







APPENDIX P2.B

Newsletters

- P2.B.1 – Newsletters Sent in Year 2021
- P2.B.2 – Newsletters Sent in Year 2022
- P2.B.3 – Newsletters Sent in Year 2023
- P2.B.4 – Newsletters Sent in Year 2024
- P2.B.5 – Newsletters Sent in Year 2025

APPENDIX P2.B.1

Newsletters Sent in Year 2021

-  an overview of the EA process
-  the study plans and their results
-  our current evaluations of the route
-  elements of the road's design
-  suggested ways to protect the environment
-  our most updated consultation results

Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use (IKLU) Program

All 22 Indigenous communities will receive an invitation to participate in the IKLU Program. The program will allow members to share information that is relevant to the Project, either directly or through a third-party consultant who will do an IKLU study.

Indigenous communities will be consulted with on how the IKLU information will be used in the EA, the assessment of potential effects, and the development of an IKLU monitoring and management plan.

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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:

Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca

Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snc-lavalin.com



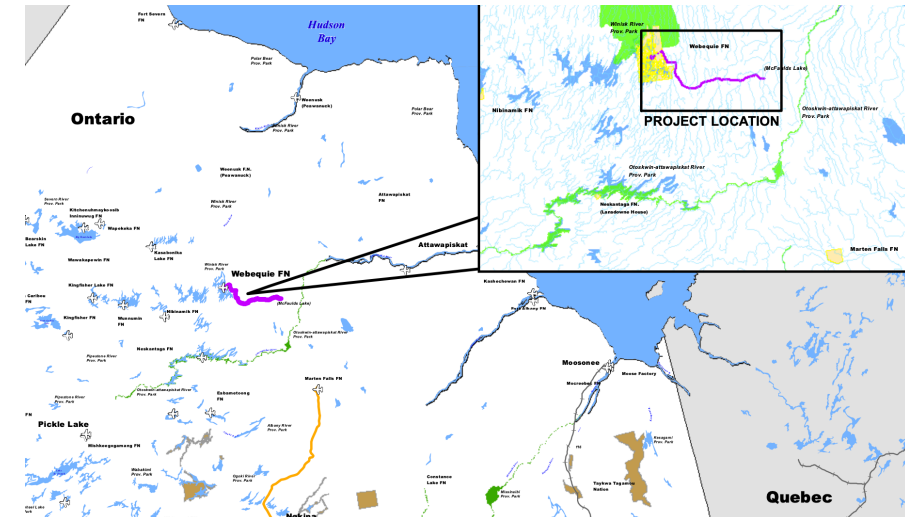
WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 5 – October 2021

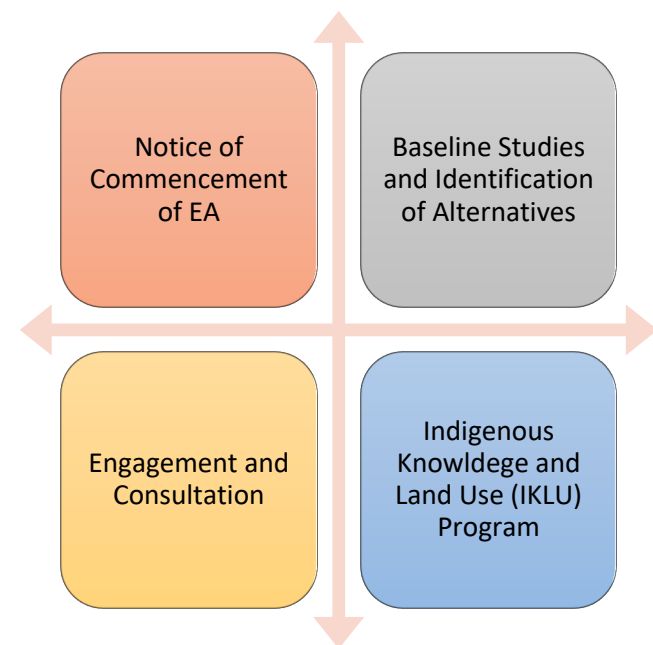
Welcome! [Language 1] [Language 2]

It's been a while since our last community newsletter update and we are excited to share some news with you! The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Webequie Supply Road Project has now been approved. This means we will be moving ahead with the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. There are many steps that need to happen in order to move forward with this process and in this newsletter, we will be explaining what each of these steps are.



Location of the Webequie Supply Road

What happens now that the ToR has been approved?



Notice of Commencement of EA

Notice will be given to the public which will show that the EA process has formally begun. The notice will contain an overview of the project, the purpose of the project, what the planning process is, and the consultation activities that will occur.

Baseline Studies and Identification of Alternatives

Baseline studies are done in order to determine the state of the environment and communities around the project area before it is built. This will give us something to compare the environment and communities to after the project is built. Some baseline studies are done on the Project site and some studies are done off the Project site. On-site studies gather information about the surrounding environment, whereas the off-site studies gather information about how the surrounding communities interact with that environment.

On-site	Off-site
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife and migration	<input type="checkbox"/> Socioeconomic study
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation and habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Health impact assessment study
<input type="checkbox"/> Species at risk	<input type="checkbox"/> Climate change and air quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise assessments	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual impact assessment study
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater, surface water, sediment	<input type="checkbox"/> Culutral heritage resource study
<input type="checkbox"/> Country foods	

These baseline studies will help assess the potential effects of the road, whether there are any alternatives, and look for ways to limit any harmful effects that may occur.

Engagement and Consultation







We will continue to engage with Indigenous Communities throughout the EA process. We will be holding Indigenous Community meetings with 22 communities.

- 3 rounds of meetings with 8 of the communities (specifically identified by WFN)
- 2 rounds of meetings with the other 14 communities

We will also be holding public open houses.

- 2 rounds of open houses for the public, stakeholders, off-reserve Indigenous community members, and anyone else interested in the Project.

The Indigenous Community meetings and public open houses will share similar information and happen at the same time. The purpose of these meetings is to give information such as:

-  an overview of the EA process
-  the study plans and their results
-  our current evaluations of the route
-  elements of the road's design
-  suggested ways to protect the environment
-  our most updated consultation results

Indigenous Knowledge (IK) Program

All 22 Indigenous communities will receive an invitation to participate in the IK Program. The program provides an opportunity for community members to share information that is relevant to the Project.

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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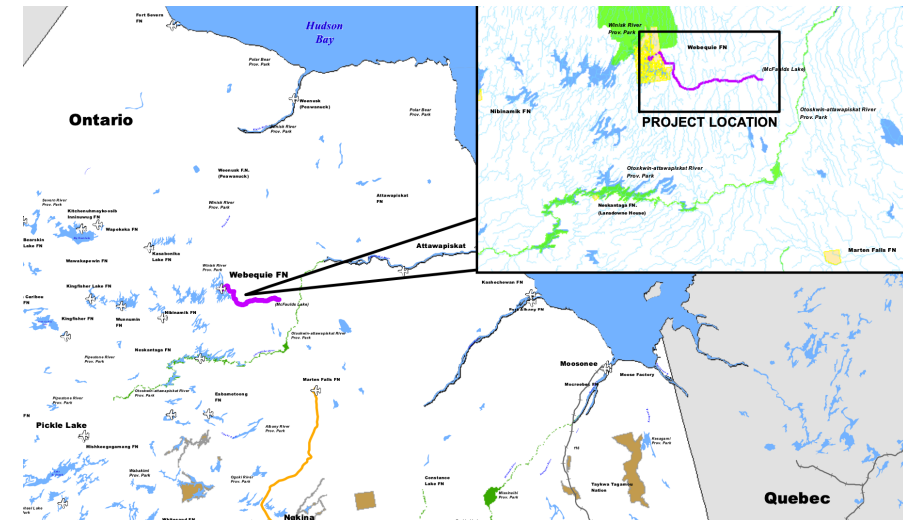
WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 5 – November 2021

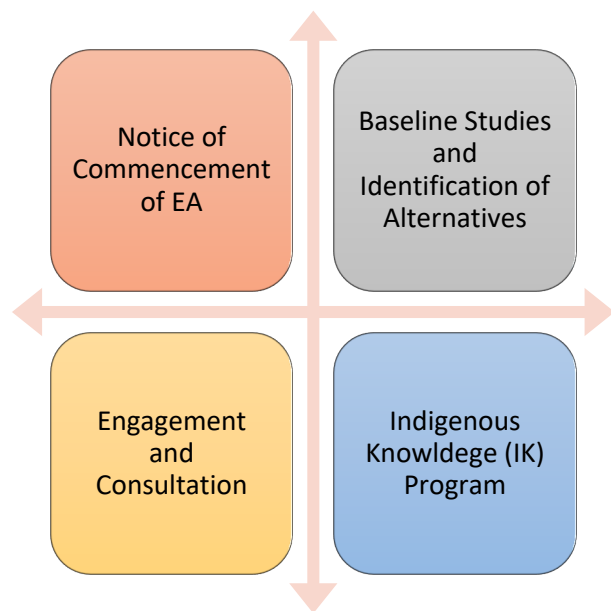
Welcome!

We have some exciting news to share with you! The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Webequie Supply Road Project has now been approved. This means we will be moving ahead with the Environmental Assessment (EA) process. There are various steps that need to happen in order to move forward with this process and in this newsletter, we will be explaining what each of these steps are.



Location of the Webequie Supply Road

What happens now that the ToR has been approved?



Notice of Commencement of EA

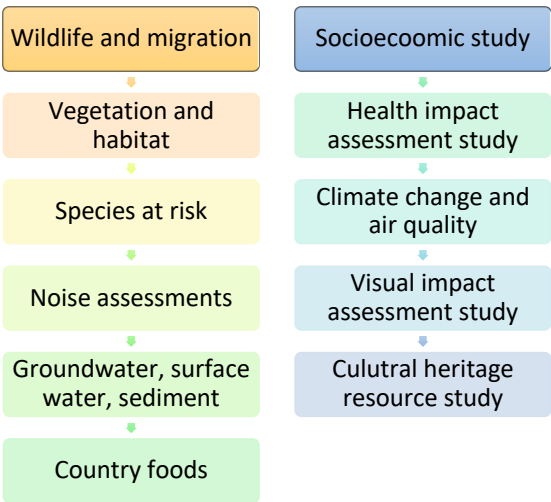
The Notice of Commencement states that the ToR for the WSR EA Study was approved by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP). The notice also:

- provides a brief overview of the project
- explains how the EA Study will be carried out / legislative requirements
- describes consultation opportunities for the public, Indigenous communities, agencies, and other interested parties

A copy of the approved ToR and MECP’s Notice of Approval can be found at www.supplyroad.ca.

Baseline Studies and Identification of Alternatives

Baseline studies are done in order to determine the state of the environment before the project is built. This will allow us to assess whether any environmental changes occur as a result of the project being built. The baseline studies will gather information about various aspects of the surrounding environment, such as:



These baseline studies will help assess the potential effects of the road, identify potential alternatives, and assess ways to limit any harmful effects that may occur.

Engagement and Consultation

We will continue to engage with Indigenous Communities throughout the EA process. We will be offering Indigenous Community meetings with 22 communities. We will also be holding public open houses for the public, stakeholders, off-Reserve Indigenous community members, and anyone else interested in the Project.

The Indigenous community meetings and public open houses will take place at the same time and will share similar information. The purpose of these meetings is to give information such as:

APPENDIX P2.B.2

Newsletters Sent in Year 2022



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 6 – January 2022

Greetings!

As we ring in the new year of 2022, we wanted to provide a re-cap of what happened on the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project in 2021. The Project Team has been working hard to progress the Project and we have reached some milestones on the Project. Read on for more details!

Approval of the Terms of Reference

The approval of the Terms of Reference (ToR) was a big milestone for the project because it meant that we were able to begin the Environmental Assessment (EA) phase. The project is currently undergoing both federal impact assessment and provincial EA.

What's the difference between the Federal IA and Provincial EA?

FEDERAL EA

The proponent (WFN) creates and submits a project description to the federal government



The Impact Assessment Agency reviews it and then tells the proponent what to study by providing them with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG)

vs.

PROVINCIAL EA

The proponent (WFN) creates a project description to lead the ToR process. The province provides some guidelines for developing a ToR. The ToR is the workplan for the EA process.



Once complete, the proponent submits ToR to the province. The ToR goes through a public review process, then the province reviews and either approves or rejects it.

The next step is to conduct the EA, which will result in a single report that will address the requirements of both the provincial (ToR) and the federal (TISG).

Study Plans

As part of the federal impact assessment process, the Project Team developed Study Plans for each of the *valued components*. These are aspects that have been identified as important to Indigenous communities, the public and stakeholders of the project, for example, community members. The Study Plan outlines how baseline information will be gathered (such as field studies and surveys) and how potential effects will be measured and assessed.

Many studies associated with each study plan have already been completed or are in the process of being completed. They are what we call field studies!

Field Studies

A key part of an EA is to determine the existing conditions of the environment, to give us something to compare to when looking at potential effects of the project. Below is a summary of the field studies we have completed this year.

Breeding Bird Surveys (February/ March 2021)

- Counts were conducted at 263 stations
- Recording units were placed at 89 locations and birds were recorded throughout the day during all four seasons
- The recording units were used to sample calling frogs in wetlands
- Over 80 species of birds were recorded



Acoustic Bat Surveys (June – October 2021)

- The presence of bats was surveyed using ultrasonic recorders
- 10 surveying locations were used
- Surveyed during both pup-rearing period (June – July) and migration/swarming period (August – October)
- Five (5) species of bats were recorded



Caribou Aerial Surveys (February/March 2021)

- Conducted using a helicopter
- Mainly surveyed caribou- also surveyed many medium and large mammals (e.g. moose, wolves, wolverine, otter, marten, and other furbearers)
- Over 500 caribou documented in 2021 survey



Caribou Collaring Study (February/March 2021)

- Aimed to determine calving areas, wintering areas and travel corridors
- Placed GPS/ radio collars on 30 female caribou- their movement will be monitored for 3 years (began in 2020 – 2021 was Year 2 of the study.)
- Data to date reveal that the majority of collared caribou are of the Eastern Migratory population that winters in wooded areas but calves along the Hudson's Bay shoreline



Wolverine Occupancy Study (Winter/Spring/Summer 2021)

- Sampling stations called “run-poles” were constructed at 25 sites within 10 km of all WSR alternative routes. Stations included snag posts to collect hair from visiting animals and two cameras.
- Wolverine stations documented at least 7 individuals, which visited 13 stations a total of 29 times.
- This is the first study along the eastern range boundary of this species in Ontario and the first targeted Wolverine baseline study for an environmental assessment in Ontario.



What to Expect in 2022

You can expect continued engagement with First Nations through various livestreaming events, Wawatay radio call-in shows, tutorials, newsletters, and open houses on different components of the EA and updates on our studies and process. We will be continuing to conduct field studies and will be engaging communities in an Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use Program as well as a Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program. We will be offering more information on these programs in the new year!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.



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:

Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snclavalin.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 7 – February 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team hopes that your community has been staying warm and healthy during these cold winter days.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved, we have been keeping busy by continuing to work on the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA/IA) phase of the Project. This phase will result in a single report that will address the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

A reminder about the difference between the EA and IA...

FEDERAL IA

The proponent (WFN) creates and submits a project description to the federal government



The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada reviews it and then tells the proponent what to study by providing them with Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG)

vs.

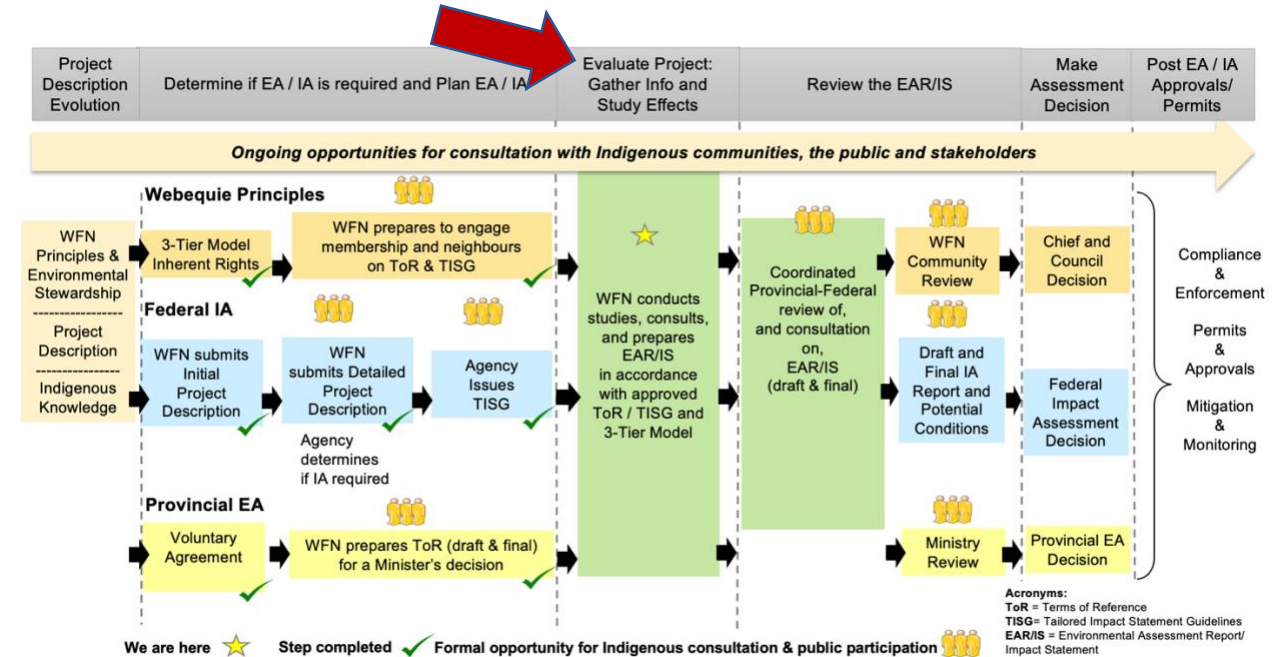
PROVINCIAL EA

The proponent (WFN) creates a project description to lead the ToR process. The province provides some guidelines for developing a ToR. The ToR is the workplan for the EA process.



Once complete, the proponent submits ToR to the province. The ToR goes through a public review process, then the province reviews and either approves or rejects it.

Overview of the Coordinated Provincial – Federal Assessment Process



We are currently in the phase of conducting studies to gather information and consulting with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

What will be studied?

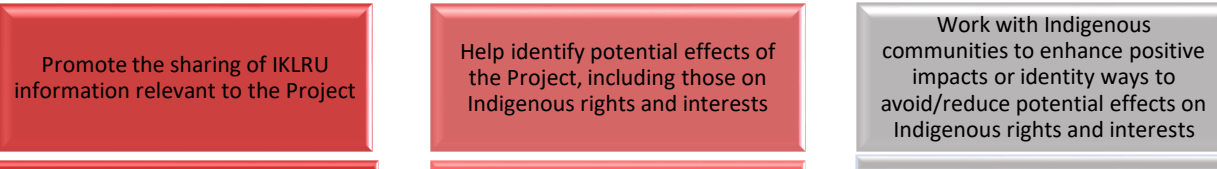
We will study *VALUED COMPONENTS* (VCs), which are the environmental, health, social, economic, or other elements or conditions of the natural and human environment that could potentially be affected by the Project. These are areas of concern and/or value to the public, Indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders.

INDICATORS will be used to help measure potential change of the VCs or criteria. Indicators represent the properties of the physical, biological and socio-economic environments.

★ Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use Program

A critical component of the EA/IA is Indigenous Knowledge. The Project Team will gather input through Indigenous Knowledge as part of the Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program.

The purpose of the Program is to:



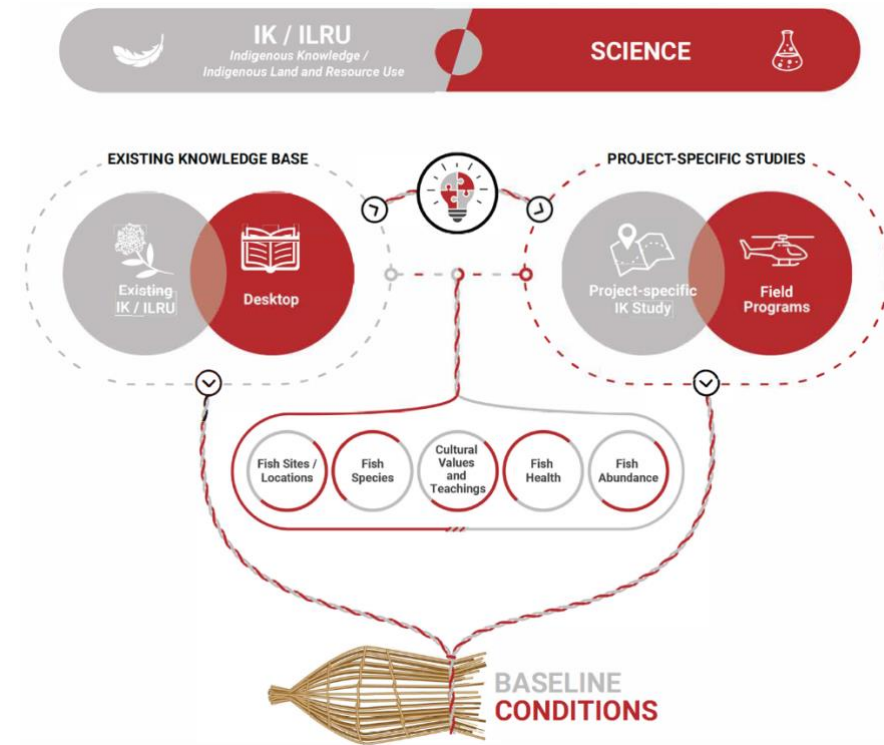
There will be two phases of the IKLRU Program:

- 1) Collect information that participating communities are willing to share related to their land and resource areas
- 2) Validate the information shared to ensure we have a firm understanding of it before weaving it into the EA/IA.

