions.</p> <p>3. 'Cultural landscape' has been replaced with "cultural heritage landscape" in the context of cultural heritage resources.</p> <p>4. Tables 16-2 (formerly Table 15-2) has been updated as requested.</p> <p>5. Table 16-4 (formerly Table 15-4) have been updated as requested, with the exception of Eastern Migratory Caribou, as they are currently not listed under Schedule 1. If the population becomes listed during the EA/IA process, it will be updated in future documents.</p> <p>6. Table 20-3 (formerly 19-3) has been updated to indicate that a license from Natural Resources Canada may be required for storage of explosives under the <i>Explosives Act</i>, and a permit may be required from Transport Canada for the transportation of explosives under the <i>Transport of Dangerous Goods Act</i>. The proponent will reach out to both agencies during the EA/IA to confirm what permits and licences are required.</p> | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Eastern Wood-pewee – SC under SARA › Olive-sided Flycatcher – recently down listed to SC under SARA › Peregrine Falcon – recently removed from Schedule 1 of SARA <p>6. Update Table 19-3 to clarify that Natural Resources Canada does not license the transport or the use of explosives.</p> <p>--</p> <p>³ SARA is short for <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</p> | | | |

BaP = benzo(a)pyrene, EA/IA = Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment, EAR/IS = Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement, IK = Indigenous Knowledge, ILRU = Indigenous Land and Resource Use, N/A = Not applicable, RoC = Record of Consultation, SAR = Species at Risk, ToR = Terms of Reference.

Appendix C

Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation

Table C-1: Summary of Potential Effects and Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| Fish and Fish Habitat Under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Physical loss or harmful destruction of fish habitat during construction (e.g., permanent loss underneath bridge piers or embankment roads); › Physical change or harmful alteration of fish habitat through changes to shape of streambed, bank composition, vegetation community, and/or bank stability due to construction; › Harmful disruption or reductions in habitat accessibility and/or increased habitat fragmentation for fish life processes due to crossing construction; › Changes in fish and aquatic species (including Species at Risk [SAR] habitat) habitat due to water quality changes such as changes in temperature regime, flow regime, increased contaminants due to accidental releases, or changes to water quality as a result of erosion/sedimentation. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of fish (including SAR), aquatic species, and/or eggs caused by increased turbidity, physical contact with construction materials and equipment, blasting operations, stranding during temporary isolations, and/or accidental releases of contaminants; › Increased concentrations of contaminants in fish tissue; › Increased recreational and sustenance angling pressure due to increased human access (fish and aquatic species mortality/injury); › Increased access may lead to greater introductions of garbage and deleterious substances; › Effects on fish and aquatic species from invasive aquatic life introduced via construction or by increased human access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Wherever possible, avoid any in-water or near-water work during the Ontario Restricted Activity Timing Windows for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat (as appropriate depending on the species present, [DFO, 2013]). This mitigation measure will reduce the risk of the death of fish. If in-water work is required during this period, DFO and MNRF will be consulted well in advance to request an extension to the fisheries timing window. Depending on the sensitivity of the water body, time of year and the species present an extension may not be granted; › Comply with the fish and fish habitat protection provisions of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> by incorporating measures to avoid: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Causing the death of fish; and - Harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat in your work, undertaking or activity (GoC, 2019); › Minimize the footprint of in-water works, where practical to reduce loss and/or degradation of fish habitat; › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to fish habitat, where feasible; › Avoid placing project infrastructure in specialized habitat of Lake Sturgeon (e.g., spawning/rearing habitat), where possible; › Isolate in-water work locations, with erosion and sedimentation control measures implemented to reduce the risk of harmful alteration, destruction or disruption (HADD) of fish and fish habitat as well as reduce the risk of the death of fish; › Retain an environmental monitor during in-water work as required; › Maintain fish passage in all watercourses through the installation of culverts, bridges, and/or fish passage structures to reduce disruption to fish life cycles; › Conduct pumping using a pump equipped with fish screens in accordance with DFO guidelines (2000); › Maintain pre-disturbance flow and water levels in all watercourses wherever possible; › Minimize clearing of riparian habitat to reduce habitat loss and/or degradation; › Complete fish salvages in isolations prior to work taking place; › Limit public access to watercourses from the roadway to discourage fishing pressure; › Engage DFO and MECP to determine if the Project will require permits under the <i>Fisheries Act</i> or the ESA; › Provide environmental awareness and orientation for personnel and contractors on site so they are aware of potential hazards. Include maps to show relevant attributes, such as fish habitat, SAR occurrences, no-go zones, limits of construction, etc. and providing information of fish species that may be present in certain areas; › Construction activity specific Stop Work Protocols that allow for the temporary cessation of Project-related activities and account for site-specific species and observation conditions; and › Specification of construction activities for which fish monitoring would be necessary and procedures for monitoring construction activities by a qualified person. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for fish and fish habitat, vegetation, spill prevention and response, waste management, erosion and sediment control, and site restoration to reduce the risk of the death of fish or the degradation and/or loss of fish habitat.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increased recreational and sustenance angling pressure due to increased human access (fish and aquatic species mortality/injury); › Increased access may lead to greater introductions of garbage, litter, and deleterious substances; and › Deposition of deleterious substances leading to impacts to fish habitat or mortality from vehicles utilizing the roadway and/or accidental releases of contaminants). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Limit public access to watercourses from the roadway to discourage fishing pressure; and › Enable waste management procedures for clean-up of deleterious materials. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for spill prevention and response and waste management to reduce the risk of the death of fish or the degradation and/or loss of fish habitat.</p> |
| Migratory Birds under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Permanent habitat loss directly through vegetation clearing required for road construction and ancillary features such as permanent access roads, aggregate extraction, turnaround locations, maintenance yards, and others. This includes loss of wetland habitat, upland habitat, forested habitat, and eskers, all which may contain different assemblages of migratory birds. Species that utilize upland esker areas, such as nightjars, raptors, and upland songbirds might be more affected if esker habitats are preferred for the route; › Temporary habitat loss or restriction due to construction/placement of ancillary infrastructure (e.g., laydown areas, camps, temporary access, roads); | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to rare habitats (such as habitat loss and degradation along eskers), where feasible; › Avoid any vegetation clearing between April 21 and August 14, within the nesting period for nesting zone C6 to reduce the risk of bird death. Migratory birds are most likely to be nesting in this timeframe and are at greatest risk of direct impacts. If vegetation clearing is required during this period, an avian biologist will be retained to conduct a survey for nesting activities/behaviors to manage risks to active nests protected by the MBCA; › Establish setbacks around sensitive species and/or habitat features during construction to reduce the risk of bird death or nest abandonment; › Manage vegetation along the roadway to reduce the risk of birds nesting along the corridor and reduce the risk of bird death; |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat degradation caused by alterations of hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), habitat connectivity, and habitat fragmentation. