



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 3

Welcome!

We are writing this newsletter to provide you with an update on the progress of the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project. The Project Team has been busy progressing with the project the past few months, working hard to ensure that the project is moving forward according to schedule.

This newsletter will provide you details with the activities that the Project Team has completed.

Project Update

Summer Field Activities

Breeding Birds and Marsh Birds (June 10-19/19)

This involved counting and identifying birds seen and heard at selected habitat locations during the breeding season. The breeding bird surveys are done between one half hour before sunrise and five hours after sunrise, while the marsh bird surveys are done at common staging/gathering locations.

Reptiles and Amphibians (June 10-19/19)

The reptile and amphibian survey work conducted was part of the breeding birds and marsh birds survey, with observations including frog calls.

Caribou Nursery Habitat (June 10-19/19)

This survey included visits to areas identified as potential locations where adult caribou would give birth (calving) and care for their offspring. These are typically islands, peninsulas

and bog/fen (wetland-type) areas. Each location was visited and any observations such as tracks, pellets, beds and hair indicating calving or nursery use were made.



Webequie FN member and SNC Biologist setting up bat acoustic recorders

Bats (July 2-9)

This work was done to identify areas that might provide bat hibernaculum (nesting area) habitat and maternity roost habitat (areas for taking care of young), as well as undertake acoustic surveys to identify the presence or absence of bats within the study area. Specialized recording devices were installed at specific locations within the study area to detect bats.

Vegetation (August 11-17/19)

Different areas within the project study area were visited. Specific areas (plots) of a defined size were inventoried for plant species, with the purpose being to get an understanding as to which plants are in the study area. Soil samples were also taken. The purpose of the work is to classify vegetation areas as part of the overall effort to identify potential impacts.

Aquatics (August 11-17/19)

Watercourse crossing locations were visited where they could be accessed. Physical measurements were made of each crossing, including approximate water depth, water flow rates and crossing width. Other observations, such as physical stream habitat type (i.e., pools, riffles, rapids, backwater) were made. Where possible, fish community sampling was also done.



Webequie FN member and SNC's biologist setting gill nets and minnow traps

Environmental Assessment Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)

The Provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Terms of Reference (ToR) is the work plan for the EA. It describes what will be done during the EA to understand potential impacts (both positive and negative) of the Supply Road on the environment (natural, social, cultural). The Draft ToR was prepared and released for a 30-day public review and comment period, which concluded on October 16, 2019. An extension was granted to allow more time for Indigenous communities to provide feedback and comments, which concluded on November 6, 2019.

The WSR Project Team is now collecting and compiling the feedback received from Indigenous communities, provincial and federal agencies, and stakeholders. The Project Team will incorporate the feedback and comments into the Final ToR and respond to those that provided comments. The Final ToR will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for review. Once reviewed, the Final ToR will be available for public review by Spring 2020.

Initial and Detailed Project Description

The federal Initial Project Description (IPD) is a document that describes the WSR Project with details on what the project includes and physical activities. This was submitted to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) in August 2019, which was released for a public review period. IAAC received comments from Indigenous communities. IAAC collected the comments and feedback and prepared a Summary of Issues, which was provided to the Team to incorporate into the Detailed Project Description (DPD). The DPD included additional details such as potential effects on the environment (natural, social, and cultural). It was submitted to IAAC for review to determine whether the WSR Project will require a federal Impact Assessment. It was determined that a federal Impact Assessment is required. IAAC is currently preparing Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG), which represents the work plan to complete the Impact Assessment – similar to the ToR.

Stay Tuned!

Stay tuned for our next Project update. For additional information on the project, please visit our project website at: www.supplyroad.ca or by contacting:

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