Communities can share as much or as little information as they wish, and in whatever form they prefer. Each participating community will be able to review the information used in the assessment report to ensure it has been represented in a respectful and accurate way.



The role of the IKLRU Program in the EA/IA



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 8 – March 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU). IKLRU is an important component of the coordinated Environmental Assessment and Impact Assessment (EA/IA). Let us tell you why!

As a reminder ...

What is the Coordinated Provincial – Federal Assessment Process?

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved, the Project Team has been working on the (EA/IA) phase of the Project. This phase will result in a single report that will address the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

We are currently in the phase of conducting studies to gather information and consulting with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



What is IKLRU?

There is no single definition of Indigenous Knowledge (IK), as it can take many forms and consists of many parts that are interconnected. It represents the worldview of Indigenous peoples that has been built up over generations of living closely connected to the land. IK is always changing. It grows with time and changes related to social, spiritual, environmental, political, and economic aspects.

Various forms that IK can take:

- Burial sites
- Harvesting locations
- Ceremonial areas
- Hunting, trapping, and fishing camps, gathering or teaching grounds
- Stories and oral histories
- Input from community surveys, focus groups

... and much more!

What is the IKLRU Program about?

The purpose of the Program is to:

Promote the sharing of
IKLRU information
relevant to the Project

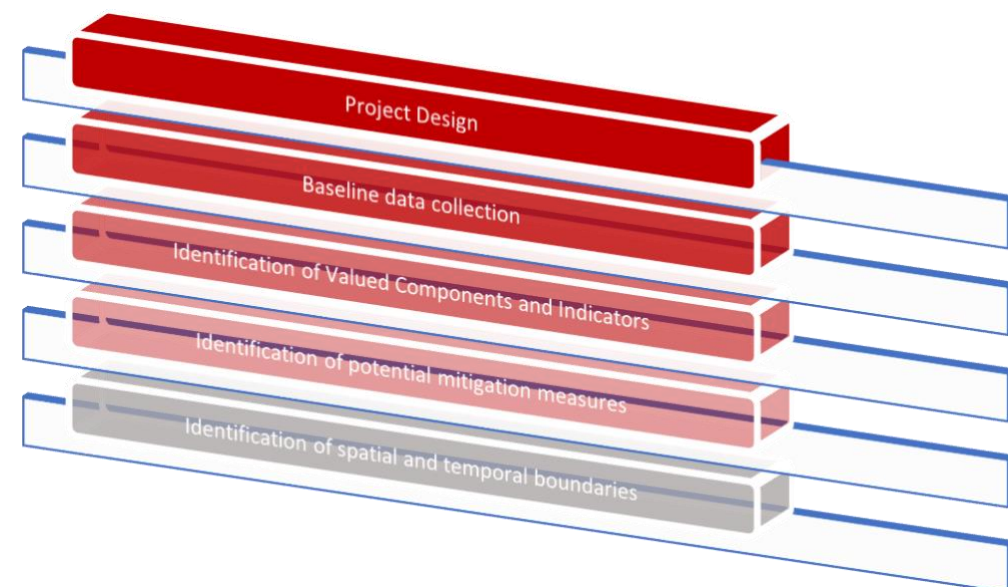
Help identify potential
effects of the Project,
including those on
Indigenous rights and
interests

Work with Indigenous
communities to enhance
positive impacts or
identify ways to
avoid/reduce potential
effects on Indigenous
rights and interests

What is the Importance of IKLRU in the EA/IA Process?

It is important to combine Western Science with IKLRU in the federal and provincial assessment process so that both knowledge systems can be equally considered in forming the foundation for baseline conditions, predicting potential project effects, including potential impacts to inherent Indigenous rights and interests.

IKLRU can contribute to the assessment of:



Information being Gathered for the IKLRU Program

Communities can share as much or as little information as they wish, and in whatever form they prefer. Each participating community will be able to review the information used in the assessment report to ensure it has been represented in a respectful and accurate way. Information being gathering will include topics such as:

- Wildlife and Hunting (areas, species of significance), Furbearers and trapping, Fish, Plants and Plant Gathering, Human Health, Waterways, Climate, Soil, Country Foods, and more.

Are there any other Programs Happening Right Now?

Yes! The **Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program**. Another important component of the EA/IA process is to collect socio-economic information within the project study area to help us understand the current social and economic conditions to create a socioeconomic baseline to assess and predict the changes to current conditions.

The Program will gather information about:

- Population and Demographics
- Housing and Accommodations
- Social Services and Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Community Well-Being and Safety
- Recreation and Tourism
- Regional and Local Economy

... and more

How we are going to gather this information:

- Community Socio-Economic survey
- Focus Groups
- Key Informant Interviews

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snclavalin.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 9 – April 2022*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Socio-Economics and the role of the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program in the WSR Project. We will also be providing information about our upcoming virtual community information sessions.

What stage are we at in the WSR Project?

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved, the Project Team has been working on the Environmental Assessment (EA) / Impact Assessment (IA) phase of the Project. This phase will result in a single report that will address the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

We are currently in the phase of conducting studies to gather information and consulting with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



What is Socio-Economics?

Socio-economics relates to various social and economic factors, such as jobs, education, income, services, and well-being. The study of socio-economics measures these factors in a particular community or group and investigates what those factors may be affected by.

In the context of the WSR Project, the Project Team is investigating the potential effects of the Project on the socio-economic conditions in communities.



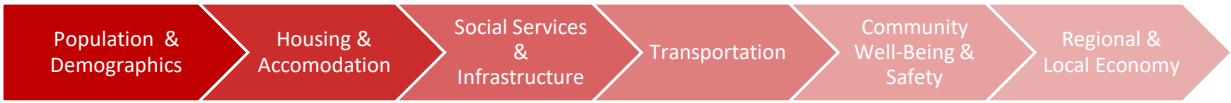
What is the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program?

The **Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program** is an important component of the EA/IA process to collect socio-economic information within the project study area to help us understand the current social and economic conditions to create a baseline to assess and predict the changes to current social and economic conditions.

The study will involve:

- Collecting information on existing socio-economic conditions
- Defining the study area(s) within which potential effects are considered
- Assessing potential effects, both positive and negative
- Identifying appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential effects or enhance positive effects
- Identifying net effects following mitigation
- Assessing cumulative effects

The Program will gather information about:



... and more

How we are going to gather this information:

- 1. Community Socio-Economic survey
 - With various delivery methods: online survey, intercept survey, community sessions, drop-in sessions, at scheduled open house events

- 2. Focus Groups
 - Focus groups will be comprised of 6-10 participants each with a series of open-ended questions. One session will be held for each diverse population group in the community, including women, men, Elders, youth, land users/knowledge keepers, etc.

- 3. Key Informant Interviews
 - Interviews will be conducted with individuals in the community who have special knowledge or information to contribute to the socio-economic study, such as social and health, infrastructure, economic development, and housing



Virtual Community Information Sessions

The Project Team will be offering virtual community information sessions for all communities. These will be one-on-one sessions with the community. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and consultation approach and next steps.

There will be a presentation on the WSR Project activities. We anticipate the community information session to be approximately 1.5 hours in length with a presentation and question and answer period. The WSR Project Team has a platform to allow for real time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community’s invitation letter! In the meantime, please visit supplyroad.ca to find information on the WSR Project.



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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:

- Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)
- Local Consultation Lead: leslies@webequie.ca (807-356-5078)
- Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snclavalin.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter
Issue 10 – May 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the ongoing Virtual Community Information Sessions being hosted for each community. We will also explain what the Valued Components study plans are and why they are an important aspect of the WSR Environmental Assessment (EA) / Impact Assessment (IA).

A Quick Refresher:

The Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021. Since then, the Project has entered the EA / IA phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Virtual Community Information Sessions

The Project Team will be offering virtual community information sessions for all Indigenous communities. These will be one-on-one sessions with the community. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and consultation approach and next steps.

There will be a presentation on the WSR Project activities. We anticipate the community information session to be approximately 1.5 hours in length with a presentation and question and answer period.

The WSR Project Team has a platform to allow for real time translation to accommodate community members during the session.



The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter! In the invitation letter, we will provide a link to the session's registration page and to the VR Open House created specifically for your community. In the meantime, please visit supplyroad.ca to view the schedule for when your community information session will take place and to find information on the WSR Project.

We are also available for additional engagement sessions with communities and would be happy to meet with communities virtually or in-person following COVID protocols.



What are Valued Components?

Valued Components (VCs) are the environmental, health, social, economic, or other elements or conditions of the natural and human environment that could potentially be affected by the Project. These are areas of concern and/or value to the public, Indigenous peoples, and other stakeholders.

Indicators will be used to help measure potential change of the VCs or criteria. Indicators represent the properties of the physical, biological and socio-economic environments.

The Project Team has created Fact Sheets, found on the website, which provide an overview of what will be studied for each VC. The Project Team follows the Study Plan for each VC to conduct studies and gather information about the potential effects of the project.

The fact sheets listed on the website are:

- Birds
- Caribou and Wolverine
- Climate Change and Air Quality
- Cumulative Effects
- Geology, Terrain, and Soils
- Groundwater and Surface Water
- Human Health
- Species at Risk
- Socio Economic
- Vegetation
- Visual Environment
- Aquatic Habitat
- Acoustic Environment



You can find the detailed facts sheets at:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/factsheets/>

Additional Engagement Opportunities

Join us at our upcoming streaming sessions to learn more about Air Quality and Noise & Vibration, Wildlife and Species at Risk, and additional project details:

- May 4 & 18 – Radio Show (2:30 pm EST) & Live Stream (4:30 pm EST)



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events!

Stay Tuned!

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 11 – June 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the ongoing Virtual Community Information Sessions being hosted for each community. We will also discuss the importance of field studies in the WSR Environmental Assessment (EA) / Impact Assessment (IA).



The Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021. Since then, the Project has entered the EA / IA phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

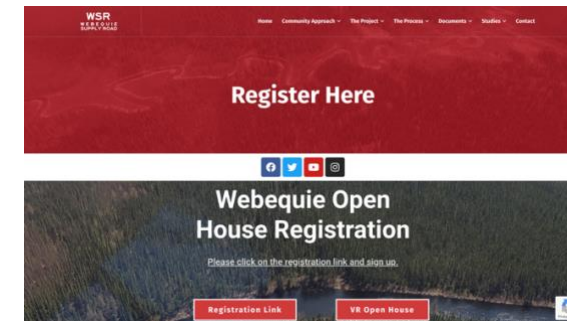
Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

Virtual Community Information Sessions

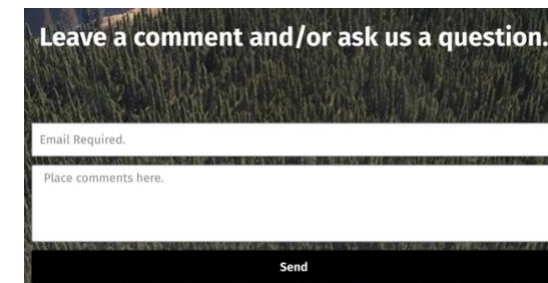
Communities whose session has already occurred:

- Weenusk, Kaschechewan, Attawapiskat, Fort Albany, Marten Falls, Neskantaga, Kasabonika, Eabametoong, Nibinamik

If the Project Team has already hosted a virtual information session for your community, no sweat if you missed it! At any time, you can watch the recording of your community's session at: supplyroad.ca/sessions/. You can also access additional information on the WSR website. We created a unique page for each community where you can watch videos with information on a range of topics related to WSR, as well as take a virtual open house walkthrough. The specific link to your community's WSR website page will be: [supplyroad.ca/\[community name\]](https://supplyroad.ca/[community name]) and the page will look like this:



You can leave questions or comments at any time on your community's page and the Project Team will provide a response!



We are also available for additional engagement sessions with communities and would be happy to meet with communities virtually or in-person following COVID protocols.

Virtual Community Information Sessions

Communities whose session is upcoming:

- Aroland, Constance Lake, Ginoogaming, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, Kingfisher Lake, Long Lake #58, Mishkeegogamang, North Caribou Lake, Wapekeka, Wawakapewin, Wunnumin Lake, Metis Nation of Ontario – Region 2

You can find out when your community's virtual information session will be held by visiting: supplyroad.ca/sessions/.

The Project Team will be offering a virtual community information session in the coming weeks for your community. *It will be a one-on-one session with your community.* The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and consultation approach and next steps.

There will be a presentation on the WSR Project activities. We anticipate the community information session to be approximately 1.5 hours in length with a presentation and question and answer period.

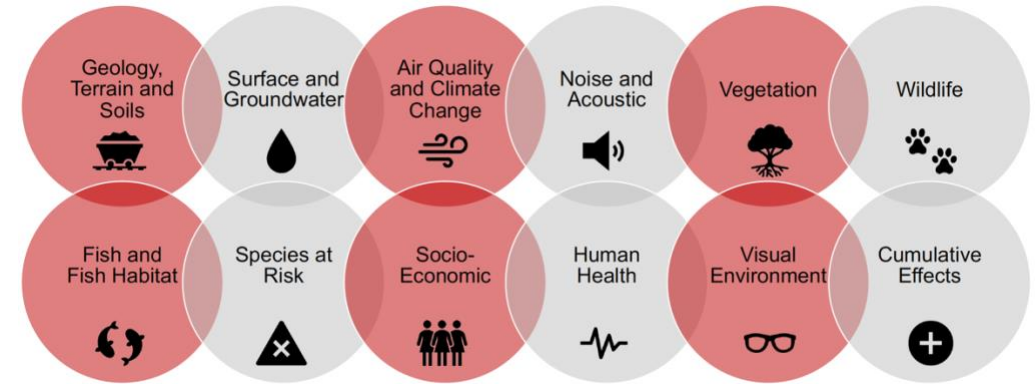


The WSR Project Team has a platform to allow for real time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter! In the invitation letter, we will provide a link to the session's registration page and to the VR Open House created specifically for your community.

Field Studies

The Project Team is currently conducting field studies in the following areas:



The objective of these field studies is to identify and consider the potential effects on the above areas of study as a result of the Project. This is an important step in the EA / IA for the Project Team to be able to provide recommendations for minimizing negative environmental, health, social and economic effects on these study areas during the construction and operation/maintenance of the Project.

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events!

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:

Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Local Consultation Lead: leslies@webequie.ca (807-356-5078)

Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snclavalin.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 12 – July 2022*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the Cultural Heritage and Fish & Fish Habitat field studies. Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021 the Project has entered the EA / IA phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Field Studies

The objective of field studies is to identify and consider the potential effects on the environment as a result of the Project. This is an important step in the EA / IA for the Project Team to be able to provide recommendations for minimizing negative environmental, health, social and economic effects during the construction and operation/maintenance of the Project, or enhance positive effects.



Cultural Heritage

In order to better understand the purpose of a Cultural Heritage assessment, here are some useful definitions:

Built Heritage Resource (BHR): A building, structure, monument, installation or any manufactured remnant that contributes to a property's cultural heritage value or interest as identified by a community.

Cultural Heritage Landscape (CHL): A defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community.

Cultural Heritage Resource: Includes above-ground resources such as built heritage resources and cultural heritage landscapes and built or natural features below ground including archaeological resources.

Potential Cultural Heritage Resource: Property or site that has the potential for cultural heritage value or interest.

The purpose of a Cultural Heritage assessment is to:

- Present a list of previously identified BHRs and CHLs
- Describe the existing conditions of the study area and present an inventory of known and potential BHRs and CHLs
- Provide a preliminary effects assessment once a preferred alternative is selected

Fish & Fish Habitat

The objectives of Fish & Fish Habitat field studies are to:

- Identify and consider the effects of the Project on aquatic habitats
- Identify and consider the effects of aquatic habitats on the Project
- Provide recommendations for minimizing negative environmental, health, social, project constructability and economic effects related to aquatic habitat effects during construction and operation/maintenance of the Project



These assessments characterize biophysical features and other aspects at waterbodies, including waterbody name, watershed name, waterbody type, temperature, flow, channel characteristics, water quality cover, vegetation and presence of any barriers to fish passage (e.g., beaver dam).

Virtual Community Information Sessions

The Project Team is currently hosting virtual community information sessions for each community. These are one-on-one sessions. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and consultation approach and next steps.

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community’s invitation letter! In the invitation letter, we will provide a link to the session’s registration page and to the VR Open House created specifically for your community. If your community’s virtual information session has already occurred, you can visit supplyroad.ca/sessions/ to watch it again.



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events!

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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WSR Local Coordinator: leslies@webequie.ca (807-356-5078)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 13 – August 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the remaining virtual information sessions for Consultation Round 1, what Consultation Round 2 will look like, and information on our upcoming open house in Thunder Bay!

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021 the Project has entered the EA / IA phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. We are currently concluding our first round of consultation and will be moving into the second round.



Virtual Community Information Sessions

The Project Team will be wrapping up the remaining virtual community information sessions in the next couple weeks. During these one-on-one sessions with Indigenous communities, the Project Team has shared information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, and consultation approach and next steps.

If your community has not had their information session yet, stay tuned and watch for your invitation letter! In the invitation letter, we provide a link to the session's registration page and to the VR Open House created specifically for your community. The specific link to your community's WSR website page will be: **[supplyroad.ca/\[community name\]](https://supplyroad.ca/[community name])**

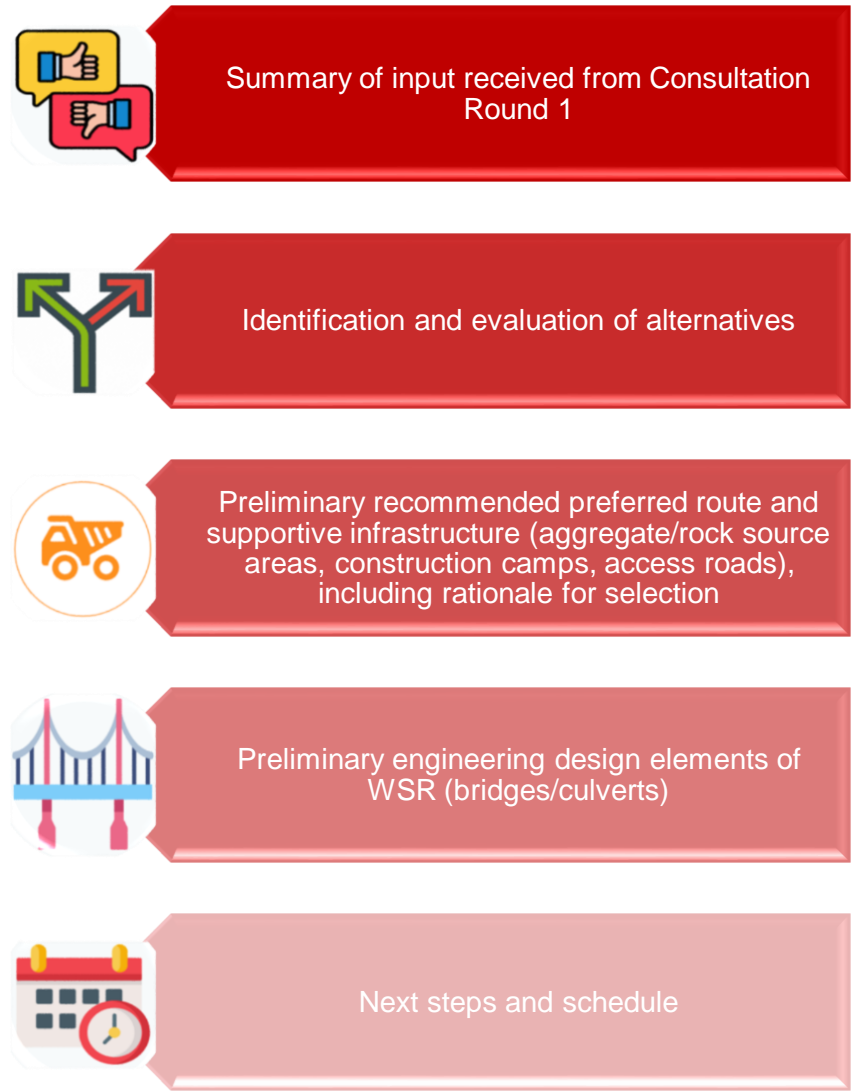
If your community's virtual information session has already occurred, you can visit **supplyroad.ca/sessions/** to watch it again at any time. We encourage community members to watch their information session and ask the Project Team questions!



We are also available for additional engagement sessions with communities and would be happy to meet with communities virtually or in-person following COVID protocols.

Consultation Round 2

The Project Team will be completing Consultation Round 1 in the next few weeks and will be moving into Round 2, which will focus on the following topics:



WSR Open House

The WSR Project Team will be hosting an Open House for all community members at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay on Thursday, August 25, 2022.

There will be two open house sessions: the first will take place from 2pm-5pm, with a presentation starting at 2pm and the second will take place from 6pm-9pm with a presentation starting at 6pm.

We welcome all community members to join the discussion, share feedback, and ask questions!



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events!

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Webequie First Nation Newsletter
Issue 6 – September 2022*

Greetings!