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of birds or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise) impacts from construction equipment, roadway traffic, which can affect habitat suitability and use. More sensitive bird species may avoid areas with high noise temporarily or permanently; and › Death of birds and/or eggs, including SAR and/or traditional use birds, as a result of construction (vegetation clearing) or vehicle collision. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Establish reduced speed limits and signage in areas where collisions with avian species are most likely to reduce the risk of bird death; › Implement noise and light abatement measures to control operational sensory disturbances; › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste to reduce attracting birds and causing bird death; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for wildlife, vegetation, noise, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration including temporary access roads, construction camps and laydown areas to reduce the potential for death of birds, habitat loss, and habitat degradation.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat degradation caused by alterations of hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), habitat connectivity, and habitat fragmentation. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of birds or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and/or light) impacts from maintenance equipment, roadway traffic, and lighted areas which can affect habitat suitability and use. More sensitive bird species may avoid areas with high noise temporarily or permanently; › Death of birds and/or eggs, including SAR and/or traditional use birds, as a result of vehicle collision; › Attraction of bird species to the road corridor (e.g., food waste, light causing insect attraction) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus bird survival and reproduction; and › Increased harvest of wildlife, including SAR by humans for recreational or traditional use due to increased public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Avoid any vegetation clearing between April 21 and August 14, within the nesting period for nesting zone C6. Migratory birds are most likely to be nesting in this timeframe and are at greatest risk of direct impacts. If vegetation clearing is required during this period, an avian biologist will be retained to conduct a survey for nesting activities/behaviors to manage risks to active nests protected by the MBCA; › Establish setbacks around sensitive species and/or habitat features during construction; › Manage vegetation along the roadway to reduce the risk of birds nesting along the corridor; › Establish reduced speed limits and signage in areas where collisions with avian species are most likely; › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; › Implement noise and light abatement measures to control operational sensory disturbances; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for wildlife, vegetation, noise, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration.</p> |
| Cultural Heritage Resources | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Disturbance, damage, or loss of, registered or known archaeological sites, burial sites and sacred sites; › Disturbance, damage, or loss of, built heritage resources; and › Disruption of cultural heritage landscapes by introduction of physical, visual, audible or atmospheric elements that are not in keeping with the character and setting of cultural heritage resources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Establish setbacks around identified cultural heritage resources; and › Monitoring of areas of archaeological potential during construction to identify archaeological deposits if present. <p>A Cultural Heritage Baseline Study and Preliminary Impact Assessment will be carried out for the Project. Built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes will be identified through a review of existing published data and consultation with Indigenous Communities and other stakeholders and agencies. The Cultural Heritage Baseline Study and Impact Assessment will identify and describe potential project-specific impacts to the known and potential archaeological, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes, and will recommend measures to avoid or mitigate potential negative impacts. The proposed mitigation will inform the next steps of project planning and design.</p> <p>The Cultural Heritage Baseline Study and Preliminary Impact Assessment for the Project will include a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment. Should results of the Stage 1 archaeological assessment confirm archaeological potential within the corridor of the preferred alternative route, a Stage 2 Archaeological Assessment will be completed as early as possible before detailed Project design is completed. The results of the Stage 2 archaeological assessment will inform the need for further archaeological investigations where the effects to identified archaeological resources cannot be avoided through detail design. The Stage 2 report will include recommendations for management of archaeological resources that can be avoided, as well as recommendations for a process for dealing with incidental finds.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for cultural heritage resources, including a protocol for chance finds.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Disruption of cultural heritage landscapes by introduction of physical, visual, audible or atmospheric elements that are not in keeping with the character and setting of cultural heritage resources. | <p>Mitigation measures during operations for cultural heritage resources are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests.</p> <p>In addition, an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will be developed, specific to the rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and teaching) exercised by participating Indigenous Communities. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects listed.</p> <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for cultural heritage resources, including a noise management plan.</p> |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests - Indigenous Land and Resource Use | | |
| Construction | <p>Potential direct effects to ILRU that may result from the Project may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project-related alteration/change to or loss of sites and areas used for rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, teaching) can interfere with ILRU; › Project-related disturbance to or loss of natural resources used for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU; › Project-related activities that have the potential to impact perceived confidence in the quality of natural resources used for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU; and › Project-related activities that have the potential to impact access to sites and areas for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU. <p>In addition, potential indirect effects on ILRU may include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in the rights-based economy related to changes in the pursuit of traditional activities that are monetized (e.g., trapping); › Increased economic burden on Indigenous communities related to changes in the pursuit and consumption of country foods and associated increased reliance on market foods; › Changes in the atmospheric environment (air quality) and or sensory disturbance (noise, vibration) related to construction could affect the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered; › Changes in surface and/or groundwater quality and/or quantity could affect the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered and/or affect culturally significant species; › Vegetation clearing/management associated with the construction phase could result in a loss of habitat for species that are harvested or gathered and/or culturally significant species; › An increase in hunting or fishing pressure by non-Indigenous people accessing the area could affect the availability of wildlife and fish that are harvested by Indigenous community members; › Changes in the atmospheric environment (air quality) and/or sensory disturbance (noise, vibration) related to the construction phase could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land; › Changes in the visual landscape related to the construction phase could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land; › Changes or effects to archaeological sites and resources, built heritage resources, and/or cultural heritage landscapes could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land and/or the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; and › The effect of accidental releases on the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered and/or affect culturally significant species during the construction phase. | <p>Mitigation measures for ILRU are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for other disciplines, as outlined in Sections 21, 24, and 25 of the Detailed Project Description. In addition to the mitigation measures outlined in those sections, the proponent will engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan specific to the rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and teaching) exercised by participating Indigenous communities. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects to rights-based activities and other interests. The Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will further describe cross-cultural awareness training for staff and on-the-ground personnel, which will be developed in collaboration with participating Indigenous communities and groups. This training is expected to build awareness and reduce potential adverse interactions with Indigenous communities during construction.</p> |
