

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Northern Road Link Project

Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) and Webequie First Nation (WFN) are beginning an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.18, for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of a proposed all-season road called the Northern Road Link (the Project).

The proposed Project is a new all-season multi-use gravel road with an approximate length of 117 km to 164 km (depending on the chosen corridor) between the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and the proposed Webequie Supply Road (WSR). The Project would connect the Ring of Fire mineral deposits in the McFaulds Lake area to the highway network via the proposed MFCAR. The Project would provide a critical transportation link and economic opportunities, as well as better access to health and social services.

THE PROCESS

On March 3, 2023, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Northern Road Link with an amendment. A copy of the approved ToR, as well as the Notice of Approval, can be accessed at <https://northernroadlink.ca>.

The Northern Road Link EA will be carried out according to the approved ToR, the amendment contained in the Notice of Approval, and the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. In addition, the proposed Northern Road Link is a designated project under the Physical Activities Regulation under the federal *Impact Assessment Act*. The Project is currently in the planning phase to determine whether a federal Impact Assessment (IA) is required. Should an IA be required for the Project, the two levels of government have indicated a willingness to follow a coordinated assessment process, and for the proponent to prepare one body of documentation with the results of the study in an Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement (EAR/IS). A draft EAR/IS will be produced and Indigenous communities, the public, and other interested persons will be informed when and where the draft EAR/IS can be reviewed. The EAR/IS will then be updated as required and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for a review and decision. At that time, Indigenous communities, the public, and other interested persons will be informed when and where the EAR/IS can be reviewed.

CONSULTATION

Indigenous communities, members of the public, government agencies, and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the EA process by attending consultation and engagement opportunities or contacting the NRL Project Team directly with information, comments or questions. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA process and the timing, nature and purpose of these activities will be advertised through radio, mail-outs, social media posts, newspaper advertisements and on the Project website <http://northernroadlink.ca>.

If you would like to be added to our project mailing list or have project-related questions, please contact:



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All personal information included in a submission - such as name, address, telephone number and property location - is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public, as described in s. 37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at (416) 314-4075.