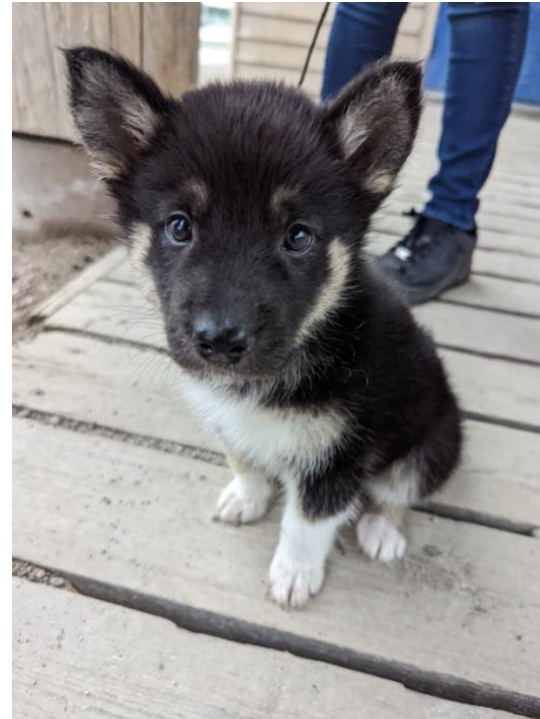
The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team is writing to provide the Webequie First Nation community a project update. Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved, the Project Team has been working on the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment phase of the Project.

This newsletter will provide an update on project activities, such as recent and upcoming community visits to Webequie First Nation (WFN), our Open House that took place in Thunder Bay over the Summer, and information about various surveys and discussions that the WFN community can participate part in.



Community Visit – July 26 & 27, 2022

On July 26 and 27, 2022 a few of the WSR Project Team members visited WFN to attend the summer festival in the community. Thank you to the community for the warm welcome. The team had a great visit and made some new friends!



Upcoming Community Visit – Fall 2022

The WSR Project Team will be visiting the WFN community again in Fall 2022 to collect socio-economic information by engaging with Elders, Land Users, and Youth. They will also be engaging for the Indigenous Knowledge / Land Resource Use program as well as conducting Country Foods and Human Health surveys.

Country Foods and Human Health Surveys



What is the Country Foods Survey?

We will be gathering information about the country foods consumed in the community. Completing the Country Foods survey will help us learn about country foods and traditional practices in the community, so that we can understand the potential effects of the WSR on country foods and traditional practices.

What is the Human Health Survey?

We will be gathering information about the health of the community to understand the potential effects of the WSR on physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being. Completing the Human Health survey will help us understand the potential effects of the WSR on the community's health.



Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program

Socio-economics gives us information about the jobs, income, and education of a community.

The *goal* of the program is to characterize the extent to which the community's socio-economic well-being could be affected (positively and negatively) because of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the WSR. We are currently trying to gather information about socio-economics in communities that might be impacted by the supply road.

Indigenous Knowledge / Land Resource Use Program

The *purpose* of this program is to promote sharing of IKLRU information relevant to the program, to help identify potential effects of the Project (including on Indigenous rights and interests), and to work with communities to enhance positive impacts or identify ways to mitigate potential effects on Indigenous rights and interests.

WSR Open House – August 25, 2022

The WSR Project Team hosted an Open House for all community members at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay on Thursday, August 25, 2022. A total of 24 people attended the sessions. The Open House gave community members the opportunity to learn more about the Project at its current stage, join the discussion, share feedback, and ask questions! The main concern that we heard was the need for the incorporation of Indigenous ways of communication in the process and the critical need for infrastructure in the communities.



*We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during **our live streaming events which will be resuming in the coming weeks...stand by!***

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter
Issue 14 – September 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on what Consultation Round 2 will look like, Socio-Economic and Indigenous Knowledge / Land and Resource Use Programs, and our Open House that took place in Thunder Bay in August.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

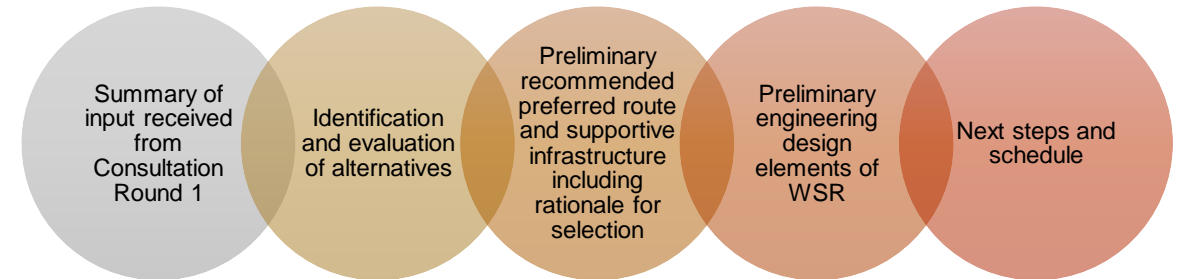
Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. We have concluded our first round of consultation and will be moving into the second round.



Consultation Round 2

The Project Team has completed Consultation Round 1. Stay tuned as the team will be sending out copies of the Record of Consultation with the results of Consultation Round 1 to your community!

The team will be moving into Round 2, which will focus on the following topics:



Indigenous Knowledge / Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program

Webequie First Nation is conducting an IKLRU Program for the WSR Project. The information gathered through the IKLRU Program will be used alongside scientific approaches to increase our understanding of how the WSR Project may affect the environment and communities.

If your community is interested in participating in the IKLRU Program, the WSR Project team is available to meet with your community in-person or virtually to discuss the scope of the IKLRU Program and how it will be carried out in terms of the study area, valued components, criteria and indicators, and community participation.



Socio-Economic Program

A key component to the EA/IA process is to collect socio-economic information within the project study area to help us understand the current social and economic conditions to create a socio-economic baseline to assess and predict the changes to current conditions. The objective of the study is to characterize the extent to which community socio-economic well-being may be affected (both positively and negatively) by the construction and operation/maintenance of the WSR Project.

The Project Team is seeking participation from Indigenous communities to discuss and collect socio-economic information or verify information gathered to date based on current research.

Virtual Community Information Sessions

The Project Team has wrapped up the remaining virtual community information sessions. During these one-on-one sessions with Indigenous communities, the Project Team has shared information about the EA/IA activities including consultation and engagement to date, study plans, assessment approach, valued components, Indigenous knowledge, consideration and evaluation of alternatives, consultation approach and next steps.

To access a virtual information session that has already occurred, you can visit **supplyroad.ca/sessions/** to watch it again at any time. We encourage community members to watch their information session and ask the Project Team questions about the Project!



WSR Open House – August 25, 2022

The WSR Project Team hosted an Open House for all community members and the public at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay on Thursday, August 25, 2022. A total of 24 people attended the sessions. The Open House gave community members and the public the opportunity to learn more about the Project at its current stage, join the discussion, share feedback, and ask questions. The main concern that we heard was the need for the incorporation of Indigenous ways of communication in the process and the critical need for infrastructure in the communities.



*We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during **our live streaming events which will be resuming in the coming weeks...stand by!***

Stay Tuned!

Keep watching for our next Project update and livestreams in the coming weeks. For additional information on the project, please visit our project website at: www.supplyroad.ca or by contacting:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 15 – October 2022*



Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the Environmental Effects Assessment, Baseline Studies, and the Radio Show and Livestream Schedule for October.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. We have concluded our first round of consultation and will be moving into the second round.

Environmental Effects Assessment

What is the environmental effects assessment?

The *Ontario Environmental Assessment Act* requires an assessment of the potential environmental effects, evaluation of alternatives, description of potential impacts, identification of mitigation measures and description of the net effects of the Project on the environment.

The assessment approach for the Project is guided by the Webequie First Nation Three-Tier approach to consultation which focuses on respectful engagement with neighbouring First Nations to acknowledge and reflect the culture, traditions and beliefs of their people and ancestors.



Baseline Studies

What is a baseline study?

A baseline study is a collection of data about potential project areas before the project begins. It provides a detailed description of the current state of the Natural, Socio-Economic, and Cultural environments in a potential project area through several data collection methods.

How will baseline data be collected?

Baseline data will be gathered from:

- Government agencies and other stakeholders.
- Published and unpublished data sources.
- Indigenous Knowledge from WFN and other Indigenous communities that will be incorporated into aspects of the EA, subject to consultation with and willingness of traditional knowledge holders and communities.

- For existing *environmental* conditions, the Project will use sources such as:
- Previously conducted environmental studies, including Indigenous Knowledge obtained through consultation with Indigenous communities.
 - Regulatory Databases.
 - Aerial Photography.
 - Geographic Information System (GIS) databases.
 - Academic literature.
 - Information obtained from regulatory agencies and other stakeholders.
 - Field investigations.
 - First-hand Consultation with Indigenous communities.

Baseline Study Environments

Natural Biophysical Environment

- Terrestrial Environment (Vegetation, Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat)
- Aquatic Environment
- Species at Risk
- Air Quality
- Climate Change
- Acoustic Environment (Noise and Vibration)
- Surface Water, including Hydrology and Water Quality
- Groundwater
- Geology, Terrain, and Soils, including Geochemistry

Socio-Economic Environment

- Profiles of Indigenous Communities - Population, Demographics, Education, Household Composition and Infrastructure, Social Services
- Traditional Land and Resource Uses
- Regional and Local Economies

Cultural Environment

- Archaeological Resources
- Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

Radio Show and Livestream Schedule

The WSR radio show and livestreaming event has resumed on October 11, 2022. See more information below about our upcoming livestream topics this month.

Date	Topic
October 11, 2022	Baseline Field Studies – Preliminary Observations: Caribou
October 25, 2022	Baseline Field Studies – Preliminary Observations: Wolverine



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

For additional information on the project, please visit our project website at: www.supplyroad.ca or by contacting:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 16 – November 2022*



Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Consultation Progress Report Round 1 and baseline study findings – ground water updates.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

Consultation Progress Report Round 1

The WSR Project team has just concluded our first round of consultation which occurred in the Spring/Summer of 2022. The Consultation Progress Report for Round 1 was delivered to your community. This report provides an overview of engagement activities to-date, as well as community-specific summaries of engagement, community feedback and input provided by community members. Our Project Team is available to discuss the contents of the Consultation Progress Report, and we hope this provides an additional opportunity for the community to learn about the Project and to raise any concerns or comments about potential effects to your community.



Baseline Study Findings - Groundwater Update

As part of the EA / IA, baseline conditions need to be established to understand existing environmental conditions, or the way things are now, before the Project is developed. Groundwater monitoring was done in 2021/2022 as part of this work to establish baseline conditions.

To understand groundwater quality and quantity (e.g., flow and level below the ground) in the study area, the Project Team gathered and reviewed publicly available data (e.g., well records), as well as installed 12 monitoring wells along the corridor for the WSR and at potential aggregate source areas. The monitoring wells were sampled over a 2-year period (2020-2021). A summary of the preliminary results to date are as follows:

Groundwater Levels

Along Corridor for WSR	At Potential Aggregate/Rock Source Areas
At underlying soil areas range from 0.1 m to 0.5 m below grade	At underlying soil areas range from 1 m to 3.1 m below grade
At bedrock areas ranged from 0.1 to 0.6 m below rock.	At bedrock areas ranged from 2.4 m to 3 m below rock.

Groundwater Flow

There are a total of 26 water crossings along the proposed corridor for the WSR. Within the drainage areas of these waterbodies, groundwater is expected to flow towards the waterbodies which in most cases is an easterly or westerly direction.

Groundwater at the broader regional level flows north to northeast towards Hudson Bay in the western portion of the study area for Project and northeast towards James Bay for eastern portion of the Project.

Groundwater Quality

Groundwater samples from monitoring wells were analyzed for different parameters such as general chemistry (e.g., alkalinity, pH), metals (e.g., iron, lead) and petroleum hydrocarbons, with the results compared to Canada and Ontario drinking water guidelines. For the most part, all measured parameters are within limits of the guidelines, which was expected as the study area is largely undeveloped with no sources of contamination. However, some naturally occurring metals (e.g., iron) did exceed the guidelines due to bedrock/soil conditions in the study area.



Radio Show and Livestream Schedule

The WSR radio show and livestreaming events have resumed. See more information below about our upcoming livestream topics this month.

Date	Topic
November 8, 2022	Baseline Field Studies – Preliminary Observations: Fish and Fish Habitat
November 22, 2022	Building Roads in Muskeg Areas/James Bay Lowlands



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

For additional information on the project, please visit our project website at: www.supplyroad.ca or by contacting:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

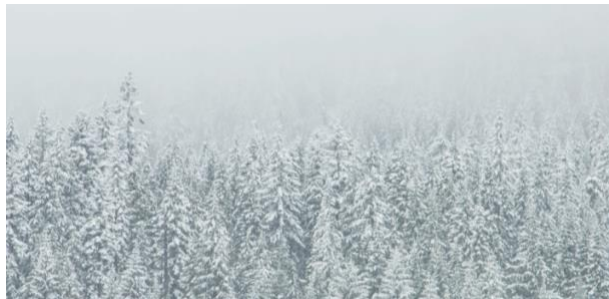
Community Newsletter
Issue 17 – December 2022

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on cumulative effects and surface water baseline study findings.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021 the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA/IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. We have concluded our first round of consultation and will be moving into the second round.



Cumulative Effects

What are Cumulative Effects?

Cumulative effects are changes to the environment, health, social or economic conditions from the Project in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future physical activities.

Examples of cumulative effects include:

- Destruction of fish habitat from multiple physical activities such as construction, release of wastewater from industrial facilities, and illegal sanitary sewer connections causing direct release of pollutants or contaminants into watercourses.
- Damage to sacred sites, ceremonial grounds and burial sites by vegetation removal, excavation, and landfilling.

Cumulative Effects Study Plan

A cumulative effects study plan has been developed for WSR and includes methods for the cumulative effects assessment and a list of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future physical activities that are being considered in the assessment (refer to project website <https://www.supplyroad.ca/>). Indigenous communities/groups, the public, government authorities and stakeholders are welcome to provide comments study plan and Indigenous communities will be offered targeted consultation opportunities to provide feedback on the cumulative effects assessment.

General Steps in the Cumulative Effects Assessment

1. **Scoping** - Identifying valued components (VC) for which residual effects are expected, determining the spatial and temporal boundaries applicable to the VCs, and identifying physical activities, which may interact with the predicted WSR residual effects within the identified boundaries.
2. **Analysis** - Determining how the physical activities identified in the 'Scoping' step affect the VCs carried forward from the Scoping within the determined spatial and temporal boundaries.
3. **Mitigation** - Eliminate, reduce, or control negative residual effects.

4. *Determination of Significance* of any remaining adverse effects following mitigation.
5. *Follow-up Programs* - As required, to address cumulative effects, verify the accuracy of predictions in the effects assessment, and determine effectiveness of the implemented mitigation measures.

Surface Water Update

As part of the EA/IA, baseline conditions need to be established to understand the way things are now before the Project is developed. To understand surface water quality and quantity in the study area, the Project Team gathered and reviewed publicly available data and completed field surveys over a 3-year period in Summer 2019, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 to capture changes from year-to-year and season-to-season. Field surveys were completed at 19 of 26 water crossings of the WSR corridor. A summary of the preliminary results to date are below:

Surface Water Usage

Our research of the provincial permitting system found that there are no active registered water taking activities occurring at lakes and rivers in the Local Study Area (LSA) for the Project. However, some water taking was identified in the Regional Study Area (RSA) along the Attawapiskat River, the majority of which are registered for the purpose of mineral exploration and development activities. There are also several registered water taking permits in the Wunnumin Lake and Kasabonika Lake areas associated with the construction of the Wataynikanyep Transmission Line Project.

Water Supply for Indigenous Communities

The only drinking water supply source in the study area is Webequie First Nation (WFN), which draws water from Winisk Lake. WFN's water treatment plant is in the community. As part of the current Indigenous Knowledge program for the Project, further information on water supply sources may be identified by Indigenous communities.

Surface Water Quantity of Watersheds and River Systems

A hydrological analysis has been completed to determine peak flows and high-water levels at each of the 26 watercourse crossings of the WSR corridor. This also includes characterizing the drainage area, slope of stream channels and average annual flow at each

watercourse. The RSA for the Project is contained within the Hudson-James Bay Basin primary watershed, which drains 3.8 million km², roughly 38% of Canada's land area. The WSR corridor crosses the Attawapiskat, Ekwan, and Winisk secondary watersheds, which collectively drain a land area of approximately 180,000 km².

Surface Water Quality

Surface water samples collected at waterbodies were analyzed for different parameters such as general chemistry (e.g., alkalinity, pH), metals (e.g., iron, lead) and petroleum hydrocarbons, with the results compared to Canada and Ontario water quality guidelines. Based on the water quality sampling completed for the Project and review of sampling results from others in the study area (147 streams and 24 lakes), for the most part all recorded parameters are within limits of the guidelines which was expected as the study area is largely undeveloped with no sources of contamination. However, some naturally occurring metals (e.g., iron, aluminum) did exceed the guidelines due to bedrock/soil conditions in the study area.

Happy Holidays

The WSR Project team would like to wish your community a happy and safe holiday season!



Stay Tuned!

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APPENDIX P2.B.3

Newsletters Sent in Year 2023

and Yellow Perch. From the assessment of habitat characteristics and fish sampling, a habitat sensitivity rating has been assigned to each waterbody crossings of the WSR and concluded that 12% of the waterbodies were rated as rare, 0% were rated as high, 84% were rated as moderate, and 4% were rated as low.



Walleye caught from the Muketei River

Happy New Year!

The WSR Project team would like to wish your community a prosperous new year!



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WSR Local Coordinator: leslies@webequie.ca (807-356-5078)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

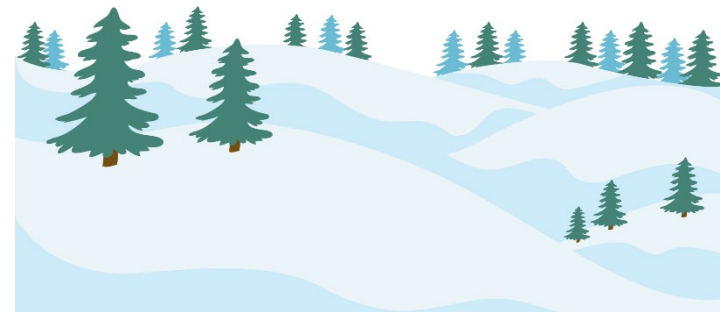
*Community Newsletter
Issue 18 – January 2023*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Consultation Round 2 and baseline study findings – fish and fish habitat.

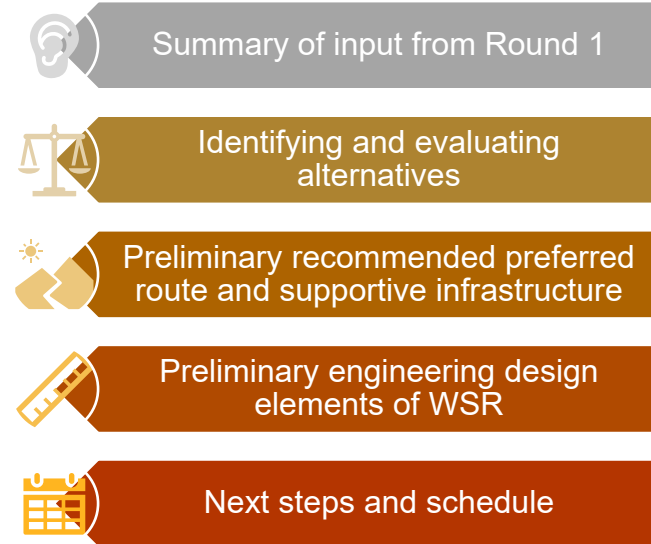
Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Consultation Round 2

The WSR Project team will be moving into Round 2 of consultation. Stay tuned as the team has mailed the Record of Consultation with the results of Round 1 to your community. During Round 2 of consultation, the team will focus on the following topics:



Fish and Fish Habitat Studies

As part of the EA / IA, baseline conditions need to be established to understand existing environmental conditions, or the way things are now, before the Project is developed. To understand fish and fish habitat in the study area, the Project Team gathered and reviewed publicly available data and completed field habitat assessments in 2019 and 2020 at twenty-six (26) waterbody crossings, which included sampling of fish and aquatic creatures that live at the bottom of rivers and lakes. As part of the assessment, fish habitat quality, quantity and sensitivity (e.g., spawning habitat) in the study area were documented.

A summary of the preliminary results to date are below: The study area for the WSR Project includes many rivers and lakes that provide fish habitat and support many different fish species that require cool and cold-water conditions. The fish surveys conducted indicated that the large rivers have fish that Indigenous people (e.g., Webequie First Nation) regularly catch and eat, such as Walleye, Brook Trout, and Lake Whitefish. Many smaller watercourses connected to the larger rivers provide good habitat for Walleye and Northern Pike. Other typical species found include Yellow Perch, White Sucker, and many other small fish species, such as Fathead Minnow, Brook Stickleback and Mottled Sculpin.