| Operations | <p>Potential direct effects to ILRU that may result from the Project may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project-related alteration/change to or loss of sites and areas used for rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, teaching) can interfere with ILRU; › Project-related disturbance to or loss of natural resources used for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU; › Project-related activities that have the potential to impact perceived confidence in the quality of natural resources used for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU; and › Project-related activities that have the potential to impact access to sites and areas for rights-based activities and other interests can interfere with ILRU. <p>In addition, potential indirect effects on ILRU may include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in the rights-based economy related to changes in the pursuit of traditional activities that are monetized (e.g., trapping); › Increased economic burden on Indigenous Communities related to changes in the pursuit and consumption of country foods and associated increased reliance on market foods; › Changes in the atmospheric environment (air quality) and or sensory disturbance (noise, vibration) related to operation could affect the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered; › Changes in surface and/or groundwater quality and/or quantity could affect the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered and/or affect culturally significant species; | <p>Mitigation measures for ILRU are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for other disciplines, as outlined in Sections 21, 24, and 25 of the Detailed Project Description. In addition to the mitigation measures outlined in those sections, the proponent will engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan specific to the rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and teaching) exercised by participating Indigenous communities. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects to rights-based activities and other interests. The Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will further describe cross-cultural awareness training for staff and on-the-ground personnel, which will be developed in collaboration with participating Indigenous communities and groups. This training is expected to build awareness and reduce potential adverse interactions with Indigenous communities during operations.</p> |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Vegetation clearing/management associated with the operations phase could result in a loss of habitat for species that are harvested or gathered and/or culturally significant species; › An increase in hunting or fishing pressure by non-Indigenous people accessing the area could affect the availability of wildlife and fish that are harvested by Indigenous community members; › Changes in the atmospheric environment (air quality) and/or sensory disturbance (noise, vibration) related to the operations phase could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land; › Changes in the visual landscape related to the operations phase could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land; › Changes or effects to archaeological sites and resources, built heritage resources, and/or cultural heritage landscapes could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land and/or the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; › Changes in climate could affect the availability of resources that are harvested or gathered and the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; and › The effect of accidental releases on the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of resources that are harvested or gathered and/or affect culturally significant species during the operations phase. | |
| Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests - Cultural Continuity and Well-being | | |
| Construction | <p>The following potential direct effects may result from the Project on cultural continuity and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project-related disturbance to or loss of culturally important sites and areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, place names, teaching sites, archaeological sites) can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being (the ability to practice and transmit cultural traditions such as activities and teaching); › Project-related alteration/change to sufficient availability or loss of access to culturally significant sites and areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, place names, teaching sites, important harvesting sites and areas) and resources (e.g., culturally significant species) can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; › Project-related alteration/change to safe access to travel routes for practicing of rights within the cultural heritage landscapes can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; › Project-related activities which can potentially increase access by non-Indigenous people to sites and areas that were previously perceived as having a sense of remoteness (and an experience of being on the land free from disturbance) including the perception of availability and fragmentation of land for rights-based activities can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; and › Project-related activities that can potentially impact the continued practice of cultural traditions and way of life can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being. <p>In addition, potential indirect effects on cultural continuity and well-being may include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in food security and the diet of Indigenous community members and associated potential effects on human health related to a decrease in country food consumption/increase in market food consumption; › Changes to family economics related to changes in the pursuit and consumption of country foods, as well as access (financial and logistical) to market foods and other essentials; › Changes in community well-being (e.g., social issues, family relationships, community cohesion) related to changes in access to family members and friends, as well as services outside the community; › Changes in the ability of community members to protect and maintain the Indigenous culture through teaching and the transfer of cultural knowledge to others, and protection and proliferation of the Indigenous language; › Changes in community well-being could affect the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; › Changes in human health could affect the pursuit and teaching of traditional activities and cultural practices, as well as experiences on the land; › Changes in the social and economic environment could affect mental and psychological health and could affect outlook of the future (restrictions and/or opportunities); and › Changes or effects on archaeological sites and resources, built heritage resources, and/or cultural heritage landscapes could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land and/or the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices. › The effect of accidental releases on the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of access to culturally important sites and areas during the construction phase. | <p>Mitigation measures for cultural continuity and well-being are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for other disciplines, as outlined in Sections 21, 24, and 25 of the Detailed Project Description. In addition to the mitigation measures outlined in those sections, the proponent will engage with Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan specific to the rights and interests-based activities of participating Indigenous communities pertaining to cultural continuity and community well-being. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects to cultural and interests-based activities.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will further describe cross-cultural awareness training for staff and on-the-ground personnel, which will be developed in collaboration with participating Indigenous communities and groups where applicable. This training is expected to build awareness and reduce potential adverse interactions with Indigenous communities during construction.</p> |

