

# WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD (WSR) PROJECT

## CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ASSESSMENT STUDY PLAN SUMMARY

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### OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and consider how potential effects from the Project that overlap with effects from other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects and activities in the region could combine to create additional environmental, health, social and economic effects.
- Evaluate and determine the significance of the predicted cumulative effects.

### WHAT WILL BE ASSESSED?

#### The cumulative effects assessment will generally include the following tasks:

- Identify and characterize the effects of the WSR that remain after action has been taken to reduce or manage predicted negative effects (referred to as residual or net effects), which will help in focussing the cumulative effects assessment on selected Valued Components (for example, fish/fish habitat, wildlife, surface water/groundwater, vegetation and wetlands, traditional land and resource use);
- Define the area and timeframe within which the study will be done for each Valued Component where net effects have been identified;
- Identify other past, current and reasonably foreseeable projects and activities with effects likely to overlap with the predicted net effects of the WSR;
- Work with Indigenous communities to reflect their historical experiences of colonialism and environmental change through building an understanding and overview of events, activities, and policies that have affected and disrupted Indigenous communities and their way of life in the region;
- Predict the likely combined/cumulative effects of the WSR and other projects and activities under consideration, and develop additional mitigation measures, if warranted; and
- Evaluate and determine the significance of the predicted cumulative effects:

- Probability of Occurrence –the likelihood that an activity will result in an environmental effect (Unlikely, Possible; Probable or Certain)
- Direction – change in effect compared to the current value, state or condition (Positive, Neutral, or Negative)
- Magnitude – how much change from existing (baseline) conditions is predicted to occur
- Geographic Extent – the distance over which an effect is expected to occur or can be detected
- Severity – The level of damage to the Valued Component from the effect (Extreme; Serious, Moderate or Slight)
- Duration/Reversibility – how long the effect is expected to last; and can it be reversed and the Valued Component restored at a future predicted time (Short-Term (0- 5 years), Medium-Term (6-20 years), Long-Term (21 to 100 years) or Permanent (>100 years))
- Frequency – how often the effect is expected to occur, including any seasonal or annual considerations (Infrequent; Frequent or Continuous).



Four key types of cumulative effects will be considered:

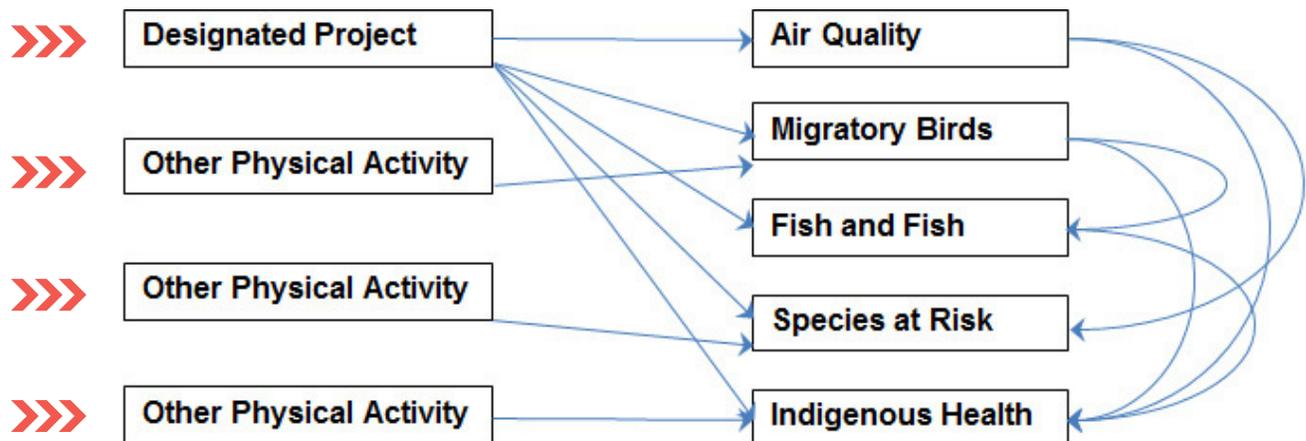
- **Additive cumulative effect** - the sum of individual effects of two or more projects/physical activities
- **Synergistic cumulative effect** - when two or more effects interact to create a cumulative effect that is greater than or otherwise different from the simple addition of those effects
- **Compensatory cumulative effect** - when the effects from two or more projects/physical activities cancel or offset each other
- **Masking cumulative effect** - when the effects from one more project/physical activity masks the effect of another project/physical activity

## WHAT INFORMATION IS NEEDED AND HOW WILL IT BE COLLECTED?

Review of sources (including Indigenous Knowledge and land and resources use information) providing documentation of historical events and changes as result of colonialism that have affected the current well-being of Indigenous communities and groups. Focused input will be sought from key informants, such as Elders in Indigenous communities, to create this narrative.