Lake Whitefish caught from the Winiskis Channel



Cisco (top) and Lake Whitefish (bottom) caught from Winisk Lake

Overall, the results of the background research found there are thirty-two (32) known fish species with the potential to occur in the study area for the Project, including one aquatic species at risk (Lake Sturgeon). A total of seventeen (17) different species were captured by the Project Team biologists with the most common species sampled being Northern Pike and White Sucker. Other species with a wide distribution included Walleye



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 19 – February 2023*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on the alternatives assessment process and the Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Forum in Thunder Bay.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Alternatives Assessment Process

The EA Act requires proponents to conduct an alternatives assessment to demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred alternative in comparison to other alternatives considered. The WSR Project team will be consulting Indigenous communities on the Alternatives Assessment Process during Round 2 of consultation and will cover the following topics in more detail:

- An Overview of the Alternatives Assessment Process
- Alternatives Routing in the Preferred Corridor
- Evaluation of Alternative Road Corridors
- Proposed Criteria and Indicators for Evaluation of Road Corridor Alternatives
- Analysis of Alternatives – Multiple Accounts Analysis
- Evaluation of Alternatives for Supportive Infrastructure (i.e., camps, laydown areas, aggregate/rock sources, access roads)
- Proposed Criteria and Indicators for Evaluation of Alternatives for Supporting Infrastructure

There are two types of alternatives that are considered:

1. **Alternatives to the undertaking** - different ways of addressing an identified problem or opportunity to arrive at the preferred planning solution.
 - This assessment has been completed. Based on the evaluation, the preferred alternative is the construction of a new all-season road between WFN and the mineral exploration and proposed mine activities in the McFaulds Lake area.
2. **Alternative methods for carrying out the Project** - options for implementing the Project.



Proposed Criteria for the Evaluation of Road Corridor Alternatives

In order to evaluate alternative methods for carrying out the Project, criteria and indicators needed to be established. Some examples of the criteria to be used in the EA are as follows:

Natural Environment

- Upland Ecosystems, Riparian Ecosystems and Wetlands
- Fish and Aquatic Habitat
- Federal or Provincial Species at Risk
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
- Significant Ecological Area
- Migratory Birds

Socio-Economic

- Traditional Land and Resource Uses (hunting, gathering, fishing, trapping)
- Commercial Activities and Labour Market
- Community Health and Well-Being
- Mineral and/or Aggregate Resources
- Recreational Activities (camps, trails, outfitters, movements of small watercraft)
- Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest or Conservation Reserves

Cultural Environment

- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests
- Archaeological Resources
- Burial Sites
- Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

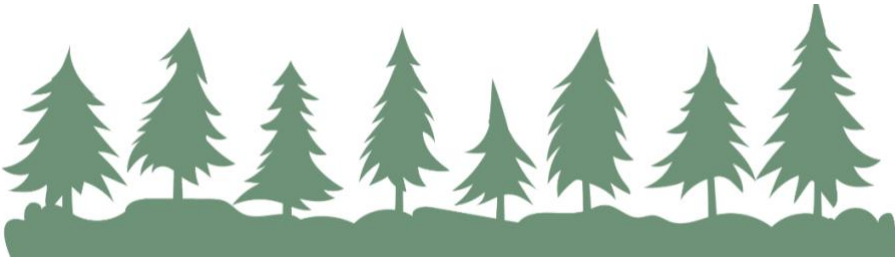
Technical Considerations

- Safety and Reliability
- Constructability
- Cost
- Location of Supportive Infrastructure (aggregate supply areas, camps, laydown/storage yards, access roads)

The criteria, indicators and evaluation methods will be further developed, refined and finalized during the EA process in consultation with Indigenous communities, government ministries and agencies, the public and any other interested persons or groups.

Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Forum

On February 8 & 9, 2023, the WSR Project team attended the Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Forum in Thunder Bay, hosted by the Province of Ontario. The purpose of the forum was to provide a respectful, culturally-sensitive, and collaborative space to discuss potential impacts to northern Indigenous communities' Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests as they relate to the following Projects: the WSR, Northern Road Link, and Marten Falls Community Access Road.



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events which will be resuming in the coming weeks...stand by!

Stay Tuned!

For additional information on the project, please visit our project website at:

www.supplyroad.ca or by contacting:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Webequie First Nation Newsletter

Issue 8 – March 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team is writing to provide the Webequie First Nation (WFN) community a project update. Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved, the Project Team continues to progress the Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) phase of the Project and has begun Round 2 of consultation.

This newsletter will provide an update on project activities, such as the WSR Project Team's visit to WFN in February and the team's tentative upcoming visit to the community in May for Human Health engagement.



Page 1

WSR Project Team Community Visit – February 2023

In February, the WSR Project Team visited Webequie First Nation (WFN) to conduct activities for the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program. During the visit, the Project team conducted an Elders focus group consisting of 10 WFN members and a land users' focus group consisting of 4 WFN members. Due to the cold weather, the Project team also hosted a youth board games event where 2 WFN members attended. The Project team also administered the Country Foods survey which was available to complete in hard copy or online. Two interview sessions were conducted with Tikinagan Child & Family Services and Infrastructure and Public Works. During this visit, the WSR Project Team hosted a community breakfast. The WSR Project Team enjoyed spending time with community members!



Photo credit: SNC Lavalin from the elders focus group.

Photo credit: Leslie Spence of WFN, from the community breakfast.



Page 2

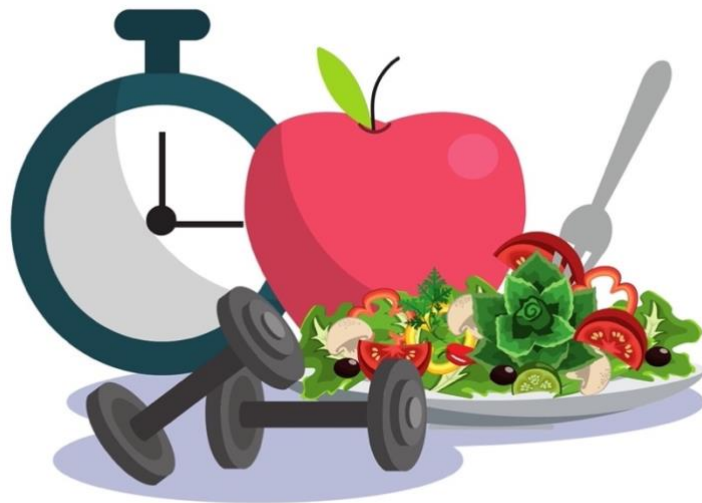
Tentative Upcoming Community Visit – May 2023

The Project team will tentatively be coming to WFN in May 2023 to conduct engagement activities for the human health study.

Human Health Study

The goal of human health study is to develop a baseline community health profile of WFN and other Indigenous communities potentially affected by the WSR, then evaluate the potential effects on their health and well-being. WFN will be most affected by the WSR due to the community’s close proximity to the Project and can be considered to be representative of the greatest magnitude and extent of potential health effects. However, the assessment will also consider the effects on other communities.

Many health areas will be assessed including: mental health & well-being, social well-being, health behaviour, physical well-being, recreational activity, spiritual well-being, community well-being, public safety, and healthcare services. The consultation activities and social research methods that will help inform this study include household surveys, key informant interviews, focus groups, and Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use studies.



Virtual Information Sessions Round 2

The Project team has started conducting Virtual Community Information Sessions for Round 2. On March 14, 2023, the Project team held the Virtual Information Session for WFN to share the EA/IA Activities including: project update, consultation and engagement activities to date, alternatives assessment process, and next steps. If you have missed this session, you can view it at: www.supplyroad.ca/sessions/

The Project team has also made available the WSR Virtual Reality (VR) Open House where you can access further information about the project, the studies being undertaken, and provide comments. The Virtual Reality (VR) Open House is available to WFN at: www.supplyroad.ca/webequie/



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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Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)
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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 20 – March 2023*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on Consultation Round 2 topics, the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Resource Use Program, and the Radio and Livestream schedule for March.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Consultation Round 2

The WSR Project Team has started Round 2 of consultation focusing on the following topics:

- Summary of input received from Consultation Round 1
- Identification and evaluation of alternatives
- Preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection
- Preliminary engineering design elements of WSR
- Next steps and schedule



Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program

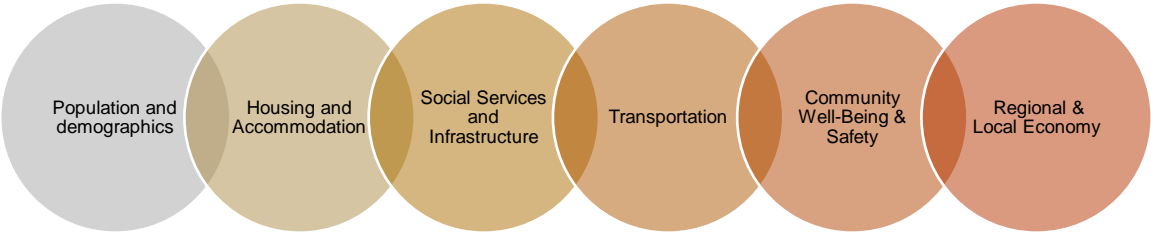
The Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program is an important component of the EA/IA process to collect socio-economic information within the project study area to help us understand the current social and economic conditions to create a baseline to assess and predict the changes to current social and economic conditions. Primary data is information that is collected first-hand directly with community members about issues and conditions of the community.

Our team has a timeline for the EA/IA process to complete our studies and document the results. The goal this year is to complete a draft Socio-Economic Existing Conditions Report, which documents the socio-economic baseline conditions of the communities by June 16, 2023.

The study will involve:

- Collecting information on existing socio-economic conditions.
- Defining the study area(s) within which potential effects are considered.
- Assessing potential effects, both positive and negative.
- Identifying appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential effects or enhance positive effects.
- Identifying net effects following mitigation.
- Assessing cumulative effects.

The socio-economic program will collect information about:



Socio-Economic information will be gathered through:



Community Socio-Economic Survey

- Online survey, intercept survey, community sessions, drop-in sessions, or at scheduled open house events.



Focus Groups

- Groups comprised of 6-10 participants with a series of open-ended questions. One session will be held for each diverse population group such as women, men, Elders, youth, land users, knowledge keepers, etc.



Key Informant Interviews

- Conducted with individuals in the community who have special knowledge or information to contribute to the Socio-Economic study such as social & health, infrastructure, economic development, and housing.

Indigenous Knowledge and Land Resource Use Program

A critical component of the EA/IA is Indigenous Knowledge. The Project team will gather input through Indigenous Knowledge as part of the Indigenous Knowledge / Indigenous Land and Resource Use (IKLRU) Program.

The purpose of the IKLRU program is to:

- Promote the sharing of IKLRU information relevant to the Project
- Help identify potential effects of the Project, including those on Indigenous rights and interests
- Work with Indigenous communities to enhance positive impacts or identify ways to avoid/reduce potential effects on Indigenous rights and interests

Communities can share as much or as little knowledge as they wish, and in whatever form they prefer. Each participating community will be able to review the information used in the assessment report to ensure it has been represented in a respectful and accurate way.

Livestream and Radio Show Schedule

The WSR Project team has resumed the radio show and livestreaming events. See below the topics covered in March 2023:

Date	Topic
March 14, 2023	The Alternatives Assessment Process – An Overview
March 28, 2023	Alternatives Routing in the Preferred Corridor



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

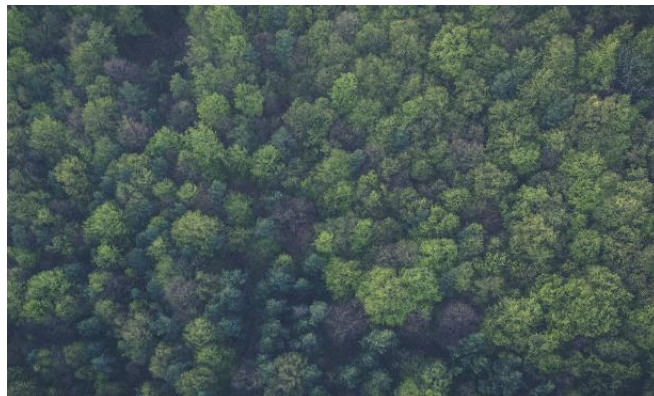
Community Newsletter
Issue 21 – April 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on the Human Health Study, Country Foods Assessment, and the Radio and Livestream schedule for April.

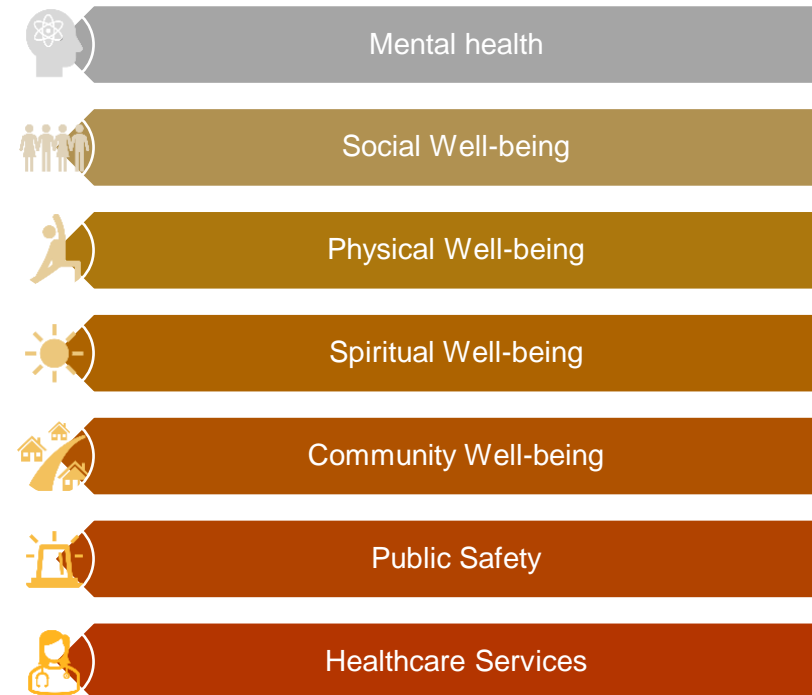
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Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

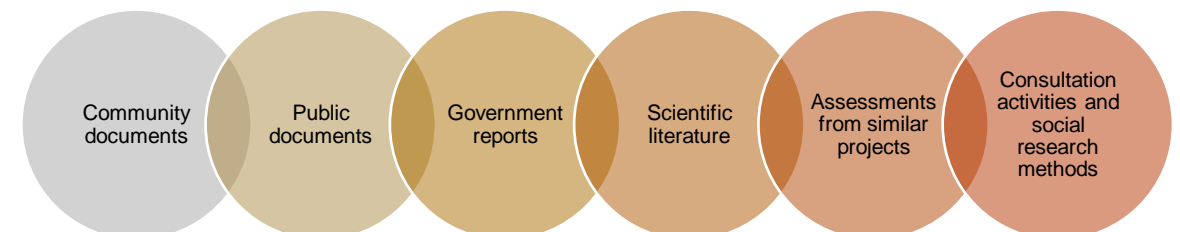


Human Health Study

The WSR Project health team is looking to conduct engagement for the Human Impact Assessment for the WSR Project. The goal of this study is to develop a baseline community health profile of Indigenous communities potentially affected by the WSR, and then evaluate the potential effects on their health and well-being. Health areas that will be assessed are:



Information for this program will be gathered through:



Some of the potential effects of the WSR on human health that will be assessed include:

- Air quality (vehicle emissions, GHG emissions, dust)
- Noise (from construction, increased vehicle and equipment usage)
- Drinking water (contamination, quality and quantity of available water)
- Soil quality
- Harvesting and consumption of foods (metals and metalloid contamination in food being consumed, quantity and quality of foods)

Country Foods Assessment

As part of the Health Impact Assessment study for the Project, a country food assessment is being conducted to identify all food that are trapped, fished, hunted, harvested or grown for consumption, medicinal purposes or have cultural value. Information on country foods is being collected from:

- Health and socio-economic surveys
- From the Project Team’s review of background studies
- Indigenous Knowledge from communities.



As part of the study samples from fish, wildlife and plants have been collected and analyzed for potential contaminants, such as metals (e.g., mercury). To date 29 fish tissue samples (Whitefish, Walleye, Northern Pike), 6 vegetation samples (White cedar, Sarsaparilla, Labrador tea and Wekay), 6 soil samples and 9 wildlife samples (Moose, Caribou, Bufflehead, Ruffed grouse, Snowshoe hare and Canada goose) have been collected and analyzed for potential contaminants. Findings of the country foods assessment will be integrated into the health assessment for the Project to inform on potential impacts to the health of Indigenous peoples, including changes to food security (e.g., consumption, availability, access) and connection to the land.

Livestream and Radio Show Schedule

The WSR Project team has resumed the radio show and livestreaming events. See below the topics covered in April 2023:

Date	Topic
April 12, 2023	The Evaluation of Alternative Road Corridors
April 25, 2023	Proposed Criteria and Indicators for Evaluation of Road Corridor Alternatives



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

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Livestream and Radio Show Schedule

The WSR Project team has resumed the radio show and livestreaming events. See below the topics covered in May 2023:

Date	Topic
May 9, 2023	Analysis of Alternatives - Multiple Accounts Analysis - What is it?
May 24, 2023	Evaluation of Alternatives for Supportive Infrastructure (i.e., camps, laydown areas, aggregate/rock sources, access roads)



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter
Issue 22 – May 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program, Indigenous Knowledge and Land Resource Use Program, and the Radio and Livestream schedule for May.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment (EA/IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program

The WSR Project health team is looking to conduct engagement for the collection of socio-economic information within the project study area. The study will help us understand the current social and economic conditions to create a socio-economic baseline to assess and predict the changes to current conditions. The objective of the study is to characterize the extent to which community socio-economic well-being may be affected (both positively and negatively) by the construction and operation/maintenance of the WSR Project.

The socio-economic program will collect information about:

Population and demographics

Housing and accommodation

Social services and infrastructure

Transportation

Community well-being and safety

Regional and local economy

Information will be collected through:

- Community Surveys
 - Online survey, intercept survey, community sessions, drop-in sessions, or at scheduled open house events.
- Focus Groups
 - Groups comprised of 6-10 participants with a series of open-ended questions. One session will be held for each diverse population group such as women, men, Elders, youth, land users, knowledge keepers.
- Key Informant Interviews
 - Conducted with individuals in the community who have special knowledge or information to contribute to the study.

Indigenous Knowledge and Land Resource Use (IKLRU) Program

As part of the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessments, the IKLRU Program is a critical component of the information base upon which the assessments will rely. The information generated through the IKLRU Program will be used in accordance with scientific approaches, and both knowledge systems will be given equal consideration in forming the foundation for baseline conditions, predicting potential project effects, including potential impacts to your community's inherent Indigenous rights and interests.

The Project team wants to learn more about your community from the community's perspective on a range of topics, including:



If your community is interested in participating in the Socio-Economic Primary Data Collection Program and/or the IKLRU Program, the WSR Project team is available to meet with your community in-person or virtually to discuss the scope of the programs and how it will be carried out in terms of the study area, valued components, criteria and indicators, and community participation.



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 23 – June 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the alternatives assessment process and the proposed criteria and indicators for evaluation of alternatives. We will also be providing information about upcoming livestream and radio show events.