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| Operations | <p>The following potential direct effects may result from the Project on cultural continuity and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Project-related disturbance to or loss of culturally important sites and areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, place names, teaching sites, archaeological sites) can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being (the ability to practice and transmit cultural traditions such as activities and teaching); › Project-related alteration/change to sufficient availability or loss of access to culturally significant sites and areas (e.g., ceremonial sites, place names, teaching sites, important harvesting sites and areas) and resources (e.g., culturally significant species) can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; › Project-related alteration/change to safe access to travel routes for practicing of rights within the cultural heritage landscapes can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; › Project-related activities which can potentially increase access by non-Indigenous people to sites and areas that were previously perceived as having a sense of remoteness (and an experience of being on the land free from disturbance) including the perception of availability and fragmentation of land for rights-based activities can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being; and › Project-related activities that can potentially impact the continued practice of cultural traditions and way of life can interfere with cultural continuity and well-being. <p>In addition, potential indirect effects on cultural continuity and well-being may include but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in food security and the diet of Indigenous community members and associated potential effects on human health related to a decrease in country food consumption/increase in market food consumption; › Changes to family economics related to changes in the pursuit and consumption of country foods, as well as access (financial and logistical) to market foods and other essentials; › Changes in community well-being (e.g., social issues, family relationships, community cohesion) related to changes in access to family members and friends, as well as services outside the community; › Changes in the ability of community members to protect and maintain the Indigenous culture through teaching and the transfer of cultural knowledge to others, and protection and proliferation of the Indigenous language; › Changes in community well-being could affect the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; › Changes in human health could affect the pursuit and teaching of traditional activities and cultural practices, as well as experiences on the land; › Changes in the social and economic environment could affect mental and psychological health and could affect outlook of the future (restrictions and/or opportunities); › Changes or effects on archaeological sites and resources, built heritage resources, and/or cultural heritage landscapes could affect the Indigenous experience of being on the land and/or the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; › Changes in climate could affect the availability of resources that are harvested or gathered and the pursuit and teaching of rights-based activities and cultural practices; and › The effect of accidental releases on the availability and/or quality (or perceived quality) of access to culturally important sites and areas during the operations phase. | <p>Mitigation measures for cultural continuity and well-being are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for other disciplines, as outlined in Sections 21, 24, and 25 of the Detailed Project Description. In addition to the mitigation measures outlined in those sections, the proponent will engage with participating Indigenous communities and organizations to develop an Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan specific to the rights and interests-based activities of participating Indigenous communities pertaining to cultural continuity and community well-being. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects to cultural and interests-based activities.</p> <p>The Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will further describe cross-cultural awareness training for staff and on-the-ground personnel, which will be developed in collaboration with participating Indigenous communities and groups where applicable. This training is expected to build awareness and reduce potential adverse interactions with Indigenous communities during operations.</p> |
| Human Health* | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in local air quality due to road construction may affect human health; › Changes in local drinking water quality due to road construction may affect human health; › Changes in local soil quality due to road construction may affect human health; and › Changes to contaminant levels in harvested country food items due to road construction may affect human health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Recommended air quality mitigation measures; › Recommended soil quality mitigation measures; and › Recommended water quality mitigation measures. <p>Should mitigation for human health be necessary, collaboration with these other disciplines would be required in order to determine appropriate and practical mitigation measures. Mitigation measures for human health are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests, and the socio-economic environment.</p> <p>An Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will be developed specific to the rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and teaching) exercised by participating Indigenous communities. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects listed.</p> |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in local air quality due to road operation may affect human health; › Changes in local drinking water quality due to road operation may affect human health; › Changes in local soil quality due to road operation may affect human health; and › Changes to contaminant levels in harvested country food items due to road operation may affect human health. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Recommended air quality mitigation measures; › Recommended soil quality mitigation measures; and › Recommended water quality mitigation measures. <p>Should mitigation for human health be necessary, collaboration with these other disciplines would be required in order to determine appropriate and practical mitigation measures. Mitigation measures for human health are partially anticipated to be linked to mitigation measures for Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests, and the socio-economic environment.</p> <p>An Aboriginal Rights and Interests Impact Management Plan will be developed specific to the rights-based activities and other interests (e.g., cultural activities, hunting, trapping, fishing, gathering, and teaching) exercised by participating Indigenous communities. This management plan will outline mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, reduce, and/or offset potential direct and indirect effects listed.</p> |
| Socio-Economic Environment | | |
| Construction | <p><u>Regional and Local Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in labour force participation and unemployment; › Changes to training and education programs; › Changes in income levels; › Changes in living costs including prices of goods; › Changes in municipal government revenues and costs; and › Changes to area (ha) of significant aggregate deposits. | <p><u>Regional and Local Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Implement skills inventory, training and skills development workshops within local communities; and › Education, training and hiring practices to encourage the employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| | <p><u>Community Services and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in demand for accommodations and affordability; › Changes in demand on health care services; › Changes in demand on major roads and highway infrastructure; and › Changes in demand on airports. | <p><u>Community Services and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Work with local government authorities and health and emergency service organizations to plan for anticipated changes in population and service demand from the Project. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| | <p><u>Land Use and Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in outdoor recreation use; and › Changes to number and area (ha) of Provincial Parks, ANSI, and Conservation Reserves affected. | <p><u>Land Use and Recreation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Work with government authorities, local communities and business owners to develop local and regional strategy that addresses changes to outdoor recreation use. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| | <p><u>Community Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to participation in social and/or cultural events; › Changes in crime rates; › Changes in rates of domestic violence, sexual and physical assault; and › Changes in levels of substance use (e.g., drugs, alcohol). | <p><u>Community Safety</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Engagement with local communities, government entities and local organizations to implement better access to health and addiction services, and the improvement of relationships between justice sector professionals (local police and Indigenous Peoples) to strengthen community-based policing in local communities. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| Operations | <p><u>Regional and Local Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in labour force participation and unemployment; › Changes to training and education programs; › Changes in income levels; › Changes in living costs including prices of goods; › Changes in municipal government revenues and costs; and › Changes to area (ha) of significant aggregate deposits. | <p><u>Regional and Local Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Implement skills inventory, training and skills development workshops within local communities; › Education, training and hiring practices to encourage the employment of local workers, utilizing the Northern Ontario network of Indigenous Training Organizations such as the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training network. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| | <p><u>Community Services and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in demand for accommodations and affordability; › Changes in demand on health care services; › Changes in demand on major roads and highway infrastructure; and › Changes in demand on airports. | <p><u>Community Services and Infrastructure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Work with local government authorities and health and emergency service organizations to plan for anticipated changes in population and service demand from the Project. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| | <p>Land Use and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in outdoor recreation use; and › Changes to number and area (ha) of Provincial Parks, ANSI, and Conservation Reserves affected. | <p>Land Use and Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Work with government authorities, local communities and business owners to develop local and regional strategy that addresses changes to outdoor recreation use. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| | <p>Community Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in crime rates; › Changes in rates of domestic violence, sexual and physical assault; and › Changes in levels of substance use (e.g., drugs, alcohol). | <p>Community Safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Engagement with local communities, government entities and local organizations to implement better access to health and addiction services, and the improvement of relationships between justice sector professionals (local police and Indigenous Peoples) to strengthen community-based policing in local communities. <p>Mitigation will be identified as part of the EA/IA based on feedback from consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities.</p> |
| Air Quality | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to local air quality during the construction phase due to fugitive dust from land clearing, material handling, and vehicles travelling on gravel roads and other exposed surfaces, and due to tailpipe emissions (e.g., NOx and CO) from the movement and operation of construction equipment and vehicles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › During construction activities: engine idling policy; use of efficient, lower emission vehicles and equipment where practical; limit vehicle speeds; and maintain construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications; and › Wet or cover storage piles and exposed surfaces to reduce fugitive dust emissions and wet road surfaces during dry periods. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for air quality, dust control and blasting during construction activities.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to local air quality during the operations phase due to vehicular traffic, and equipment and vehicles used for operation and maintenance activities. Vehicular exhaust emissions will consist primarily of NOx, CO, SO₂, suspended particulates, and volatile organic compounds, as well as GHG gases. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › During operation and maintenance activities: engine idling policy; use of efficient, lower emission vehicles and equipment where practical; limit vehicle speeds; and maintain construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications; and › Wet or cover storage piles and exposed surfaces to reduce fugitive dust emissions and wet road surfaces during dry periods. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for air quality, dust control and blasting during operation and maintenance activities.</p> |
| Greenhouse Gases | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increase in GHG emissions as result of construction activities and land use changes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize the project footprint, especially in peatlands, through route alternative evaluation and design/construction techniques; › Utilize Best Management Practices for construction equipment, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimization of idling time by shutting equipment off when not in use; - Reducing idling times; - Maintaining equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications; and - Use of speed limits. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for air quality.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increase in GHG emissions as result of operation and maintenance activities and land use changes. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize the project footprint, especially in peatlands, through route alternative evaluation and design/construction techniques; › Utilize Best Management Practices for maintenance equipment, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimization of idling time by shutting equipment off when not in use; - Reducing idling times; - Maintaining equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications; and - Use of speed limits. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for air quality.</p> |

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| Noise | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increase in ambient noise levels and ground vibration due to construction activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Utilize Best Management Practices, which may include: use of newer and quieter construction equipment; avoid co-occurrence of construction activities with significant noise impact; ensure stationary sources (e.g., diesel generators) are enclosed and equipped with acoustic treatment on exhaust and intake; and avoid activities with significant noise impact during nighttime hours; › Develop a noise complaint assessment procedure during construction; › Develop a protocol for community notification of activities with significant noise impact (e.g., blasting) during construction and maintenance activities; and › Implement permanent noise mitigation features such as earth berms to eliminate the direct line of sight between the source (road) and receptor areas for locations where noise impact is determined to be significant, if applicable. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for noise during construction.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Increase in ambient noise levels and ground vibration due to operation and maintenance activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Implement permanent operational mitigation measures such as reduced speed limit along the segments of the road where noise impact is determined to be significant; and › Implement permanent noise mitigation features such as earth berms to eliminate the direct line of sight between the source (road) and receptor areas for locations where noise impact is determined to be significant, if applicable. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for noise during operations.</p> |
| Groundwater | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Vegetation clearing, site grading and stockpiling along the road corridor and temporary/permanent access roads, and at the construction camps, laydown areas and aggregate sites, may affect groundwater quantity, quality, and flow; › The hardening of the ground surface as a result of the construction of the roads and supportive infrastructure including construction camps and laydown/storage yards, has the potential of reducing groundwater recharge rates, lowering groundwater levels, and changing natural groundwater flow patterns; › Short-term dewatering during the construction of the foundations of the roads and structures (including bridges and culverts), the production of aggregates at the pits and quarries, and the water taking/pumping of groundwater from water supply wells at the construction camps can cause temporary decrease in groundwater tables and reduction of baseflow contributions to nearby groundwater dependent features (i.e., wetlands, streams, springs, and water supply wells, if any), especially within the dewatering zone of influence; and › Groundwater quality has the potential to be affected accidental releases during construction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize the project footprint and barrier effects, especially in wetlands/peatlands, through route alternative evaluation and design/construction techniques; › Avoid using potential acid generating rocks and soils as road construction materials; and › Dewatering activities should, at a minimum, follow the Ontario Provincial Standard Specification (OPSS) 517 – Dewatering of Pipeline, Utility, and Associated Structure Excavation and OPSS 518 Construction Specification for Control of Water from Dewatering Operations. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard/best management practices in the industry, for erosion and sediment control, dewatering, spill prevention and response, waste disposal and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › The operation of the pits and quarries and the associated aggregate production and dewatering may affect groundwater quantity, quality, and flow; › The continuing use of the roads may further reduce the groundwater infiltration rate and thus the groundwater recharge; and › The use of de-icing substances and accidental releases from machines and vehicles may affect local groundwater quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Establish and maintain setbacks around waterbodies as needed; › Maintain minimum flows in watercourses downstream of the isolated work areas and implement erosion and sediment controls for drainage and structural maintenance/repair works; › Develop water quantity and quality monitoring plans, as needed to monitor the stream flow and water quality during the in-water works; and › Minimize the use of de-icing substances. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard/best management practices in the industry, for erosion and sediment control, dewatering, spill prevention and response, waste disposal and site restoration.</p> |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| Surface Water | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in water quantity and distribution due to changes in land cover type (e.g., peatlands to gravel surface), may increase or decrease runoff, thereby affecting downstream flows, water levels and erosion-sedimentation processes; › Changes in water quantity and distribution due to the installation of temporary and permanent structures which may convey or obstruct flow (e.g., barrier effects), also affecting downstream flows, water levels and erosion-sedimentation processes; › Changes in water quality due to construction activities which expose soil, increase rates of erosion and sedimentation; › Changes in water quality due to accidental releases of contaminant substances from vehicles or other machinery used during construction; › Discharge from dewatering can potentially cause erosion and mobilization of sediment and thus reduction of the water quality of receiving waterbodies at the discharge point and along the downstream flow path, with elevated total suspended solids (TSS) or turbidity; and › Changes in water quality due to acid mine drainage or metal leaching during the construction phase; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to surface water; › Establish setbacks around waterbodies as needed; › Minimize disturbed areas where practical; › Maintain minimum flows in watercourses via pumping or flumes and maintain flows downstream of isolations; › Implement erosion and sediment controls for drainage and structural repair/maintenance work; › If water withdrawal is necessary for the construction limit the drawdown rates such that impacts are avoided or reduced; and › Develop water quality and quantity monitoring plans, as needed to monitor for flow and sediment events during in-water works; and › Implement an acid rock drainage and metal leaching management plan to manage potentially acid generating rock and stockpiled material. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for spill prevention and response, erosion and sediment control, surface water and stormwater, dewatering, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes in water quantity and distribution due to changes in land cover type (e.g., peatlands to gravel surface), may increase or decrease runoff, thereby affecting downstream flows, water levels and erosion-sedimentation processes; › Changes in water quantity and distribution due to the installation of permanent structures which may convey or obstruct flow (e.g., barrier effects), also affecting downstream flows, water levels and erosion-sedimentation processes; › Changes in water quality due to maintenance activities which expose soil, increase rates of erosion and sedimentation; Changes in water quality due to accidental releases of contaminant substances from vehicles or other machinery used during operation and or maintenance (e.g., road salt/de-icing); and › Changes in water quality due to acid mine drainage or metal leaching during the operations phase. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Establish setbacks around waterbodies as needed; › Minimize disturbed areas where practical; › Maintain minimum flows in watercourses via pumping or flumes and maintain flows downstream of isolations; › Implement erosion and sediment controls for drainage and structural repair/maintenance work; › If water withdrawal is necessary for the construction limit the drawdown rates such that impacts are avoided or reduced; and › Develop water quality and quantity monitoring plans, as needed to monitor for flow and sediment events during in-water works; and › Implement an acid rock drainage and metal leaching management plan to manage potentially acid generating rock and stockpiled material. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for spill prevention and response, erosion and sediment control, surface water and stormwater, dewatering, and site restoration.</p> |
| Geology, Terrain and Soils | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to terrain (topography and surficial geology) due to site clearing, re-contouring, cut and fill requirements, aggregate extraction, overburden removal and other activities; › Changes to the potential development of known mineral deposits in the area; › Changes in soil quality due to compaction, rutting, admixing, , and acid mine drainage or metal leaching during the construction phase; › Changes in soil quality due to accidental releases of chemical or other hazardous materials during construction; and › Changes in soil quality and quantity due to increased rates of erosion and sedimentation processes caused by soil exposure and stockpiling during the construction phase. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Limit the footprint temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Salvage onsite mineral topsoil, organic topsoil, woody debris, and subsoil for reclamation activities. Mineral topsoil, organic topsoil, woody debris, and subsoil should be stored separately, where practical; › Implement the erosion and sediment control plan including short-term erosion control measures for soil stockpiles to conserve soil and avoid or reduce soil losses, and reduce sedimentation transport into nearby sensitive areas; › Control and remove invasive species on disturbed areas and on soil stockpiles; › Disturbed slopes should be contoured to angles that are safe and stable, compatible with adjacent landforms, and compatible with restoration goals; › Strip topsoil and subsoil prior to construction, construct under frozen conditions, or use matting to reduce compaction, rutting and admixing; › Develop protocol for equipment to arrive to site clean and free of debris; and › Implement an acid rock drainage and metal leaching management plan to manage potentially acid generating rock and stockpiled material. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for spill prevention and response, erosion and sediment control, weeds and invasive species, blasting, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to terrain (topography and surficial geology) due to site clearing, re-contouring, cut and fill requirements, aggregate extraction, overburden removal and other activities; › Changes to the potential development of known mineral deposits in the area; › Changes in soil quality due to compaction, rutting, admixing, and spills of contaminating substances, and acid mine drainage or metal leaching during the construction and operations phases; and › Changes in soil quality due to accidental releases of chemical or other hazardous materials during the operations phase. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Limit the footprint temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Manage onsite mineral topsoil, organic topsoil, woody debris, and subsoil for reclamation activities. Mineral topsoil, organic topsoil, woody debris, and subsoil should be stored separately, where practical; › Implement the erosion and sediment control plan including operational erosion control measures for road surfaces and soil stockpiles to conserve soil and avoid or reduce soil losses, and reduce sedimentation transport into nearby sensitive areas; › Control and remove invasive species on disturbed areas and on soil stockpiles; and › Implement an acid rock drainage and metal leaching management plan to manage potentially acid generating rock and stockpiled material. |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices spill prevention and response, erosion and sediment control, weeds and invasive species, blasting, and site restoration.</p> | | |
| Visual Environment | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Alteration of the existing undisturbed landscape and visual character during the construction a phase; and › Degradation of valued natural, cultural and Indigenous visual resources including sensitive sites and viewpoints. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Retain buffers around sensitive receptors if needed; and › Route the roadway to avoid sensitive receptors. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Alteration of the existing undisturbed landscape and visual character during the operations phases; and › Degradation of valued natural, cultural and Indigenous visual resources including sensitive sites and viewpoints. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Retain buffers around sensitive receptors if needed; and › Route the roadway to avoid sensitive receptors. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for site restoration.</p> |
| Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat loss directly through vegetation clearing required for road construction, laydown areas, stockpiles, and excavations; › Habitat degradation caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), reductions in habitat connectivity, loss of travel corridors, and habitat fragmentation/habitat avoidance. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of wildlife or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and visual) impacts from construction equipment, which can affect habitat suitability and use is especially possible in species that are sensitive; › Loss of wildlife and/or traditional use of wildlife, as a result of construction or vehicle collision; and › Attraction of wildlife to construction camps or the road corridor (e.g., food waste, ease-of-use) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus wildlife survival and reproduction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to sensitive habitats, where feasible; › Avoid clearing vegetation during the roosting season to reduce impacts to bats; › Minimize vegetation/habitat clearing as much as practical; › Limit temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Conduct reptile and amphibian rescues where habitat has been identified; › Regrade and revegetate temporarily cleared areas; › Install signage in areas where frequent wildlife crossings of the roadway are expected; › Reduce speed limits in areas where wildlife interactions are expected; › Manage vegetation along ditches to ensure good visibility for wildlife; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Consider the installation of wildlife crossing structures to facilitate movement of wildlife over the roadway in areas of high wildlife concentrations. These would include different wildlife crossing structures for different wildlife taxa (e.g., amphibians, reptiles, mammals); › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; › Locate laydown and refueling areas away from waterbodies; › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution; › Manage noise control using standard best management practices; › Develop a protocol for beaver management to reduce the impacts of impoundment; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for wildlife, vegetation, noise and light, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Death of wildlife or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and visual) impacts from maintenance equipment, lighted areas, and roadway traffic, which can affect habitat suitability and use is especially possible in species that are noise and/or light sensitive; › Loss of wildlife and/or traditional use of wildlife, as a result of vehicle collision; › Attraction of wildlife to the road corridor (e.g., food waste, ease-of-use) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus wildlife survival and reproduction; › Increased beaver activity and impoundment along the roadway in ponded or culvert areas; and › Increased harvest of wildlife by humans for recreational or traditional use due to increased public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize vegetation/habitat clearing as much as practical; › Install signage in areas where frequent wildlife crossings of the roadway are expected; › Reduce speed limits in areas where wildlife interactions are expected or are frequently observed; › Manage vegetation along ditches to ensure good visibility for wildlife during appropriate seasons; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Consider the installation of wildlife crossing structures to facilitate movement of wildlife over the roadway in areas of high wildlife concentrations. These would include different wildlife crossing structures for different wildlife taxa (e.g., amphibians, reptiles, mammals); › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution; › Manage noise control using standard best management practices; › Develop a protocol for beaver management to reduce the impacts of impoundment; › Implement hunting and access restrictions, such as establishing traffic controls and barriers to access/secondary roadways; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices, for wildlife, vegetation, noise and light, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration.</p> |
| Birds and Bird Habitat | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat loss directly through vegetation clearing required for road construction, laydown areas, stockpiles, and excavations; › Habitat degradation caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), habitat connectivity, and habitat fragmentation. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Loss of potential migration routes/patterns due to vegetation and habitat clearing (lakes, wetlands, eskers, etc.) › Death of birds or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise) impacts from construction equipment, which can affect habitat suitability and use. More sensitive bird species may avoid areas with high noise temporarily or permanently; › Death of birds and/or eggs, including SAR and/or traditional use birds, as a result of construction (vegetation clearing) or vehicle collision; and › Attraction of bird species to construction camps or the road corridor (e.g., food waste, light causing insect attraction) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus bird survival and reproduction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to sensitive habitats, where feasible; › Avoid clearing of vegetation and other nesting habitat during the migratory bird nesting season; › Conduct nest sweeps (with appropriate permitting) if clearing during the nesting season; › Install signage in areas where frequent bird crossings (e.g., grouse) of the roadway are expected; › Regrade and revegetate temporarily cleared areas; › Limit temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features (such as nests); › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution. › Manage noise using standard best management practices; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators if disturbance is required. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for wildlife, vegetation, spill prevention and response, waste management, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Death of birds or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and light) impacts from maintenance equipment, roadway traffic, and lighted areas, which can affect habitat suitability and use. More sensitive bird species may avoid areas with high noise temporarily or permanently; › Death of birds and/or eggs, including SAR and/or traditional use birds, as a result of maintenance (vegetation clearing) or vehicle collision; › Attraction of bird species to the road corridor (e.g., food waste, light causing insect attraction) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus bird survival and reproduction; and › Increased harvest of wildlife, including SAR by humans for recreational or traditional use due to increased public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Avoid clearing of vegetation and other nesting habitat during the migratory bird nesting season; Conduct nest sweeps (with appropriate permitting) if clearing during the nesting season; › Install signage in areas where frequent bird crossings (e.g., grouse) of the roadway are expected; › Develop a protocol to manage attractant waste; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features (such as nests); › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution; › Manage noise using standard best management practices; › Implement hunting and access restrictions, such as establishing traffic controls and barriers to access/secondary roadways; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for wildlife, vegetation, spill prevention and response, waste management, and site restoration.</p> |
| Plants and Vegetation Communities | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Loss of plants or plant communities, including potential SAR and traditional use plants as a result of vegetation clearing for construction, stockpiling, excavation, and/or laydown areas; › Loss of vegetation could reduce carbon sequestration capacity of carbon sinks; › Habitat degradation, including changes to areas of edge habitat caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, changes to soils, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes, reductions in habitat connectivity, and habitat fragmentation; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize vegetation/habitat clearing as much as practical, especially in wetlands and riparian zones; › Limit temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Revegetate disturbed areas with native and/or non-invasive vegetation; › Designate locations for temporary stockpiling of vegetation and soils; › Provide information to construction workers and contractors on rare and sensitive habitat to be protected from disturbance located within and surrounding the site; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Develop protocol for equipment to arrive to site clean and free of debris; |

