



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

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

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

Région de l'Ontario
600-55 rue York
Toronto ON M5J 1R7

May 19, 2023

Sent by email

Algonquins of Ontario
Algonquins of Ontario – Consultation Office
31 Riverside Drive, Suite 101
Pembroke ON K8A 8R6
algonquins@tanakiwin.com

Dear Algonquins of Ontario:

Subject: Marmora Clean Energy Hub Project - Invitation to Participate in the Review of the Initial Project Description - Request for Comments due June 19, 2023

I am writing to notify Algonquins of Ontario that on May 12, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) accepted an Initial Project Description for the proposed Marmora Clean Energy Hub Project (the Project), as proposed by Northland Power Inc. and Ontario Power Generation (together, the Proponent).

The purpose of this letter is to:

- (1) notify Algonquins of Ontario of the first comment period on the Initial Project Description; and
- (2) invite Algonquins of Ontario to provide the Agency with information on how the Project may impact interests and activities of Algonquins of Ontario.

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The Proposed Project

Northland Power Inc., in partnership with Ontario Power Generation, is proposing the construction and operation of a new pumped storage and hydroelectric generating facility located in the municipality of Marmora and Lake, Ontario. As proposed, the Marmora Clean Energy Hub Project would produce up to 500 megawatts, and would operate for 100 years. The open pit lake from the abandoned Marmoraton iron ore mine would be transformed into the lower reservoir of the facility. The project would include an upper reservoir, tunnels and a powerhouse, a water delivery system, and an underground transmission line. The project would also include a 30-megawatt ground-mount solar facility, which would operate for at least 25 years.

A map of the Project from the Initial Project Description (Enclosure 1) is attached to this letter to help you identify any potential impacts that are relative to the location of the Project.

A summary of the Initial Project Description and the Initial Project Description are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site¹.

Participation in the Impact Assessment Planning Phase

Pursuant to the *Impact Assessment Act*, the Agency is initiating consultation activities with Indigenous communities, as well as engaging the public and other participants. A comment period on the Summary of the Initial Project Description is taking place from **May 19, 2023 to June 19, 2023**.

Invitation to Provide the Agency with Information on Potential Impacts to Activities and Interests

Based on the general location of the Project, we invite you to provide general information that could assist the Agency understand how the Project may impact any interests or activities of Algonquins of Ontario. **We respectfully request this information be provided by June 19, 2023.** If we do not hear from Algonquins of Ontario by this time, then we will assume you are not interested, and will not receive further correspondence or requests for information, except for notifications of next steps of the impact assessment.

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¹ Reference #84597 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84597>

How to submit your comments

Comments, including letters and forms, on the Project can be provided to the Agency via the *Submit a Comment* feature available on the Project's Registry page². If you have any questions or difficulties, please notify the Agency contact for assistance.

Confidentiality

Information submitted to the Agency to inform this project assessment process may be posted online to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (Reference #84597), subject to certain exceptions related to privacy, security or confidentiality. The Agency's Submission Policy³ describes what submitted information can be shared publicly, and what should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.⁴

Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence is protected from disclosure under section 119 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), except if written consent is provided, or if the information is publicly available. In addition, Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence could be shared with certain parties if disclosure is necessary for procedural fairness and natural justice or for use in legal proceedings. This ensures that interested persons have a fair opportunity to participate in processes that would likely affect their interests, and that they have access to all necessary information and evidence relied on by the decision-maker.

Should you wish to provide any comments or documents that contain confidential or sensitive information that should be protected from release to the public, please contact Brooke Ellison-Wareing by telephone at 416-528-2458 or email at Marmora@iaac-aeic.gc.ca before submitting the information. This will ensure that your submission is handled appropriately. Regarding the exceptions above, the Agency will consult with you prior to disclosing Indigenous Knowledge shared in confidence.

Next Steps

Comments received by **June 19, 2023**, will inform the development of a Summary of Issues prepared by the Agency, which will include the issues raised by Indigenous communities and other participants. The Agency will provide the Summary of Issues to the Proponent and post a copy to the Registry.

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² Reference #84597 at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/84597>

³ <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions>

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

The Proponent will be required to submit a Detailed Project Description and Response to the Summary of Issues, to the Agency. The Proponent's documents and input from Indigenous communities and other participants during the comment period will be considered by the Agency in its decision on whether to require a federal impact assessment for the Project.

Contacting the Proponent

Proponents of designated projects are strongly encouraged to engage with Indigenous communities early in the design of a proposed project to benefit all concerned. By learning about the interests and concerns of potentially affected Indigenous communities, and identifying ways to avoid or mitigate potential impacts, proponents can build these considerations into their project design.

The Agency understands that the Proponent has reached out to your community. The Proponent is expected to include in its Initial Project Description a preliminary description of the potential adverse effects of the Project on Indigenous peoples. If your community would like to contact the Proponent directly, the principal contact persons for the purpose of developing the Initial Project Description are Patrick Godfrey, Project Development Manager at Northland Power Inc., and Andrea Brown, Director of Business Development & Strategic Initiatives at Ontario Power Generation. Patrick and Andrea can be contacted at *Patrick.Godfrey@northlandpower.com* and *Andrea.Brown@opg.com*, respectively.

Contacting the Agency

Brooke Ellison-Wareing will be the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the Project on behalf of the Agency. Brooke will be following up with you within the next two weeks to confirm your receipt of this letter. Alternatively, you may contact Brooke by telephone at 416-528-2458 or by email at *Marmora@iaac-aeic.gc.ca*.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Anjala Puvananathan
Director, Ontario Region

Enclosures:

#1 – Project Location Map

c.c.: Patrick Godfrey, Northland Power Inc.
Andrea Brown, Ontario Power Generation