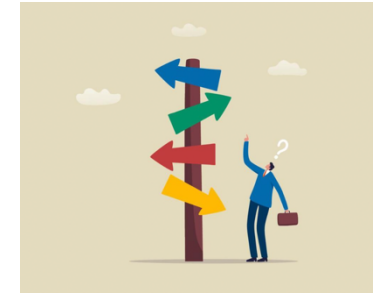
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Alternatives Assessment Process

The EA Act requires proponents to conduct an alternatives assessment to demonstrate the advantages and disadvantages of the preferred alternative in comparison to other alternatives considered. The WSR Project team will be consulting Indigenous communities on the Alternatives Assessment Process during Round 2 of consultation and will cover the following topics in more detail:

- An Overview of the Alternatives Assessment Process
- Alternatives Routing in the Preferred Corridor
- Evaluation of Alternative Road Corridors
- Proposed Criteria and Indicators for Evaluation of Road Corridor Alternatives
- Analysis of Alternatives – Multiple Accounts Analysis
- Evaluation of Alternatives for Supportive Infrastructure (i.e., camps, laydown areas, aggregate/rock sources, access roads)
- Proposed Criteria and Indicators for Evaluation of Alternatives for Supporting Infrastructure



There are **two types** of alternatives that are considered:

1. Alternatives to the undertaking

- Different ways of addressing an identified problem or opportunity to arrive at the preferred planning solution
- ***This assessment has been completed.*** Based on the evaluation, the preferred alternative is the construction of a new all-season road between WFN and the mineral exploration and proposed mine activities in the McFaulds Lake area

2. Alternative methods for carrying out the project

- Options for implementing the Project

Proposed Criteria for the Evaluation of Road Corridor Alternatives

In order to evaluate alternative methods for carrying out the Project, criteria and indicators needed to be established. Some examples of the criteria to be used in the EA are as follows:

Natural Environment

- Upland Ecosystems
- Riparian Ecosystems and Wetlands, Fish and Aquatic Habitat
- Federal or Provincial Species at Risk
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, Migratory Birds
- Significant Ecological Area

Socio-Economic

- Traditional Land and Resource Uses (hunting, gathering, fishing, trapping)
- Commercial Activities and Labour Market
- Community Health and Well-Being
- Mineral and/or Aggregate Resources
- Recreational Activities (camps, trails, outfitters, movements of small watercraft)
- Provincial Parks, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest or Conservation Reserves

Cultural Environment

- Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests
- Archaeological Resources, Burial Sites
- Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes

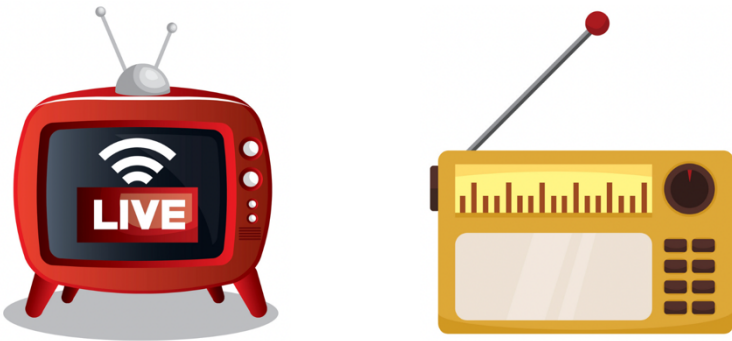
Technical Considerations

- Safety and Reliability
- Constructability, Cost
- Location of Supportive Infrastructure (aggregate supply areas, camps, laydown/storage yards, access roads)

Livestream and Radio Show Schedule

The WSR Project team has resumed the radio show and livestreaming events. See below the topics covered in July 2023:

Date	Topic
July 5, 2023	Construction Camps
July 18, 2023	Road Foundation Design



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 24 – July 2023*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the purpose of the WSR Project, road cross-section design, road foundation design, and watercourse crossings.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. The Project Team has started Round 2 of consultation focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Purpose of the Webequie Supply Road

The purpose of the WSR Project is to:

Move materials, supplies, and people from the Webequie Airport to the McFaulds Lake area

Provide employment and economic development opportunities to Webequie while preserving their language and culture

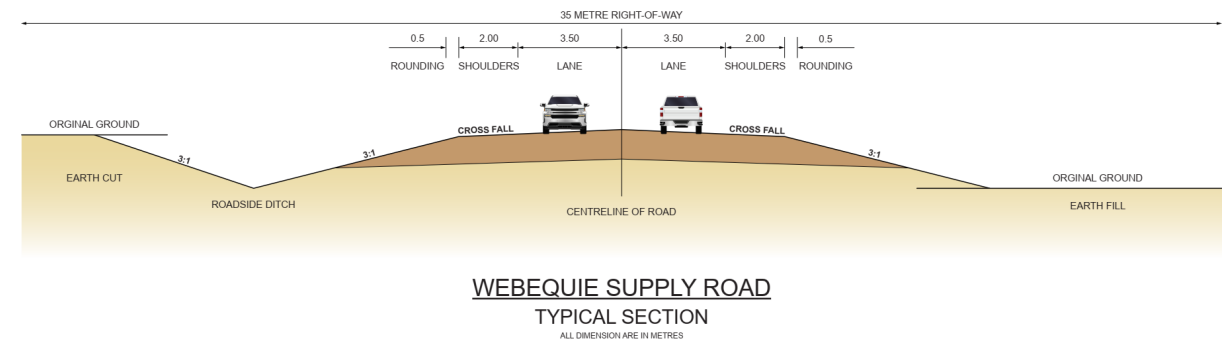
Provide experience/training opportunities for youth to help encourage the pursuit of additional skills through post-secondary education

Road Cross-Section Design

The term “cross section” is used to define the configuration of a proposed road at right angles to the centerline. Sections usually show the width, thickness, and descriptions of the pavement, as well as the geometrics of the graded roadbed, side ditches, and side slopes.

The cross-section for the road will consist of:

- Two travelled lanes of 3.5 m in width
- Shoulders of 2 m in width for each lane
- Total width of 11 m, excluding rounding of road shoulders



Road Foundation Design

The west half of the road in upland area has “fair to good soil conditions” and east half of the road in lowland area (peatland/muskeg) has “poor to very poor soil conditions” for building a road. The road in lowland area is designed as a “floating road” which will be constructed directly on top of the peat relying on the strength of the peat to support the road:



The road does not actually “float” on the peat but rather an equilibrium builds up between the weight of the road and the strength of peat whereby the combined system comes into balance. Engineering a floating road uses geotextile fabric and/or geogrid layer placed on the surface of the peat before the road is constructed to give it a working platform to evenly distributed the weight/load of the material placed.



Watercourse Crossings

The WSR Project will require 30 watercourse crossings and 1 lake crossing (Winisk Lake). Bridges are proposed over 6 large waterbodies and culverts are proposed at 25 smaller waterbodies. In selecting the type and size of structures for water crossings, numerous factors were considered:

- Constructability and remoteness of location
- Maintenance and life cycle of structure type
- Hydrology/surface water flow
- Physical and biological characteristics at waterbody sites (e.g., soil conditions, width of waterbody, fish/fish habitat sensitivity)
- Navigation of waterways by boats



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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:

Regional Consultation Lead: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for SNC-Lavalin: Don.Parkinson@snclavalin.com (416-540-1142)

WSR Local Coordinator: leslies@webequie.ca (807-356-5078)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

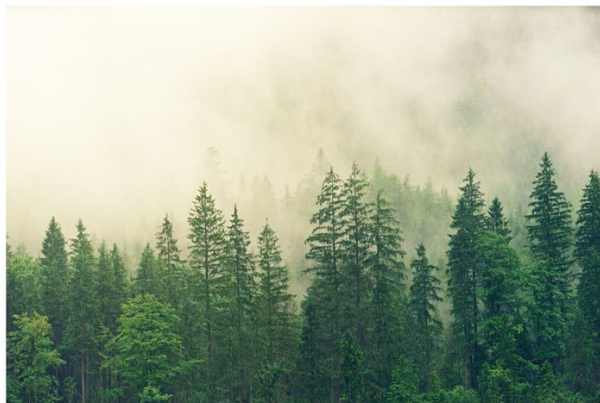
Community Newsletter

Issue 25 – August 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the alternatives assessment and construction camps.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects. The Project Team has started Round 2 of consultation focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Alternatives Assessment

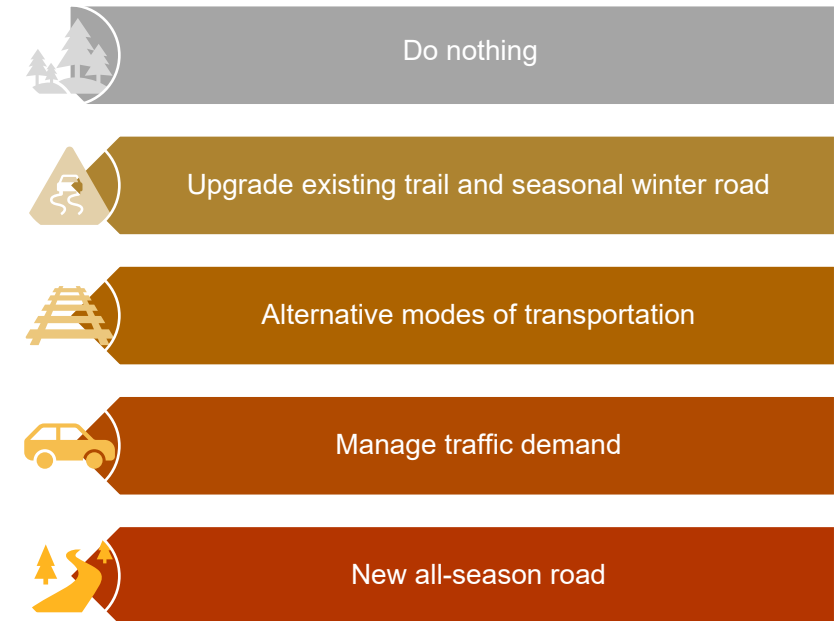
For every project, “a reasonable range of alternatives must be considered” during an environmental assessment. There are two environmental assessments going on:

- 1) Provincial - Environmental Assessment
- 2) Federal - Impact Assessment

Webequie is also doing their own internal assessment of the project. One report will be created at the end of the process for review by the Provincial and Federal governments.

Alternatives that are considered include:

⇒ **Alternatives to the Proposed Project** - Different ways of approaching and dealing with a problem/opportunity:



⇒ **Alternative Methods of Carrying Out the Project** - Different ways of doing the same activity:



Construction Camps

There are many different facilities that make up a construction camp, from the bunkhouse to construction offices and laydown/storage areas for equipment and materials. A total of four construction camps are planned along the length of the route to maximize construction efficiency and worker safety, located along the N-S and E-W segments of the road.

The construction camps may include:

- Accommodations (bunkhouse) for workers
- Construction office(s)
- Kitchen and dining hall
- First aid station
- Communications system
- Wastewater treatment system
- Groundwater water supply well
- Waste handling and storage facility area
- Electricity supply from diesel generators
- Above ground fuel storage tanks and refueling area
- Laydown/storage areas for equipment and materials

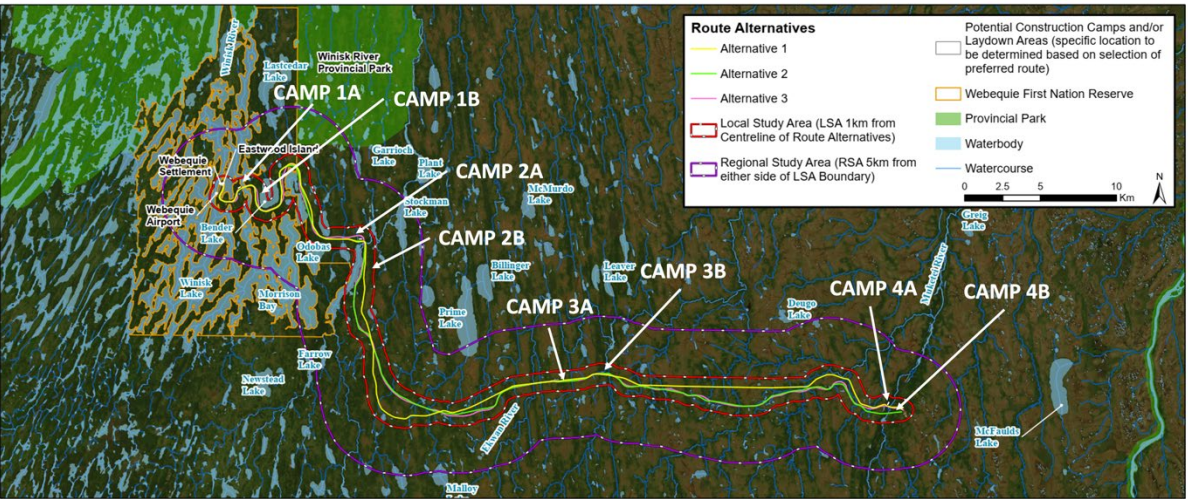


What Is Considered When Evaluating Camp Locations?

When evaluating potential camp locations, various factors are considered including biological/living environment, physical environment, Indigenous land / resource use and interests, socio-economic environment, and technical considerations. All potential camp locations will be evaluated using a multi-factor analysis to identify potential impacts of the road and its related infrastructure.

Potential Camp Locations

The locations of potential construction camps and/or laydown areas. Four camps are required for efficient construction, distributed along the preferred corridor. See image below for camp locations:



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events. The Project team is planning open houses for the fall – stay tuned for more updates and notices that will be sent out in the coming weeks!

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

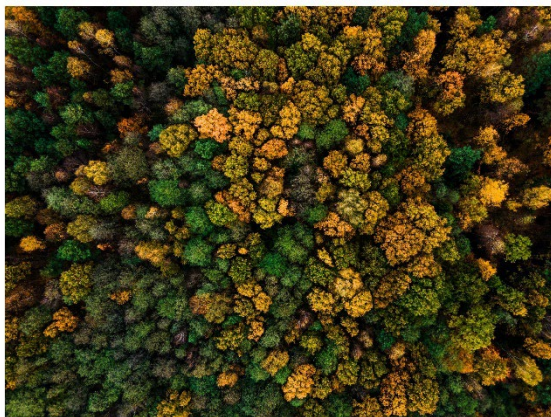
Community Newsletter Issue 26 – September 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan, and the Public Information Centre #2.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

The Project Team has started Round 2 of consultation focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests Study Plan

What is the purpose of the study?

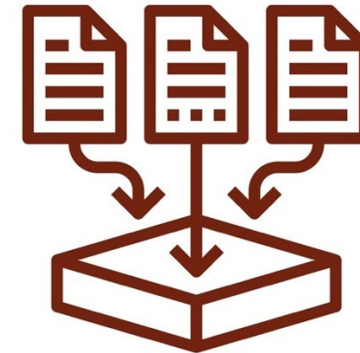
The primary purpose of the Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) Study Plan is to collaborate with Rights-holding Indigenous communities to understand existing ATRIs in the study area and to identify how the ability of the Rights-holding Indigenous communities to exercise their rights may be affected by the Project.

What are Aboriginal Treaty Rights and Interests?

For the purposes of the assessment, ATRIs are rights and interests defined by Rights-holding Indigenous communities, reflecting the full scope of potential/established Aboriginal and Treaty Rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. These include access to and use of lands and cultural continuity.

How will information be gathered?

The Project Team is seeking information from 22 Indigenous communities identified as having established or asserted Aboriginal and Treaty Rights that may be adversely affected by the Project and/or may have interests in the Project. The communities have been asked if they are willing to conduct Project specific Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and/or Indigenous Land and Resource Use Studies and provide the information from these studies to the Project team.



The information-gathering will be a two-step process:

1. Data Collection – Collection of existing Indigenous Knowledge and information on Indigenous land and Resource use that communities are prepared to share with the Project team
2. Project-specific IKLRU studies – information, data, maps, and reports will be compiled and incorporated into the Assessment.

What kind of information will be gathered?

The team is looking for Indigenous Knowledge about socio-economic impacts, the natural environment, the relationship between environmental changes and species or ecosystems, and how potential effects to the environment can be avoided or minimized. The type of information the Project Team will be seeking from the Indigenous communities includes:

- Patterns of species migration and areas frequented
- Areas of cultural and spiritual significance
- Quantity and quality of species harvested
- Uses of animals harvested
- Access to travel routes both historically and presently
- Changes to water and lands over time



The information gathered will be used alongside scientific approaches to increase understanding of how the Project may affect Indigenous communities. Both knowledge systems will be given equal consideration in predicting potential Project effects on ATRIs. In addition, validation with Indigenous communities will take place to make sure IKLRU information has been adequately, appropriately, and respectfully represented.

Community-specific IKLRU programs will be conducted alongside consultation and engagement activities with Indigenous communities. Methods of engagement include:

- Notification letters
- Community visits
- Meeting with off-reserve community members, tribal councils, and other interested stakeholders
- Radio and livestream information sessions
- Public notices and newspaper advertising
- Project website
- Project newsletters

Public Information Centre #2 – Thunder Bay and Timmins

Public Information Centres (PIC) are being held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing assessment of alternatives that is being conducted as part of the EA/IA study and provide feedback. The PIC will consist of a presentation followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the project. Project Team representatives will share information on EA/IA process, studies being conducted, criteria for evaluation of route alternatives and alternative locations for supportive infrastructure (e.g., aggregate source areas, construction camps) including results from the assessment, feedback we have heard to-date, and future consultation and engagement opportunities. The WSR Project team invites you to attend the PIC, which has been scheduled as follows:

October 3, 2023

PIC for Indigenous Communities

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre, 555 Arthur St W, Thunder Bay

October 4, 2023

PIC for the General Public

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre, 555 Arthur St W, Thunder Bay

October 12, 2023

PIC for the General Public

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Cedar Meadows Resort and Spa, 1000 Norman St, Timmins

If you cannot attend the in-person session, you can also find the formal notice, livestream, more information on the study and progress, and updates on our website:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/>.



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 27 – October 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Cumulative Effects and the Public Information Centres #2.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

The Project Team has started Round 2 of consultation focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Cumulative Effects

The primary purpose of this Assessment is to identify and assess how the effects from the Project overlap with the effects from other past, present, and future projects and activities in the region may combine to create additional environmental, health, social, and economic effects.

The Four Types of Cumulative Effects

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 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 physical/activity

What is the study area for the potential cumulative effects?

The study area boundaries for the assessment of cumulative effects will take into consideration the Project footprint, Local Study Area, and Regional Study Area identified for each valued component. It will include the geographical area that encompass other past, present, and future projects and physical activities that have potential to interact cumulatively with the WSR.

Valued Components: 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.

What is the timeline for potential cumulative effects?

The Assessment process will consider both the short and long-term cumulative effects that may result as part of the Project. The Project will occur in 2 phases:

1. Construction phase
2. Operations phase

The Project is proposed to be operated for an indeterminate time period; therefore, retirement is not anticipated and will not be considered in the Assessment.

How will cumulative effects be assessed?

By following a five-step framework:

1) Scoping

- Identifying expected environmental effects and other activities or projects that may interact

2) Analysis

- To determine how the Project related activities may change potential effects

3) Mitigation

- In order to eliminate, reduce, or control potential adverse effects

4) Determination of Significance

- To determine the significance of remaining potential adverse effects after mitigations are implemented

5) Follow up programs

What information is needed and how will it be collected?

Review of sources (including Indigenous Knowledge and land and resource 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. The Project team will also 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.

It is expected that there will be information gaps due to information on past projects having been archives, 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 information may be used for important information gaps.

Public Information Centre #2 – Thunder Bay and Timmins

The Project team held public information centre (PIC) #2 in Thunder Bay on October 3rd for Indigenous communities & 4th for the general public and Timmins on October 12th for the general public. The PIC's were held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing assessment of alternatives that is being conducted as part of the EA/IA study and provide feedback. The PIC consisted of a presentation followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the project. Project Team representatives shared information on EA/IA process, studies being conducted, criteria for evaluation of route alternatives and alternative locations for supportive infrastructure (e.g., aggregate source areas, construction camps) including results from the assessment, feedback we have heard to-date, and future consultation and engagement opportunities.

Photos from the Project team at the PIC in Thunder Bay at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre.



If you were unable to attend the PIC #2, you can find the formal notice, livestream, more information on the study and progress and updates on our project website:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/>.

Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Forum

Building on the momentum of the first Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Forum in February 2023, Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation encourage you to participate in a follow-up Forum on November 21-23, 2023 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, to discuss potential impacts to northern Indigenous communities' Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests as they relate to the WSR, Northern Road Link, and Marten Falls Community Access Road Projects. On Day 3 of the Forum, there will be a half-day discussion on Cumulative Effects as they relate to the Projects.

The Purpose of this Forum is to create a respectful, culturally-sensitive, and collaborative space to develop and/or confirm our understanding of the Project areas (WSR, MFCAR, and NRL) as your Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests may be impacted by these Projects. *Please note the purpose of this event is to discuss Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests and not to collect Indigenous Knowledge.*

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

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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Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 28 – November 2023

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on questions from the Public Information Sessions in Thunder Bay and Timmins, the Climate Change and Air Quality Study, and the Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Forum.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We are nearing the end of Round 2 of consultation that started in March 2023, focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Public Information Center #2 – Feedback and Questions

The Project team held public information centre (PIC) #2 in Thunder Bay on October 3rd for Indigenous communities and October 4th for the general public and Timmins on October 12th for the general public. The PIC's were held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing assessment of alternatives that is being conducted as part of the EA/IA study and provide feedback. The PIC consisted of a presentation followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the project. Project Team representatives shared information on EA/IA process, studies being conducted, criteria for evaluation of route alternatives and alternative locations for supportive infrastructure (e.g., aggregate source areas, construction camps) including results from the assessment, feedback we have heard to-date, and future consultation and engagement opportunities.

The questions that were asked covered the following topics:

Project timelines	Road design and muskeg	Release of carbon from the muskeg during excavation	Potential design through different types of muskeg
Types of aggregate	Who ultimately authorizes road construction?	Must certain communities give their blessing?	Is the process collaborative - between First Nations and/or with regulators?
Cost of the road	Cost of the current process	Road construction timeline	Road lifespan
Ownership/jurisdiction and maintenance	Differences between the IA and EA	Whether the road will be a toll road	

Climate Change and Air Quality Study

The main assessment goals of this study plan is to:

- Determine the Project’s expected production of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and effects on carbon sinks
- Determine the vulnerability and resilience of the Project and adjacent ecosystems to changing climatic conditions
- Determine the Project’s expected production of air contaminants (CAC) of concern and their effects on air quality in the project area

What are the Project’s potential emission/contaminant resources?

- Exhaust from construction equipment and road vehicles during the WSR construction phase
- Exhaust from public vehicles along the road and equipment involved with maintenance of road
- Heavy machinery used for vegetation clearing, material handling, and road construction
- Aggregate extraction and processing during construction
- Blasting activities (dust and explosives) during construction
- Diesel generators (power source) at the construction camps and maintenance yards



What are some of the potential measures that will be taken to reduce emissions of the Project?

Some of the potential measures that will be taken to reduce emissions of the Project include the use of low-carbon or renewable fuel in equipment and machinery, anti-idling practices for equipment, use of different construction materials, optimization of transportation of materials & equipment, and waste reduction measures.

Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Forum

Building on the momentum of the first Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests Forum in February 2023, Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation encourage you to participate in a follow-up Forum on November 21-23, 2023 at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay, to discuss potential impacts to northern Indigenous communities' Aboriginal and / or Treaty Rights and Interests as they relate to the WSR, Northern Road Link, and Marten Falls Community Access Road Projects. On Day 3 of the Forum, there will be a half-day discussion on Cumulative Effects as they relate to the Projects.

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 29 – December 2023

Happy Holidays!

The Webequie Supply Road Project Team would like to wish you a happy and safe holiday season!



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows (which will resume in the new year), and during our live streaming events (which will resume in the new year).

Stay Tuned!