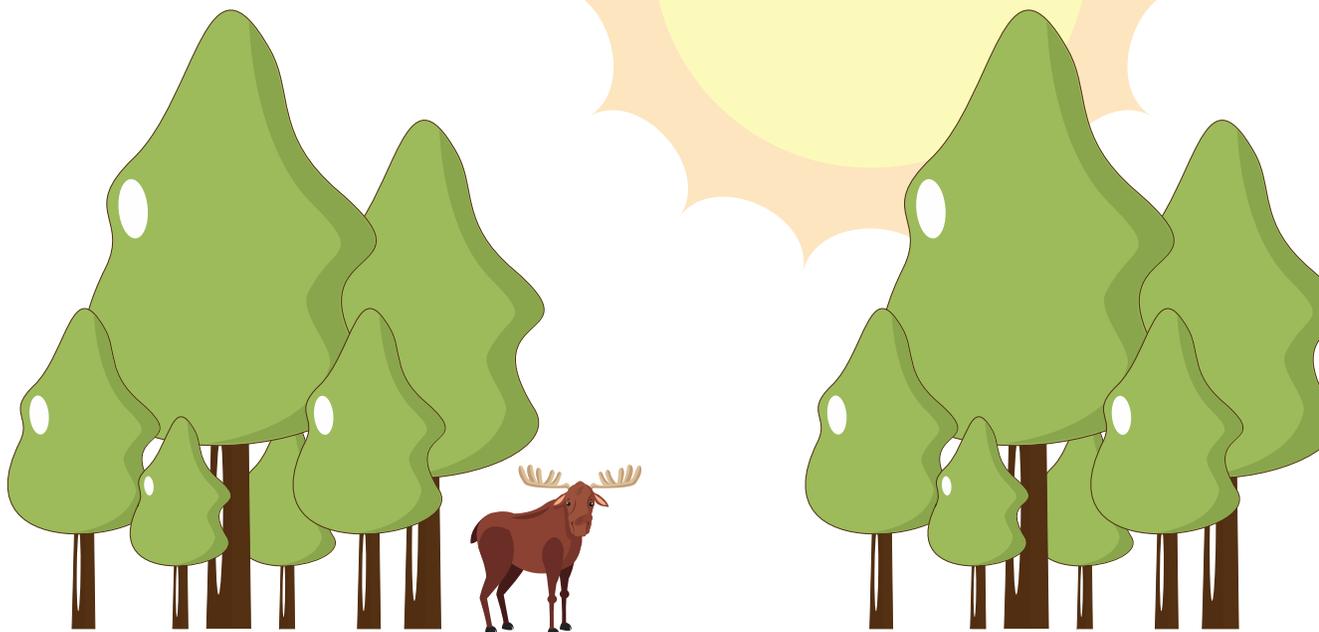
Available information for the following projects and activities will be considered and assessed in combination with the WSR:

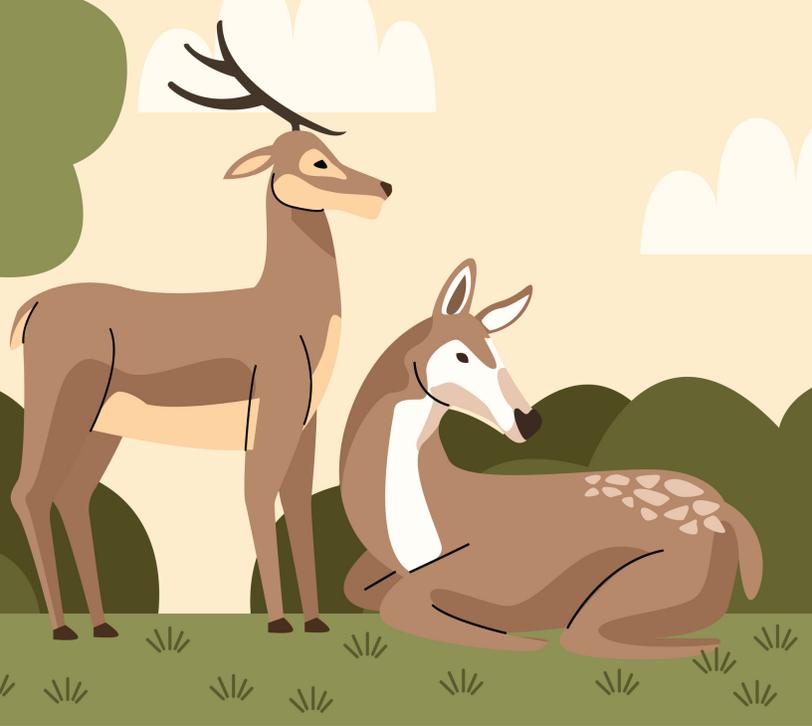
- Historical and existing mineral developments, Goldcorp's Musselwhite Mine, DeBeers' Victor Mine and Greenstone Gold's Hardrock Mine;
- Other historical infrastructure projects;
- Marten Falls Community Access Road Project and other all-season road projects;
- Power transmission projects;
- Construction of upgrades to the Anaconda and Painter Lake Forestry Access Roads;
- The construction and operation of the Northern Road Link (future road that may link the northern portion of the Marten Falls Community Access Road to the Ring of Fire area);
- Transportation of ore from future development near the Project for processing, once past the WSR;
- East-West road (link from Ring of Fire to provincial highway network near Pickle Lake);
- Forest management units;
- Mining activities, including those associated with Eagle's Nest, Black Thor, Black Bird, Big Daddy and Black Label;
- Increased winter road traffic during Operations and Maintenance by future mining proponents;
- Mineral exploration activity in the area; and
- Past projects, including the Ogoki and Long Lac diversions.



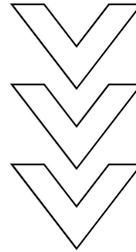
The cumulative effects assessment will be based on effects to Valued Components. Valued Components are elements or conditions of the natural and human environment that may be affected by the Project and are of concern or value to the public, Indigenous peoples, federal/provincial authorities and interested parties. The information and considerations used to identify the Valued Components to be included and how they will be assessed will include:

- Indigenous communities' knowledge and experience with the effects of past/present projects, including how Aboriginal and Treaty rights have been affected. This will help the Project Team to update the list of Valued Components to be considered beyond those for the WSR, if necessary;
- The results of engagement with Indigenous communities and groups with respect to the extent to which Valued Components are linked to the exercise of Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Indigenous peoples, including those of traditional, cultural and heritage importance;
- Ecological, social and economic value to Indigenous communities, municipalities, stakeholders, government authorities and the public;
- Presence or absence of net effects on a Valued Component;
- Zone of influence (ZOI), beyond which net effects are no longer detectable;
- Presence, abundance and distribution/ranges of Valued Components within the area of projects and activities being considered (for example, caribou and other important wildlife, fish, medicinal plants);
- Natural ecological boundaries, such as watersheds and natural boundaries to movement for less mobile types of wildlife (for example, large watercourses); and
- Extent to which the projects and activities being considered have (individually or in combination) interacted with, or may interact with a Valued Component.





**The Project Team will review available studies for past projects being considered, including feasibility studies, environmental assessments, project descriptions, design briefs, environmental management plans, compliance monitoring and incident reports.**



The Project Team will also review and consider other available secondary sources, such as:

- Scientific and science-based literature;
- Legislation, regulatory requirements and environmental standards/criteria/thresholds;
- Available mapping and selected provincial Geographical Information System datasets - wetlands, watercourses, waterbodies, Far North Land Classification, Provincial Satellite Derived Disturbance Mapping, Land Information Ontario;
- Provincial and federal species at risk literature/listings;
- Government websites (for land use plans, development strategies, or open data);
- The results of any available regional assessment studies conducted under the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, including the Ring of Fire Regional Assessment;
- Sector-based monitoring information, status assessments, or management plans from resource management agencies (for example, from the forestry industry);
- Resource management plans; and
- Community Based Land Use Planning documents.

It is expected that there will be information gaps due to information on past projects having been archived, plans for future projects having not yet been prepared, or information otherwise being publicly unavailable. For projects or activities that are yet to be developed, appropriate substitute ("surrogate") information may be used for important information gaps.