| Project Phase | Potential Effect | Preliminary Proposed Mitigation Measures |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to community species composition and diversity (increases or decreases in certain species with a community), due to construction, changes in local hydrology or water quality, dust and air emissions, changes to soil quality, and accidental releases of contaminants; › Reduction in forest and wetland habitat (including peatlands) or wetland quality/function due to construction, changes in local hydrology or water quality, dust and air emissions, changes to soil quality, and accidental releases; › Reduction in esker landforms and esker vegetation community habitat; › Introduction or proliferation of invasive plant species through construction, which may reduce the competitiveness of local plant species; and › Reduced soil quantity and quality during earthworks may affect revegetation and restoration success. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Complete pre-construction surveys for vegetation management (pre-clearing plant surveys, delineation of invasive or noxious vegetation, and no-go zones for clearing); › Consider routing that avoids or minimizes construction through wetlands/peatlands; › Design/road construction techniques to prevent barrier effects from road construction through peatlands; › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators; and › Develop a Wetland Compensation Plan for unavoidable impacts to these environments. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for vegetation, weed and invasive species, soils, erosion and sediment control, spill prevention and response, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Changes to community species composition and diversity (increases or decreases in certain species with a community), due to operation and maintenance, changes in local hydrology or water quality, dust and air emissions, changes to soil quality, and accidental releases of contaminants; › Reduction in wetland habitat (including peatlands) or wetland quality/function due to operation and maintenance, changes in local hydrology or water quality, dust and air emissions, changes to soil quality, and accidental releases; › Reduction in esker landforms and esker vegetation community habitat; › Increased harvest of plants for recreational or traditional use due to increased public access; › Introduction or proliferation of invasive plant species through increased access to the public, which may reduce the competitiveness of local plant species; and › Reduced soil quantity during earth moving activities may affect revegetation and restoration success. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Minimize vegetation/habitat clearing as much as practical; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Develop protocol for equipment to arrive to site clean and free of debris; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for vegetation, weed and invasive species, soils, erosion and sediment control, spill prevention and response, and site restoration.</p> |
| Species at Risk | | |
| Construction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat loss directly through vegetation clearing required for road construction, laydown areas, stockpiles, and excavations; › A loss or a reduction of available landscape features that contribute to Boreal Caribou winter habitat at a range scale as a direct result of vegetation clearing on the esker; › Habitat degradation caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), reductions in habitat connectivity, loss of travel corridors, loss of migration routes, disruption to breeding and calving grounds, and habitat fragmentation/habitat avoidance. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of wildlife or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and visual) impacts from maintenance equipment, traffic, and lighted areas, which can affect habitat suitability and use is especially possible in species that are light and/or noise sensitive; › Loss of SAR as a result of construction or vehicle collision; and › Attraction of wildlife to construction camps or the road corridor (e.g., food waste, ease-of-use) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus wildlife survival and reproduction. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Identify alternate locations/routes for both roadway and ancillary infrastructure to reduce overall impacts to sensitive habitats, where feasible; › Develop SAR monitoring plans, as needed; › Develop offsetting or compensation plans to address residual effects to SAR and their habitat; › Minimize vegetation / habitat clearing as much as practical; › Limit temporary infrastructure, including vehicle and heavy equipment access routes; › Regrade and revegetate temporarily cleared areas; › Manage vegetation management plans along ditches to ensure good visibility for SAR; › Avoid engaging in disruptive activities (clearing, construction) during key sensitive wildlife periods and locations where SAR mammals (such as Wolverines and Caribou) may be present; › Avoid clearing of vegetation including bird nesting habitat during the migratory bird nesting season; › Avoid clearing vegetation which may act as habitat for breeding and roosting bats; › Reduce speed limits where wildlife interactions are expected; › Prohibit the feeding of wildlife; › Procedures to conduct reptile and amphibian rescues where needed; › Install perimeter fencing to deter access by large wildlife where necessary; › Instruct workers on wildlife awareness; › Report wildlife observations and wildlife roadkills; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Install signage in areas where frequent wildlife crossing of the roadway are expected; › Consider the installation of wildlife crossing structures to facilitate movement of SAR over the roadway in areas of high wildlife concentrations; These would include different wildlife crossing structures for different wildlife taxa (e.g., mammals); › Develop protocol to manage attractant waste; › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution; › Manage noise using standard best management practices; and |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for wildlife, vegetation, noise, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration.</p> |
| Operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Habitat degradation caused by alterations in hydrology patterns, erosion, dust and air emissions, vegetation changes (including introduction of invasive species which may displace natural vegetation), reductions in habitat connectivity, loss of travel corridors, loss of migration routes, disruption to breeding and calving grounds, and habitat fragmentation/habitat avoidance. This in turn may lead to changes in survival and reproductive success; › Death of wildlife or reduction in habitat quality as a result of accidental releases of contaminants; › Sensory disturbance related to proximity (noise and visual) impacts from maintenance equipment and roadway traffic, which can affect habitat suitability and use is especially possible in species that are noise sensitive; › Loss of SAR as a result of construction or vehicle collision; › Attraction of wildlife to the road corridor (e.g., food waste, ease-of-use) which can affect predator-prey relationships and thus wildlife survival and reproduction; and › Increased harvest of wildlife, including SAR by humans for recreational or traditional use due to increased public access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Develop SAR monitoring plans, as needed; › Minimize vegetation / habitat clearing as much as practical; › Manage vegetation management plans along ditches to ensure good visibility for SAR; › Avoid engaging in disruptive maintenance activities during key sensitive wildlife periods and locations where SAR mammals (such as Wolverines and Caribou) may be present; › Avoid clearing of vegetation including bird nesting habitat during the migratory bird nesting season; › Avoid clearing vegetation which may act as habitat for breeding and roosting bats; › Reduce speed limits where wildlife interactions are expected; › Establish setbacks around sensitive and/or protected species and habitat features; › Install signage in areas where frequent wildlife crossing of the roadway are expected; › Consider the installation of wildlife crossing structures to facilitate movement of SAR over the roadway in areas of high wildlife concentrations; These would include different wildlife crossing structures for different wildlife taxa (e.g., mammals); › Develop protocol to manage attractant waste; › Use shaded and/or directed lights and energy efficient bulbs that are only as bright as necessary, where feasible and safe to do so to minimize light pollution; › Manage noise using standard best management practices; and › Acquire permits as required from provincial and federal regulators. <p>Additional mitigation measures will be included in Management Plans that will be developed for the Project (see Detailed Project Description Plain Language Summary Table 26-1). Management Plans will be developed based on standard best practices for wildlife, vegetation, noise, spill prevention and response, waste management, traffic, and site restoration.</p> |

Notes: *Some aspects related to human health are included under the socio-economic environment and Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests disciplines.

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