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APPENDIX P2.B.4

Newsletters Sent in Year 2024



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

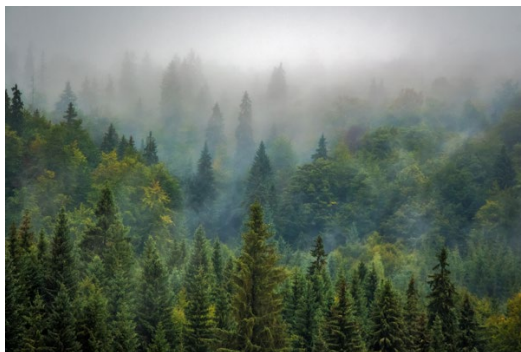
Community Newsletter
Issue 30 – January 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on groundwater and surface water study plan, vegetation study plan, and the resumption of the radio call-in shows and live streaming events.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We are nearing the end of Round 2 of consultation that started in March 2023, focusing on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Groundwater and Surfacewater Study Plan

The primary purpose of this plan is to:

- Collect information and data to describe existing surface water and groundwater conditions in the Project area to identify and consider potential effects as a result of the WSR Project
- Provide recommendations to minimize or avoid negative effects to groundwater and surface water during construction and operation/maintenance of the Project.

Where will the information be gathered from?

Secondary Sources:

- Geological survey of Canada physiographic regions map
- An Assessment of the Groundwater Resources of Northern Ontario
- Webequie monitoring and water quality data from community water supply (Winisk Lake) as well as other possible wells
- Environment Canada, Water Survey of Canada Monitoring Stations
- Archived and updated hydrometric data, Water Survey of Canada (WSC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Review of other EAs and studies in broader study area
- Indigenous Knowledge and community information.

Field Surveys:

- Groundwater Field Program
- Surface Water Field Program.



What is the Groundwater Field Program?

The purpose of this program is to collect groundwater samples to analyze their quality and composition in comparison to federal and provincial water quality guidelines. Sixteen groundwater monitoring wells are proposed to be installed along the proposed corridor for the WSR and within the aggregate extraction areas. The program will be supervised by engineers and geologists, along with a hydrogeologist who will design the work plan and provide expertise throughout the execution of the field program.

What is the Surfacewater Field Program?

The purpose of this program is to collect surface water samples from 26 of the identified waterbody crossings that exist along the proposed corridor for the WSR. The quality and composition of these water samples will be analyzed and compared to federal and provincial water quality guidelines. Surface water sampling will occur at different times of the year (excluding winter) to capture seasonal and annual variability.

What is being analyzed from these water samples?



What are the potential effects of the Project on groundwater and surface water?

- Changes to groundwater levels, quality, and flow movement
- Changes to steam flows, water quality, water levels (flooding) and natural erosion processes at waterbody crossings

Vegetation Study Plan

The primary purpose of this study plan is to classify the vegetation present in the study area that may be affected by the WSR, as well as the species that inhabit those vegetation types.

What will be assessed?

- Biodiversity
 - Species-level biodiversity
 - Community-level biodiversity
 - Landscape-level biodiversity
- Landcover assessment (Quantity, Availability, Quality)
- Conservation Status
- Edge Habitat
- Non-native/invasive species
- Interactions with other assessments
- Cultural significance or importance



What information is needed and how will it be collected?

Indigenous Knowledge from First Nation communities will be gathered to help understand plants harvested for food, medicinal or spiritual purposes, seek information on changes and trends (for example, climate change, vegetation) and include perspectives on how the Project may affect traditional land and resource uses in the study area. The Project Team will ensure that the information is protected, kept confidential, and appropriately and respectfully integrated into the wildlife assessment with the help of community knowledge holders and Elders.

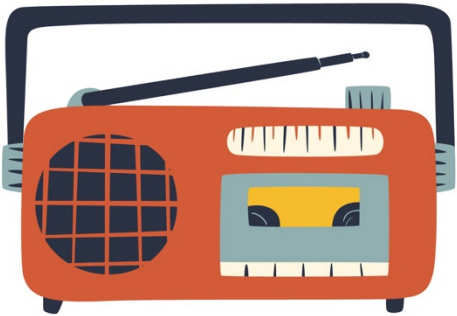
Other information that is needed include:

- Field Surveys
- Upland Vegetation Surveys
- Wetland Vegetation Surveys
- Riparian Vegetation Surveys
- Species at Risk Plant Surveys
- Indigenous Plants
- Wetlands Functions Assessment

Livestream and Radio Show Schedule

The WSR Project Team will be resuming the radio show and livestreaming events. See below the topics that will be covered in February 2024:

Date	Topic
February 5, 2024	How is Indigenous Knowledge used in the EA?
February 12, 2024	Caribou Study Results
February 20, 2024	The Floating Road
February 26, 2024	What are the Protections After the EA?



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

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capability of providing large amounts of data on the movements and habitat uses of a species over time. A three-year preliminary study period was recommended for the project.

Winter, aerial surveys were conducted by flying east-west transects (lines) over the chosen study area in a helicopter with three observers. Caribou distribution and occurrence data from aerial survey in 2018, 2019, and 2021 are presented in the table below:

Year	Percent of Transects	Animals/km	Occurrences/km
2018	25.4 %	0.0179	0.0352
2019	25.6 %	0.0073	0.0416
2021	83.0 %	0.448	0.455

Livestream and Radio Shows

The WSR Project Team has resumed live streaming and radio show events. See below the topics that will be covered in March 2024.

Date	Topic
March 4, 2024	How We Use Your IK in the EA
March 11, 2024	Caribou Study Results
March 18, 2024	The Floating Road
March 25, 2024	What are the Protections After the EA?



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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT
Community Newsletter
Issue 31 – February 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Consultation Round 3, wolverine study, caribou study, and the resumption of the radio call-in shows and live streaming events.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We are nearing the end of Round 2 of consultation that started in March 2023 and focused on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Consultation Round 3

The WSR Project team will be starting Round 3 of consultation which will focus on:

- Summary of input received from Consultation Round 2
- Summary of preliminary effects assessment of the Project, including cumulative effects
- Proposed impact management, mitigation and follow-up monitoring program
- Next steps in the EA/IA process

Wolverine Study



Wolverines are a threatened species in Ontario with a limited population restricted to remote northern areas of the province. As a part of the EA process for the proposed WSR Project, AtkinsRealis conducted surveys of Wolverines between 2018 and 2022 to assess their status within the area of that project. Two types of surveys were conducted: aerial tracking surveys and camera trap surveys.

Winter aerial surveys for Wolverines were conducted in 2018, 2019, and 2021. These surveys consisted of flying transects by helicopter until tracks were located, and then following the tracks until they either disappeared or led to an animal. The 2018 surveys resulted in 20 track observations but no animals observed. In 2019, 38 track observations were made along with one live Wolverine. In 2021 there were only 3 track occurrences, but significantly fewer transects were flown this winter.

Camera run pole surveys were conducted for Wolverines in 2021 and 2022. For this study, wooden structures called run poles were attached to trees and bait was suspended over them such that the Wolverine would have to climb up the structure to reach the bait. While

climbing up the run pole, ideally the Wolverines would reveal their distinctive chest patterns to the camera and leave hairs snagged on the structure, for visual and genetic individual and sex identification. Over the course of the 2 years of surveys, at least 12 individual Wolverines were identified, including 4 confirmed males and 5 confirmed females. 2 of the females demonstrated evidence of breeding within the study area, and an active den was also located in the area. Based on these results and comparing with other studies of Wolverines in Ontario, the WSR study area contains a high density of Wolverine activity relative to other areas of their range in the province.



Caribou Study

Caribou exist as two distinct populations in Ontario, the Boreal and Eastern Migratory populations. The Boreal population is distributed broadly across Northern Ontario from the Québec to the Manitoba border. The Eastern Migratory population uses tundra and forest-tundra transitional zones along the Hudson Bay coast during the spring and summer periods. Movement and habitat use by this population is complex, but males are thought to remain in the forest and forest-tundra areas during the spring calving season, while females move further north to the calving grounds. Forest-associated boreal caribou moving north will intermingle with tundra-associated migratory caribou that have moved south. Individual Caribou from either population are indistinguishable in the field, based in physical characteristics. The Boreal Population is listed as Threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario (SARO) List and receives species and habitat protection under the ESA, while the Eastern Migratory population is currently listed as Special Concern under the SARO and does not receive species or habitat protections.

AtkinsRealis biologists have studied Caribou using main methods: Winter aerial surveys and collaring. Winter, aerial surveys were conducted in 2018, 2019, and 2021, upon recommendation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to inventory the winter presence of Caribou and identify Caribou winter habitat in proximity to the proposed route (at the time). In 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) recommended the initiation of a Caribou collaring program. Collaring studies have the



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 32 – March 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Consultation Round 3, the road foundation design and the resumption of the radio call-in shows and live streaming events.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We are nearing the end of Round 2 of consultation that started in March 2023 and focused on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Consultation Round 3

The WSR Project team will be starting Round 3 of consultation which will focus on:

Summary of input
received from
Consultation Round 2

Summary of preliminary
effects assessment of
the Project, including
cumulative effects

Proposed impact
management,
mitigation and follow-up
monitoring program

Next steps in the EA/IA
process

What is Muskeg?

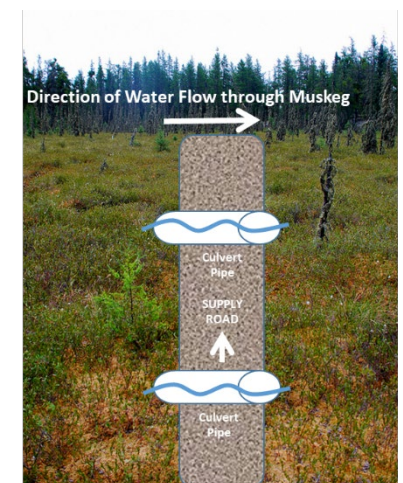
Muskeg (from Cree *maskek* and Ojibwe *mashkiig*, meaning “grassy bog”) is a type of northern landscape characterized by a wet environment, vegetation and peat deposits. It encompasses various types of wetlands found in the boreal zone, including bogs, fens, swamps and mires.

From the Canadian Encyclopedia:

- Floating “mat” of vegetation with a spongy or squishy feel when walked on
- Water flows very slowly in the muskeg

Water Flow Through Muskeg

Even though the road is “floating” on the muskeg – similar water levels need to be maintained on both sides of the road. This is to avoid water backing up on one side of the road and potentially causing stability issues.



Road Foundation Design

The west half of the road in the upland area has “fair to good soil conditions” and east half of the road in lowland area (peatland/muskeg) has “poor to very poor soil conditions” for building a road.

The road in lowland area is designed as a “floating road” which will be constructed directly on top of the peat relying on the strength of the peat to support the road.



The road does not actually “float” on the peat but rather an equilibrium builds up between the weight of the road and the strength of peat whereby the combined system comes into balance.

Engineering a floating road uses geotextile fabric and/or geogrid layer placed on the surface of the peat before the road is constructed to give it a working platform to evenly distribute the weight/load of the material placed.

Road Construction in Muskeg

Peat is too thick and too poorly drained to be excavated and replaced with other soil- road must be constructed to “float” on muskeg. Our field work indicates that peat thicknesses range from 1-5 meters. When building the road base, the peat organic layers will settle upwards of 40-45% once the rock sub-base is put down. The rock sub-base allows the water to flow through the spaces between the rock, preventing backup of water on one side of road. Additional culverts are used to ensure sufficient flow beneath road surface. Geogrid, a synthetic material, is used to make the sub-base of the road stronger, which will limit settlement of the road and reduce maintenance costs.



Construction photos courtesy of Dillon Consulting, AECOM and KGS

Livestream and Radio Shows

The WSR Project Team has resumed live streaming and radio show events focusing on results from the caribou study. See below the topics that will be covered in March 2024.

Date	Topic
April 1, 2024	Aquatic Habitat Preliminary Findings
April 8, 2024	Surface Water Preliminary Findings
April 15, 2024	Groundwater Preliminary Findings
April 22, 2024	Geology, Terrain, and Soils Preliminary Findings



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website, Wawatay radio call-in shows, and during our live streaming events.

Stay Tuned!

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter
Issue 33 – April 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Aquatic Habitat Preliminary Findings and the upcoming virtual community information sessions for Round 3 of consultation.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We are nearing the end of Round 2 of consultation that started in March 2023 and focused on: a summary of the input received from Consultation Round 1, the identification and evaluation of alternatives, preliminary recommended preferred route and supportive infrastructure including rationale for selection, preliminary engineering design elements of WSR, next steps and schedule.



Purpose of the Aquatic Habitat Studies Undertaken

- Identify the potential fish habitat and waterbody crossings (i.e., lakes and rivers) potentially affected by the Project
- Identify fish species that may be present with these waterbody crossings through community spawning and surveys
- Characterize benthic invertebrate species composition, richness, and abundance within the waterbody crossings
- Identify the species-at-risk (specifically lake sturgeon) habitat and occurrences within the waterbody crossings
- Provide a general characterization of fish and other aquatic species as defined in the Fisheries Act on the basis of resident and migratory species, food webs and trophic levels, structural and functional linkages, life history and population dynamics.

Fish Community Sampling

A total of seventeen (17) species were captured during 2019 and 2020 sampling efforts. The most common species sampled were Northern Pike and White Sucker (see below). Other species with a wide distribution included Walleye and Yellow Perch. Species such as Blacknose Shiner (*Notropis heterolepis*), Cisco, Ninespine Stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius*), and an unidentifiable Sculpin sp. were only caught at one location. Notable fish species that were not captured include Brook Trout and Lake Sturgeon- fish community sampling program did not target either of those species, as Lake Sturgeon are bottom feeders typically found in deeper water below falls or large riffles. Brook Trout is typically found in deep, cold lake environments and the fish sampling program concentrated on the river and stream habitats.



White Sucker caught from the Muketei River in 2020



Northern Pike caught from the Muketei River in 2019

Spring Spawning Surveys

- Conducted for Walleye and Lake Sturgeon
- Walleye and Lake Sturgeon fish eggs were not identified by DNA analysis in any of the samples of eggs collected during spawning surveys- may be due to water temperature being higher than expected
- Many of the eggs collected were identified as Shorthead Redhorse, Trout-perch, Iowa Darter, Sculpin sp., and Yellow Perch



Egg mats used for Spring spawning surveys.

Benthic Invertebrate Surveys

- 1,262, benthic invertebrates were identified from 13 samples collected
- Simpsons Diversity (D) Index values for each site ranged from 0.091 to 0.633 with an average of 0.193. These values tend to indicate good species diversity (values closer to 0 than to 1 indicate good diversity)
- The indication is that at most sites, the distribution of individuals was even, and sites were not dominated by a single species. Good diversity tends to indicate a relatively intact and unimpacted watercourse, which is expected for these watercourses based on their location and the surrounding land use
- The results suggest that the benthic invertebrate communities were indicative of an unimpaired aquatic environment, experiencing low to moderate currents with mixed substrates, ranging from boulder to organic/fine-textured sediments



Aquatic Species At Risk

- No Lake Sturgeon were captured during fish community sampling program for the Project and no eggs were identified during the spring spawning surveys
- In 2020, Webequie First Nation community members caught Lake Sturgeon from the Winiskisis Channel confirming their presence in that waterbody
- Winiskisis Channel likely represents one of the most likely potential spawning locations

- Suitable habitat for spawning is likely also present near the Muketei River crossings as well, cobble/gravel habitat is also present in this location. Suitable non-spawning habitat is likely found within the main channels of all these major rivers.



Upcoming Virtual Community Information Sessions Round 3

In the upcoming months, the WSR Project team will be conducting community virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 3. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including a project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.

There will be a presentation on the WSR Project activities. We anticipate the community information session to be approximately 1 hour in length with a presentation and question and answer period. The WSR Project Team also has a platform to allow for real-time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter. In the meantime, please visit supplyroad.ca to find information on the WSR Project.



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Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

*Community Newsletter
Issue 34 – May 2024*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Geology Preliminary Findings and the upcoming virtual community information sessions for Round 3 of consultation.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We have begun Round 3 of consultation which covers the following topics: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.



Geology

Tills: Unsorted materials of different sizes.

Silt: fine sand, clay, or other material carried by running water and deposited as a sediment, especially in a channel.

Surface-level materials in the local study area (LSA) and regional study area (RSA) for the Project primarily consists of layered and not-layered tills and organic deposits scattered with bedrock outcrops.



In the Western limits of the proposed road corridor, within Webequie First Nation Reserve lands there is a top layer of undifferentiated till, predominately consisting of a silty to silt matrix. Majority of the eastern half of the LSA and RSA for the Project is characterized by organic deposits, including peat, muck, and marl.

Geochemistry

Geochemical field work undertaken in 2020 in the LSA for the Project included soil and rock sampling and testing to provide an indication of the potential for metal leaching (ML) and acid rock drainage (ARD) at potential quarries, rock cuts and talus (rock debris) site.

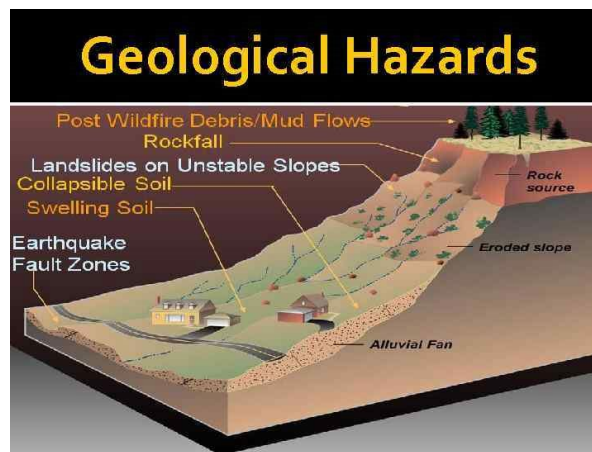
The purpose of the acid-base accounting (ABA) test is to provide an indication of the ABA characteristics of the soil and bedrock materials and derive associated insights on potential risk of net-acidity generation. Parameters measured include paste pH, total sulphur, sulphide sulphur, HCl leachable sulphate, carbonate leach sulphate, modified Sobek Neutralisation-Potential (NP), total carbon and inorganic carbon



Geological Hazards

Some examples of geological hazards include:

- Earthquakes
- Slopes - landslide hazards
- Sinkholes
- Isostatic rise or subsidence
- There are no major hazardous slopes within the LSA and RSA for the Project. No landslide hazards were identified, nor were sinkholes or major geological depressions or geological anomalies observed.
- Soil erosion
 - Erosion is physical dislodgement of soil particles from the Earth's surface by the action of wind, rain or other weather conditions- this process occurs naturally over time, but human interference can cause it to accelerate
 - Accelerated erosion can result in a range of environmental issues, such as damage to downstream aquatic ecosystems
 - The degree of erosion risk at a given site is a function of its regional climate, the erodibility of the soil, and the terrain.
 - Soils in the region, which encompass the LSA and RSA of the Project, generally fall in the mid-range in terms of erodibility
 - Higher flow velocities cause increased erosion. The flat and heavily vegetated terrain in the LSA and RSA slows overland water flow velocities substantially, resulting in low erosion risk.



Virtual Community Information Sessions Round 3

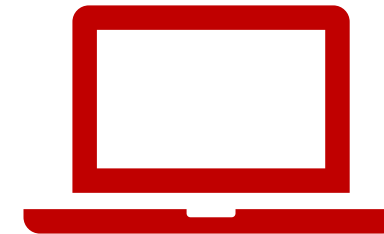
The WSR Project team has begun conducting community virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 3. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including a project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.

There will be a presentation on the WSR Project activities. We anticipate the community information session to be approximately 45 minutes in length with a presentation and question and answer period. The WSR Project Team also has a platform to allow for real-time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

Additionally, the WSR Project Team has made available a Virtual Reality (VR) Open House where you and your members can access further information about the project, the studies being undertaken and provide comments. Please visit:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/meetings/>

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter and poster. In the meantime, please visit [supplyroad.ca](https://www.supplyroad.ca) to find information on the WSR Project.



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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 35 – June 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the Three Road Project Gathering & Expo and the upcoming virtual community information sessions for Round 3 of consultation.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We have begun Round 3 of consultation which covers the following topics: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.



Three Road Project Gathering and Expo

On June 11-13, 2024, the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team attended the Three Road Project Gathering & Expo at the Superior Inn Hotel and Conference Centre in Thunder Bay. This Gathering built on the momentum of the last two gatherings which focused on Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI). The Gathering & Expo provided participants with an engaging and interactive space for consultation to learn more about the projects, ask questions and share feedback focusing on water, peatlands and building roads on peatlands.

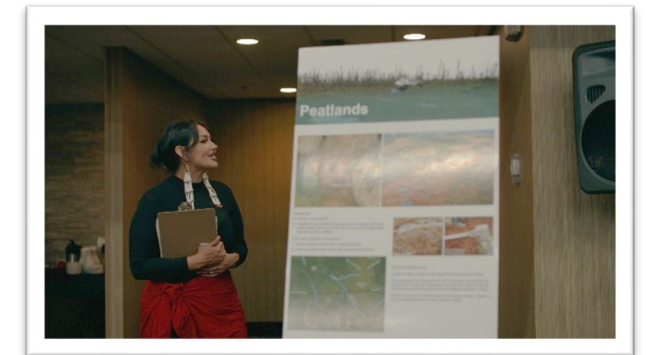


Day 1: Elders Gathering

In response to feedback received at previous events, a day was set aside specifically for elders to gather and engage with the Project Teams for all the three road projects and share their perspectives on the projects.

Day 2: Three Road Project Presentation & Expo

The day started off with technical presentations on water, peatlands and building roads on peatlands. In the afternoon there was an Expo where attendees could visit various booths and engage with the three Road Project Teams, Ontario and the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, learn more about building roads on peatlands and find out more about some of the studies that are ongoing.



Day 3: Common Approach to Review Draft of EAR/IS Workshop

The focus of the half day workshop was on the upcoming review of the draft Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement (EAR/IS) for the Marten Falls Community Access Road and the Webequie Supply Road that will be circulated in the Fall for review and comment. Attendees learned about the proposed common approach for reviewing the draft EAR/IS, and were given the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification well in advance of the circulation of the drafts.

Photos from the Project team at the Three Road Project Gathering and Expo



Virtual Community Information Sessions Round 3

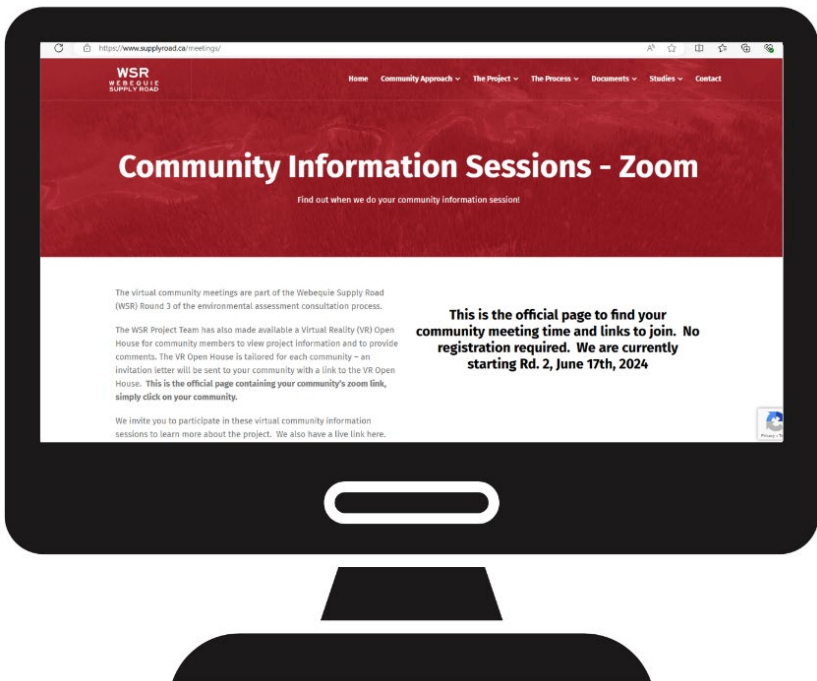
The WSR Project team has begun conducting community virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 3. The Project Team will share information about the EA/IA activities including a project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.

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Additionally, the WSR Project Team has made available a Virtual Reality (VR) Open House where you and your members can access further information about the project, the studies being undertaken and provide comments. Please visit:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/meetings/>

The WSR Project Team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session, so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter and poster. In the meantime, please visit [supplyroad.ca](https://www.supplyroad.ca) to find information on the WSR Project and to access past community virtual information sessions.



We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – stay tuned!

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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Webequie First Nation Newsletter

Issue 13 – July 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team would like to provide the Webequie First Nation (WFN) community with an update on the WSR project, focusing on the community visit from May, an upcoming community visit and open house, and the Virtual Information Sessions for Round 3.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA.

Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Community Visit – May 2024

On May 13-14, 2024, the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team visited Webequie First Nation to provide an update about the proposed all-season road, and to talk to community members and request feedback on the socio-economic and health conditions of the community as documented in recent draft reports. The Project Team also heard from community members about concerns and issues related to potential effects of the WSR Project on the community.

The Project Team hosted community meals and discussions at the Webequie Band Hall over two days, where presentations by technical specialists were followed by Q & A sessions about the socio-economic and health studies. Breakout focus groups were also organized with participating community members to discuss aspects of the community. Community member and Elder Roy Spence provided opening prayer and pipe ceremony.

The Project Team is grateful for the ongoing participation of community members for providing essential input and direction to informing the environmental assessment/impact assessment.



Photo from the Project Team's visit at the WFN Band Hall.

Upcoming Community Visit – August 2024

The WSR Team will be visiting the community on August 21-23, 2024. The purpose of this trip will be to validate information included in the Indigenous Knowledge report. Community members will have an opportunity to meet with the Project team, review the Indigenous Knowledge report, validate findings, and provide additional input and feedback.



Upcoming Open Houses – September 2024

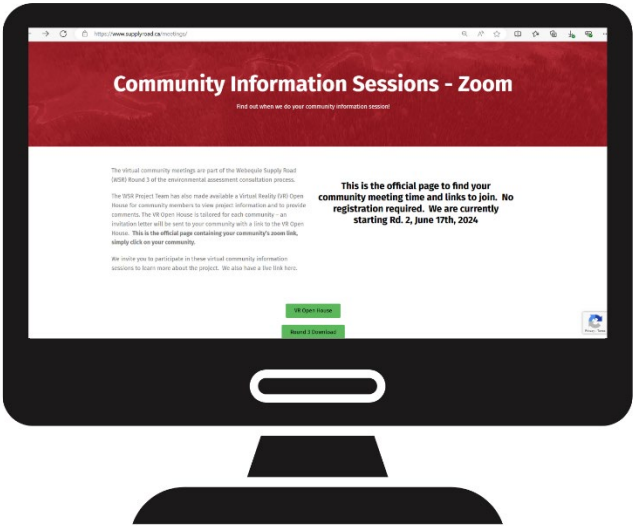
The WSR Team will be hosting Open Houses on September 10, 2024 in Timmins and September 12 & 13, 2024 in Thunder Bay. The event will provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing assessment of alternatives that is being conducted as part of the EA/IA study and provide feedback. The event will consist of a presentation followed by an informal drop-in centre with display information about the project. Project Team representatives will share information on EA/IA process including: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps. A formal notice with event details will be provided soon.

Virtual Community Information Sessions Round 3

In the past months, the WSR Project team conducted community virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 3 broken into 2 parts. The Project Team shared information about the EA/IA activities including a project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.

The Project team has also made available a Virtual Reality (VR) Open House where you can access further information about the project, the studies being undertaken and provide comments.

The second session for Webequie First Nation occurred on June 17, 2024 at 11:05am EST. If you were not able to attend, the WSR Project Team has made the recording of the session available on the Project website. Please visit supplyroad.ca/meetings/ to find information on the WSR Project VR Open House and the Round 3 presentation.



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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter Issue 36 – July 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the findings of the wildlife studies, what we have heard from communities so far and the upcoming Public Information Centre #3.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We have begun Round 3 of consultation which covers the following topics: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.

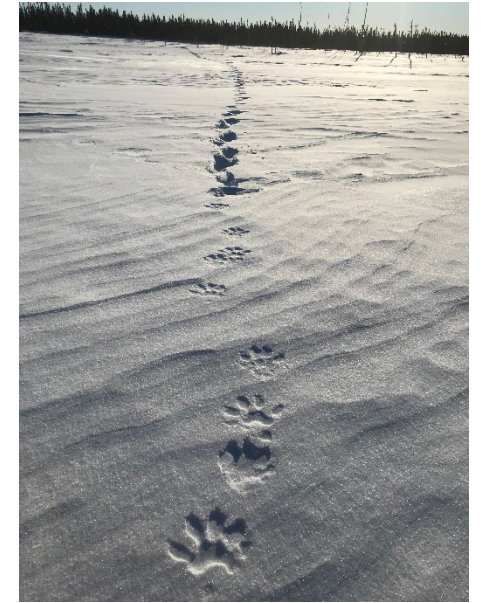


Wildlife Studies Findings

What Was Found

It was found that the Project could potentially:

- Result in wildlife habitat loss/alteration or degradation due to clearing of vegetation, installation of bridges, culverts, aggregate pits/quarries, and development of temporary supportive infrastructure.
- Change wildlife movement due to:
 - Vegetation clearing and the use of fencing to demarcate construction areas creating short-term physical barriers to wildlife movement
 - Temporary sensory disturbance from blasting, clearing, hauling and grading activities during construction and from the road itself and traffic during operations
- Increase mortality due to vehicle collisions



What We Plan To Do

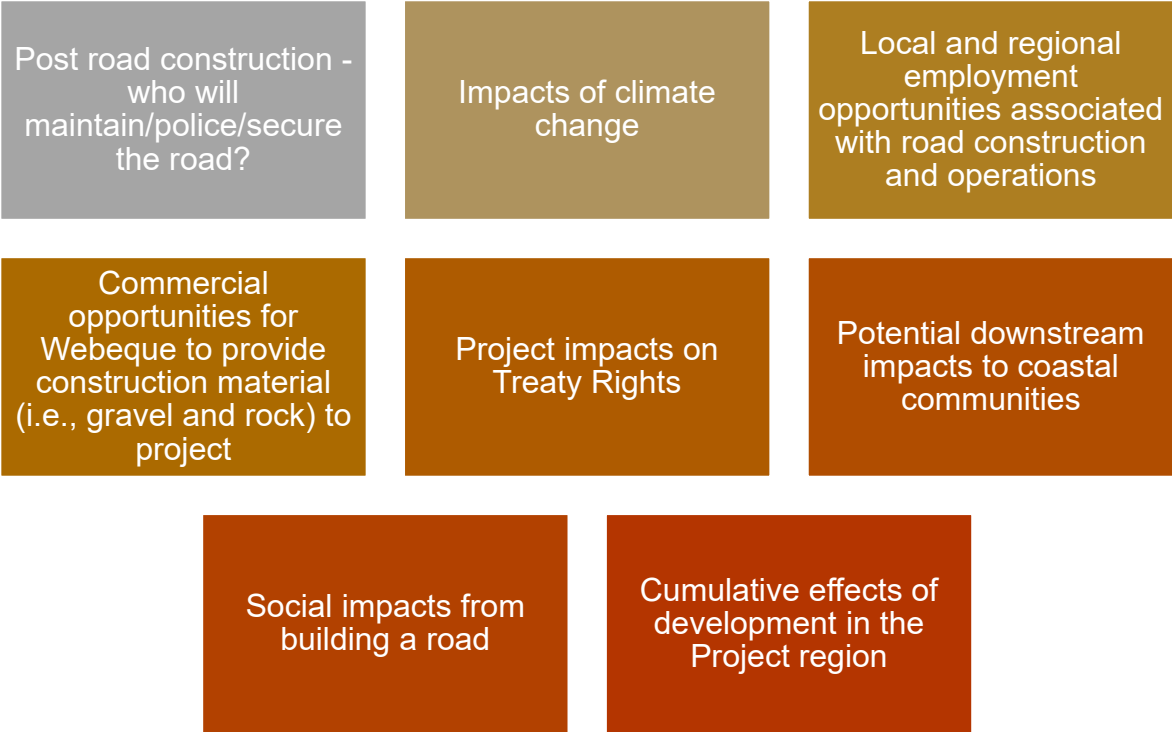
- Identify critical wildlife habitat (e.g., moose, waterfowl) and avoid areas predicted to be of high use by wildlife as part of project design where feasible.
- Implement timing restriction on activities such as vegetation clearing to avoid harm to birds, their nests and habitats during the breeding bird season.
- Implement federal and provincial Recovery Strategies and Action Plans for species at risk potentially affected by the Project to help restore habitat and population of species
- Implement a Wildlife Management Plan with measures to avoid or reduce potential effects of sensory/noise, collisions with project vehicles and equipment and increased public access (e.g., moose hunting) on wildlife.
- Reclaim and restore temporary disturbed areas immediately after construction to allow for regeneration of vegetation. Implement a Vegetation Management
- Plan with measures for wetlands/peatlands, sensitive wildlife habitat, control of invasive plants to reduce potential effects on wildlife habitat

Key Takeaways

During construction, mitigation and enhancement measures will be implemented to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. With the implementation of mitigation measures, net effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat are predicted to be of low to moderate magnitude and not to be significant.

What We Have Heard

The key themes of what we have heard during Consulting Round 1, 2, and Round 3 Part 1 include the following:



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email, comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – stay tuned!

Public Information Centre #3

Public Information Centres (PIC) are being held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing EA/IA study, planned next steps and to provide feedback. The PIC will consist of a presentation followed by an informal open house format with display information about the Project. Project Team representatives will share information on EA/IA activities, results of consultation and engagement activities to date, preliminary effects assessment results for the Project, and future consultation and engagement opportunities. You are invited to attend the PIC, which have been scheduled as follows:

Timmins Open House: Tuesday, September 10, 2024
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Best Western Premier Northwood Hotel, Meeting Room 1, Main Floor, 245-A Airport Road, Timmins

Thunder Bay Open House:
Thursday, September 12 (Public and Stakeholders)
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Friday, September 13 (Indigenous Off-Reserve Community Members)
10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
The Superior Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, Regency C, 555 West Arthur Street, Thunder Bay

The Public Information Centre venues are wheelchair accessible. The PIC livestream will be available on the project website: www.supplyroad.ca. If you cannot attend the in-person sessions, you can also find the information on the study progress and updates on our website.

Contacts

If you are unable to attend the PIC, or have any comments or questions regarding the study, you are welcome to contact the following:

Michael Fox Regional Consultation Lead Webeque First Nation 699 Mountain Road Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1C1 tel: 807-472-6147 fax: 807-577-0404 e-mail: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca	Leon Shewaybick Local Consultation Lead Webeque First Nation P.O. Box 268 Webeque, ON P0T 3A0 tel: 807-631-2710 fax: 807-353-1218 e-mail: leons@webeque.ca	Don Parkinson Consultation Lead AtkinsRéalis Inc. 195 The West Mall, Toronto, ON M9C 5K1 tel: 416-252-5315 ext. 52584 fax: 416-235-5356 e-mail: don.parkinson@atkinsrealis.com
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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

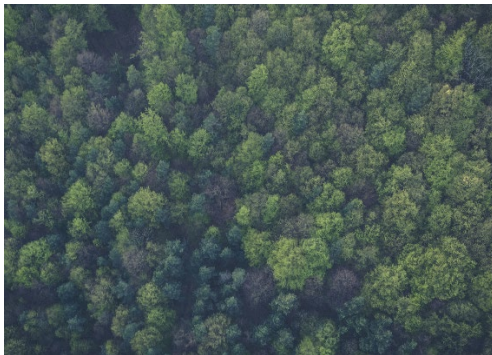
*Community Newsletter
Issue 37 – August 2024*

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the preliminary findings of the social environment, and the upcoming Public Information Centre #3.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We have begun Round 3 of consultation which covers the following topics: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.



Social Environment Preliminary Findings

What Was Found

It was found that the Project could potentially result in:

- Change to population including mix and age of people due to in and out migration of workers
- Increase demand for housing and temporary accommodations due to influx of workers during construction
- Changes to community services due to increased demand for services such as healthcare and recreation
- Change to education, training, and traditional learning that may focus more on skills required for the Project and result in reduced interest and level of participation in learning traditional way of life
- Change to emergency and police services due to increased demand for services
- Change to community infrastructure due to increased use of community road infrastructure, water/wastewater treatment, electricity
- Change to transportation due to increased traffic volumes on existing roads and increased demand for air and shipping services
- Change to community well-being and safety as increased non-resident population may cause reduced community connection, increase risk of substance abuse and crime, reduced feeling of personal safety, increase risk of traffic accidents and reduced well-being and quality of life (effects of noise, dust, etc).

Positive effects of the Project include:

- Reduced out-migration due to increased employment and training opportunities
- Change in level of education, training, and skills development



Key Takeaways

Nuisance effects and potential effects on housing and accommodations, and community services (such as healthcare, recreation, emergency and police services) are expected to be short term. The Project will benefit Indigenous communities with increased employment and training opportunities.

Three Projects Gathering and Expo

A Gathering and Expo for the three proposed road projects – the Webequie Supply Road (WSR), Northern Road Link (NRL), and Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) - was held in Thunder Bay on June 11-13, 2024. The Three Roads Project Gathering and Expo provided people with a chance to learn more about the projects and to ask questions and share feedback.

The first day was set aside for Elders to meet with Marten Falls First Nation and Webequie First Nation representatives to learn about more about why they are proposing roads to be built. Elders also gave their own views on the proposed roads.

On the second day, there were presentations about water, peatlands and engineering along with an expo in the afternoon. The expo allowed for people to learn about the many aspects of the environmental assessment and road design phase.

The third day saw a workshop on a common approach to reviewing the draft of the Environmental Assessment Report/Impact Statement (EAR/IS) for the WSR and the MFCAR Projects.

Nearly 40 people from 11 different communities attended the event which was held at the Superior Inn in Thunder Bay.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – stay tuned!

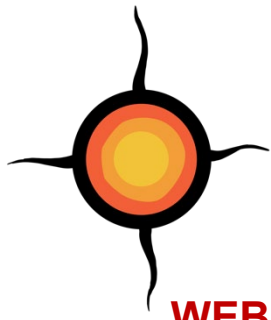
Public Information Centre #3

Public Information Centres (PIC) are being held to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing EA/IA study, planned next steps and to provide feedback. The PIC will consist of a presentation followed by an informal open house format with display information about the Project. Project Team representatives will share information on EA/IA activities, results of consultation and engagement activities to date, preliminary effects assessment results for the Project, and future consultation and engagement opportunities. You are invited to attend the PIC, which have been scheduled as follows:

<p>Timmins Open House: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Best Western Premier Northwood Hotel, Meeting Room 1, Main Floor, 245-A Airport Road, Timmins</p>
<p>Thunder Bay Open House: Thursday, September 12 (Public and Stakeholders) 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, September 13 (Indigenous Off-Reserve Community Members) 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The Superior Inn Hotel & Conference Centre, Regency C, 555 West Arthur Street, Thunder Bay</p>

The Public Information Centre venues are wheelchair accessible. The PIC livestream will be available on the project website: www.supplyroad.ca. If you cannot attend the in-person sessions, you can also find the information on the study progress and updates on our website. If you are unable to attend the PIC, or have any comments or questions regarding the study, you are welcome to contact the following:

<p>Michael Fox Regional Consultation Lead Webequie First Nation 699 Mountain Road Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1C1 tel: 807-472-6147 fax: 807-577-0404 e-mail: michael.fox@supplyroad.ca</p>	<p>Leon Shewaybick Local Consultation Lead Webequie First Nation P.O. Box 268 Webequie, ON P0T 3A0 tel: 807-631-2710 fax: 807-353-1218 e-mail: leons@webequie.ca</p>	<p>Don Parkinson Consultation Lead AtkinsRéalís Inc. 195 The West Mall, Toronto, ON M9C 5K1 tel: 416-252-5315 ext. 52584 fax: 416-235-5356 e-mail: don.parkinson@atkinsrealis.com</p>
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WSR
WEBEQUIE
SUPPLY ROAD

WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter
Issue 38 – September 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the Public Information Centre #3, preliminary findings of the Human Health and Country Foods study, and the Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

We have begun Round 3 of consultation which covers the following topics: project update, consultation and engagement to date, scope of EA/IA, EA/IA methodology, preliminary results of effects assessment for select value components, and next steps.



Public Information Centre #3

The Project Team hosted Public Information Centres (PIC) #3 on September 10 in Timmins and September 12 & 13th in Thunder Bay. The purpose of the PIC #3 was to provide interested parties an opportunity to learn about the ongoing EA/IA study, planned next steps and to provide feedback. The PIC consisted of a presentation followed by an informal open house format with display information about the Project. Project Team representatives shared information on EA/IA activities, results of consultation and engagement activities to date, preliminary effects assessment results for the Project, and future consultation and engagement opportunities. If you could not attend the PIC #3, the livestream is available on the project website: www.supplyroad.ca.



Photos from the Project Team at the PIC #3 in Thunder Bay on September 12, 2024.



Human Health and Country Foods Preliminary Findings

It was found that the WSR Project could potentially result in:

- Change in physical health conditions due to:
 - Emissions and discharges from the Project resulting in changes to air, sound, and water quality, which could affect human health through direct exposure (e.g., inhalation of air) and indirect exposure to contaminants (e.g., ingestion of contaminated food).
 - Change in access to country foods due to changes in access to some harvesting areas or traditional foods (e.g., vegetation, fish, and wildlife species).
 - Reduced value and perceived quality of country foods.
- Change in community well-being due to:
 - Increase in presence of a temporary non-local workforce which may increase risk of substance abuse and crime, reduced feeling of personal safety
 - Changes in social determinants of health, including employment and income, food insecurity and community infrastructure
 - Decreased availability of community services due to increased demand for services such as healthcare and recreation.

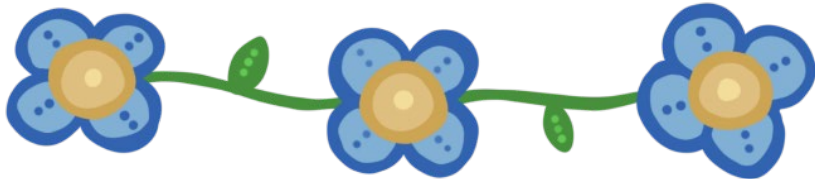


Key Takeaways

- Given the low magnitude of Project effects due to air emissions and water discharges on the quality of country foods, the potential for a change in human health related to country foods consumption is low.
- Increased employment and training opportunities could have positive effects on community well-being.
- Mitigation and management measures to avoid or limit negative effects on social environment will also address potential adverse effects on community well-being.

Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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:

Regional Consultation Lead:

michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)

Past, Present and Future Physical Activities (Projects) Considered in the Cumulative Effects Assessment

Some of the projects being looked at:

- Victor Mine (Attawapiskat)
- Goldcorp Musselwhite Mine
- WSR / Northern Road Link / Marten Falls Community Access Road
- Wataynikaneyap Transmission Line
- Greenstone Gold Hardrock Mine
- Ring of Fire Planned Mines – Eagle’s Nest / Black Thor / Blackbird / Black Label

Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our Team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS.



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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT
Community Newsletter
Issue 39 – October 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on Cumulative Effects and the Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

In the upcoming months, the Project team will be engaging Indigenous communities on the Cumulative Effects Assessment.



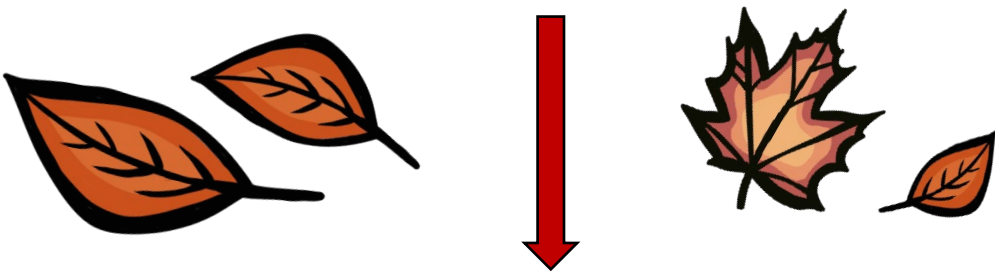
Project and Residual (Leftover) Effects

Project Effects

Every project, such as building a road/building a mine/harvesting trees in the forest has effects. Some of these effects can be what we call “mitigated”, which means eliminating or reducing effects by doing certain things (i.e., no using diesel generators to produce electricity).

Residual Effects

Some effects can’t be mitigated (controlled or eliminated) - these are called residual or “leftover” effects. When leftover effects from one project are combined with the leftover effects of other projects in the area.



Example of Project Effects - Bridge Construction



↑
Project Effects: Corrosion (soil loss)



↑
Reducing Project Effects (Mitigation) with the Silt Fence

What is looked at when looking at Project Effects?

The Surface Water (lakes, rivers)	Fish and fish habitat (where the fish live)	The Land - Soils and Terrain	The Plants and Wetlands	The Groundwater / Springwater
Wildlife and Terrestrial (out of water) Habitat	The Air	Species at Risk	The People (social environment)	The Economy
The Lands and Resources	The Health of Community Members	The Environment that We See (Visual Environment)	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests	Culture
The Effects of All Projects (Past, Present, and Future) Together		Accidents and Things that go wrong	Climate Change	

What are Cumulative Effects?

- The combined impact of multiple projects over time
- Take the residual (leftover) effects of all project in a region and add them together, then apply mitigations - what is left over after mitigation (eliminating or reducing impacts) efforts

How are Cumulative Effects Determined for the WSR Project?

Leftover project effects from past + present + future projects

↓

Reduce / Eliminate Effects (Mitigation)

=

Cumulative Effects of the Project



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 40 – November 2024

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing the Virtual Information Sessions for Round 4, the Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement, the Effects Assessment, and Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

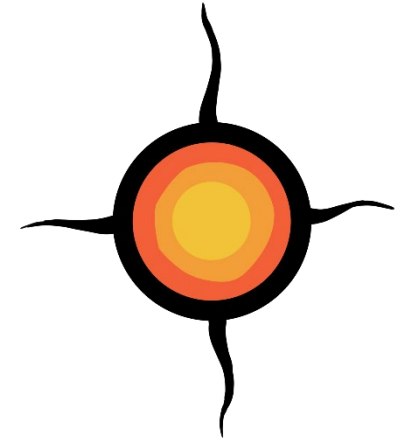
In the upcoming months, the Project team will be engaging Indigenous communities on the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA). Our engagement efforts will be focused on sharing the activities for the CEA.



Community Virtual Information Sessions for Round 4

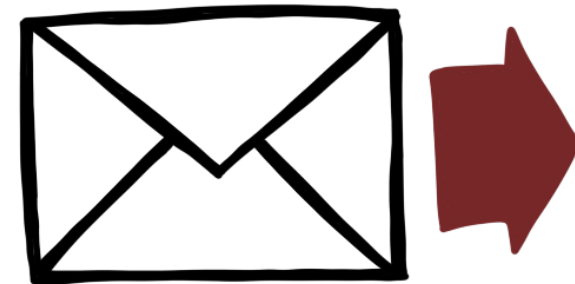
The project team has begun conducting virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 4. The Project team will share information about the Cumulative Effects Assessment. There will be a presentation on the WSR approach to assessing cumulative effects followed by a question-and-answer period. The WSR Project team also has a platform to allow for real-time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

The Project team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session so stay tuned and watch out for your community's invitation letter and poster. In the meantime, please visit supplyroad.ca to find information on the WSR Project and to access past virtual community information sessions.

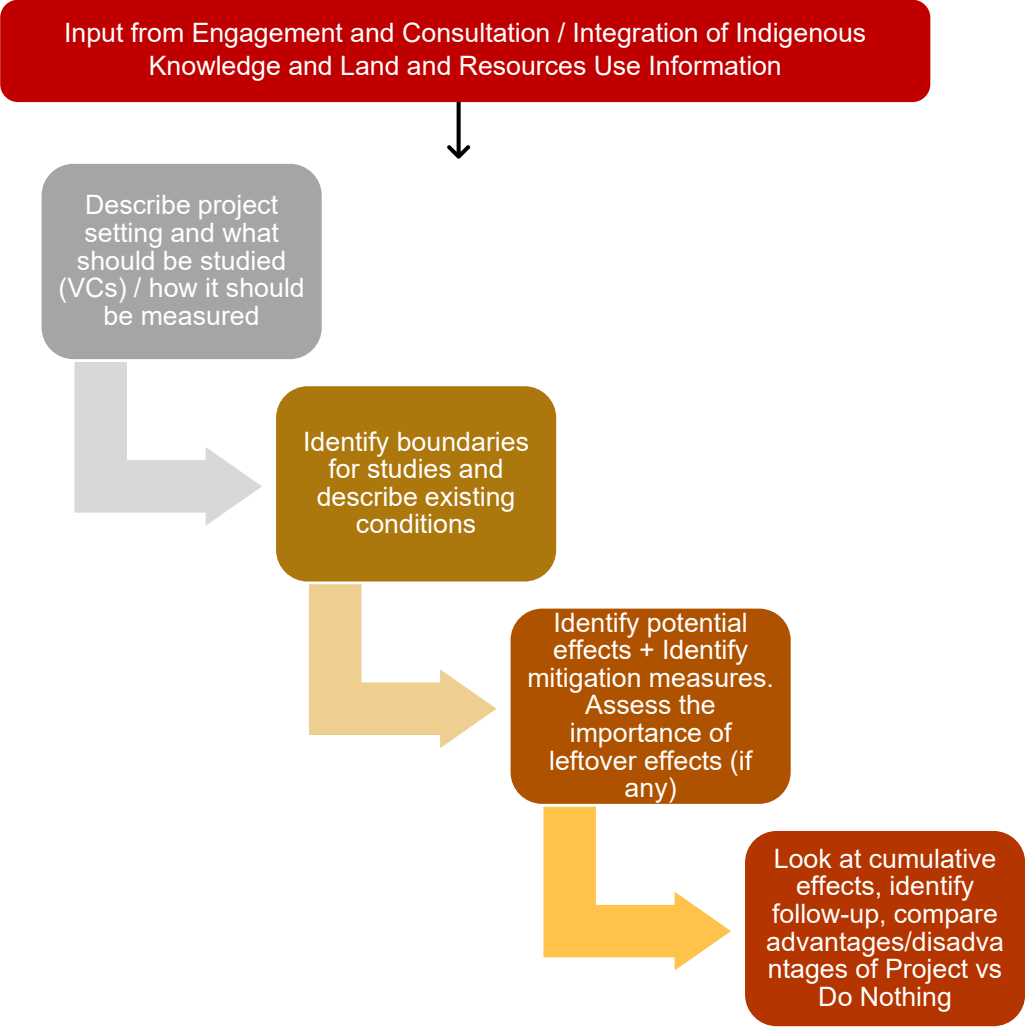


Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS.



How the Effects Assessment is Done (EA/IA Methodology)



Cultural Heritage and Archaeology

It was found that the project could potentially result in loss or disturbance to cultural heritage and archaeological during vegetation clearing and grubbing as a result of increased access. Historical or cultural heritage features identified through the IKLRU program include historical travel routes, gravel resource area, fishing area, gooseberry collecting area, and moose habitat and hunting area.

Based on the Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment conducted for the Project, areas with archaeological potential in the project study areas include:

- Previously identified archaeological sites near the Muketei River
- Water sources: primary, secondary, or past water source
- Proximity to early settlements (Webequie First Nation)
- Elevated topography (eskers, drumlins, large knolls, plateau)
- Well-drained soils

Key Takeaways

- Project potential effects on cultural heritage and archaeological resources are expected to be limited to the Project Footprint.
- The Project design and construction activities will be undertaken with consideration in avoiding loss or damage to known/identified cultural heritage and archaeological sites.
- Project personnel will be made aware when working near known/identified cultural heritage landscapes or areas with archaeological potential and avoid areas that are flagged or fenced and abide by restrictions.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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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Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)

APPENDIX P2.B.5

Newsletters Sent in Year 2025



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 41 – December 2024 / January 2025

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the upcoming Three Road Projects Gathering, Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement, and the Community Virtual Information Sessions for Round 4 Part 2.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

In the upcoming weeks, the Project team will be engaging Indigenous communities on the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA). Our engagement efforts will be focused on sharing the activities for the CEA.

Three Road Projects Gathering

The Three Road Projects Gathering is an event led by Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation, with support from the Province of Ontario. The gathering will provide an engaging and interactive consultation space to discuss the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Draft EAR/IS, Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) Draft EAR/IS and Northern Road Link (NRL) projects. The event details are as follows:

Thunder Bay Event Details:

Date: February 19-20, 2025

Location: Valhalla Inn, 1 Valhalla Road, Thunder Bay

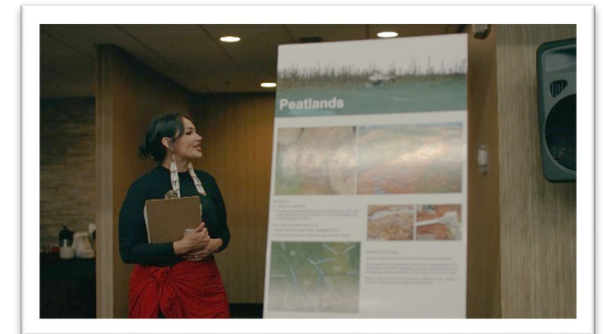
Timmins Event Details:

Date: February 25-26, 2025

Location: Cedar Meadows & Spa, 1000 Norman St, Timmins



Day 1 will provide Project overviews, consultation panels, individual community breakout sessions, and a project expo including information to assist with review of the draft EAR/IS for MFCAR and WSR and cumulative effects assessment.



Day 2 will focus on the Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a project expo including information to assist with review of the draft EAR/IS for MFCAR and WSR and cumulative effects assessment.

Opportunity for one-on-one sessions with proponent project teams and/or Ontario to ask questions, provide feedback, and engage directly. It is highly recommended to pre-register your community for the one-on-one Breakout sessions here: <https://mailchimp.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b46e44f35720757508b7e785d&id=4dc39f349c&e=a86bfee2d8>

The Province of Ontario will fund travel, accommodation, and meals for up to three representatives to attend one of the above events. Additional representatives are welcome to attend at their own expense. All questions about funding or the coordination of funding should be directed to the Province of Ontario at ea.participant.fund@ontario.ca.

Please RSVP by January 31, 2025, to ea.participant.fund@ontario.ca to reserve accommodations (RSVP for event attendance can be made at a later date.) This event aims to foster an understanding of the three road projects and their potential impacts while creating a collaborative space for consultation. We encourage community representatives with knowledge and interest in these projects to participate. Feel free to reach out to ea.participant.fund@ontario.ca for funding inquiries or additional details.



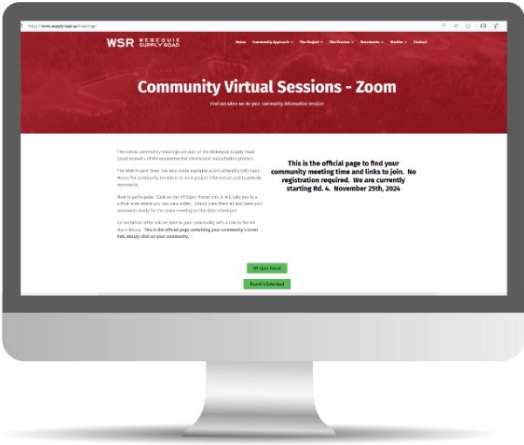
Early Circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS.

Community Virtual Information Sessions for Round 4

The Project team has begun conducting virtual information sessions for all communities for Consultation Round 4 Part 1 and will be starting Part 2. The Project team will share information about the Cumulative Effects Assessment. There will be a presentation for Part 2 on the WSR approach to assessing cumulative effects followed by a question-and-answer period. The WSR Project team also has a platform to allow for real-time translation to accommodate community members during the session.

The Project team will be sending a link to your community prior to the information session so stay tuned and watch out for your community’s invitation letter and poster. In the meantime, please visit supplyroad.ca to find information on the WSR Project and to access past virtual community information sessions.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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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michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 42 – February 2025

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing Three Roads Project Gathering & Expo, Cumulative Effects, and the upcoming Draft Environmental Assessment.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

In the upcoming weeks, the Project team will be engaging Indigenous communities on the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA). Our engagement efforts will be focused on sharing the activities for the CEA.

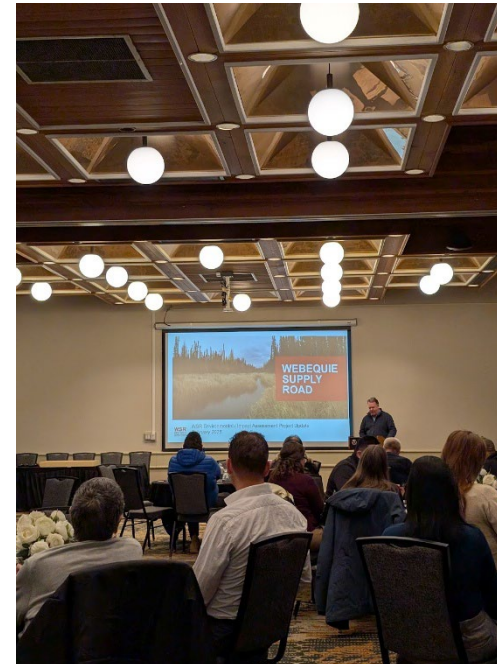


Three Road Projects Gathering & Expo

The Three Road Projects Gathering is an event led by Webequie First Nation and Marten Falls First Nation, with support from the Province of Ontario. The gathering provided an engaging and interactive consultation space to discuss the Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Draft EAR/IS, Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) Draft EAR/IS and Northern Road Link (NRL) projects. The event was held in Thunder Bay on February 19-20 at the Valhalla Inn, and in Timmins on February 25-26 at the Cedar Meadows & Spa.



Day 1 provided Project overviews, consultation panels, individual community breakout sessions, and a project expo including information to assist with review of the draft EAR/IS for MFCAR and WSR and cumulative effects assessment.

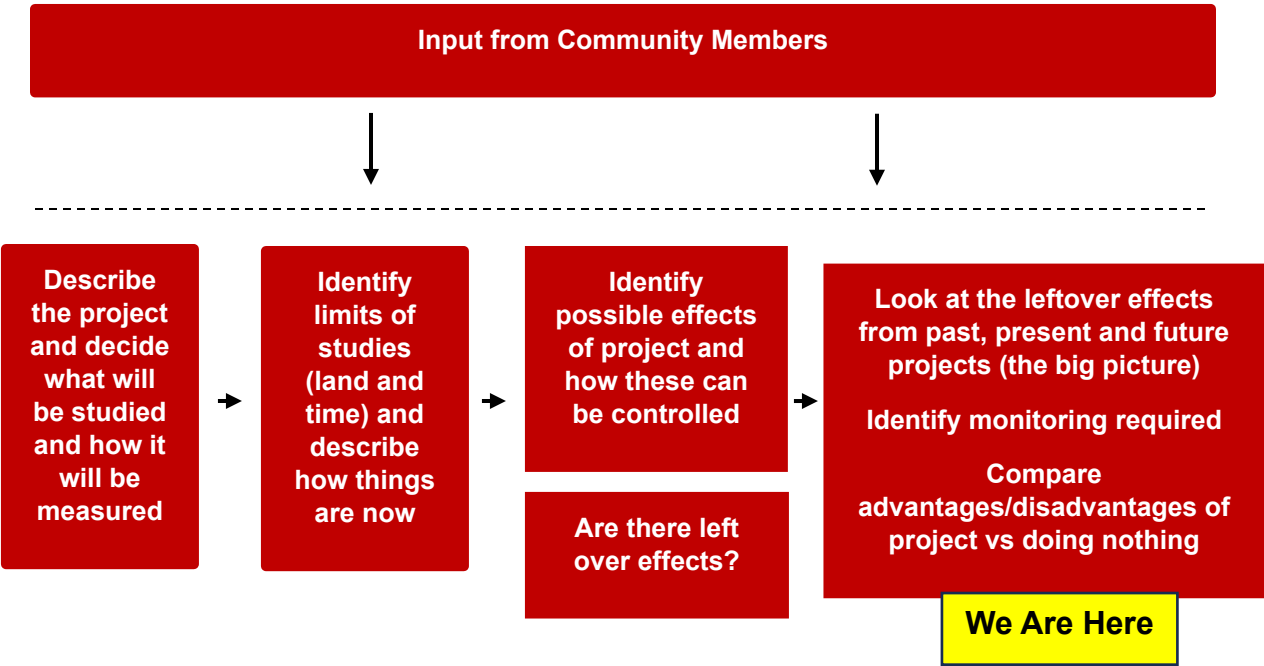


Day 2 focused on the Aboriginal and/or Treaty Rights and Interests (ATRI) panel discussions, breakout sessions, and a project expo including information to assist with review of the draft EAR/IS for MFCAR and WSR and cumulative effects assessment.

Attendees also had the opportunity for one-on-one sessions with proponent project teams and/or Ontario to ask questions, provide feedback, and engage directly.

Photo: In Thunder Bay, Don Parkinson of the Project team provided a project update and shared information about the upcoming Draft Environmental Assessment, to be shared with the communities in the coming months.

Where are we now in the EA/IA?



Project and Net (Leftover) Effects

Project Effects:

- Every project, such as building a road/building a mine/harvesting trees in the forest has effects
- Some of these effects can be what we call “mitigated”, which means eliminating or reducing effects by doing certain things (i.e., no using diesel generators to produce electricity)

Net Effects

- Some effects can’t be mitigated (controlled or eliminated)- these are called net or “leftover” effects
- When leftover effects from one project are combined the leftover effects of other projects in the area

Early Circulation of the Draft EAR/IS

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS. We are looking to understand the topics that communities would like to review with the Project team.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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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WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 43 – March 2025

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR project, focusing on the virtual community information sessions for Round 4, the virtual water crossing simulation, and the early circulation of the draft EAR/IS.

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.

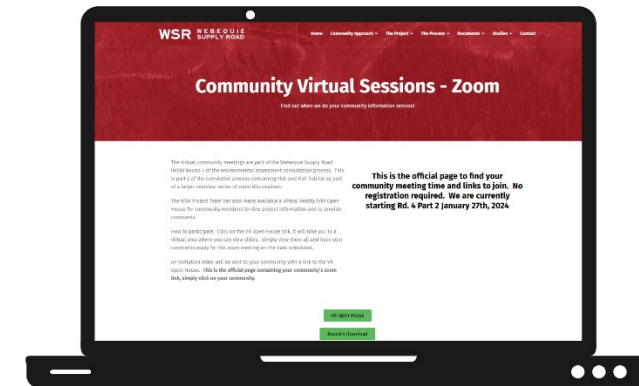


Community Virtual Information Sessions – Round 4

For the past couple months, the Project team has been conducting community virtual information sessions for Round 4 of consultation to review the topic of the Cumulative Effects Assessment. Communities were sent letters and posters with the details of the session for your community. The sessions have been held via Zoom with a presentation on the Cumulative Effects Assessment and question & answer period at the end.

The Project team has also made available a Virtual Reality (VR) Open House where you and your members can access further information about the project, the studies being undertaken and provide comments. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.supplyroad.ca/meetings/>



Our team is also available to meet virtually or in-person should your community want additional engagement sessions with Council, members, advisors, and staff. The project team is offering opportunities for engagement related to cumulative effects assessment in the proposed methods below:

- Focus Group Sessions
- In-Community Sessions
- Drop-in Sessions
- Virtual Focus Groups
- Virtual Community Presentation
- One Hour Teleconference
- Local Radio Call-In Show
- Online Surveys

Water Crossing Simulation

A simulation of a water crossing was commissioned by the project team to provide community members with the opportunity to make an informed decision on determining what a crossing could look like. An Indigenous company named, Theymedia, took on the training for the 3D work, while using information from previous drone work, filming and studies to guide the look and feel of the bridge over water.

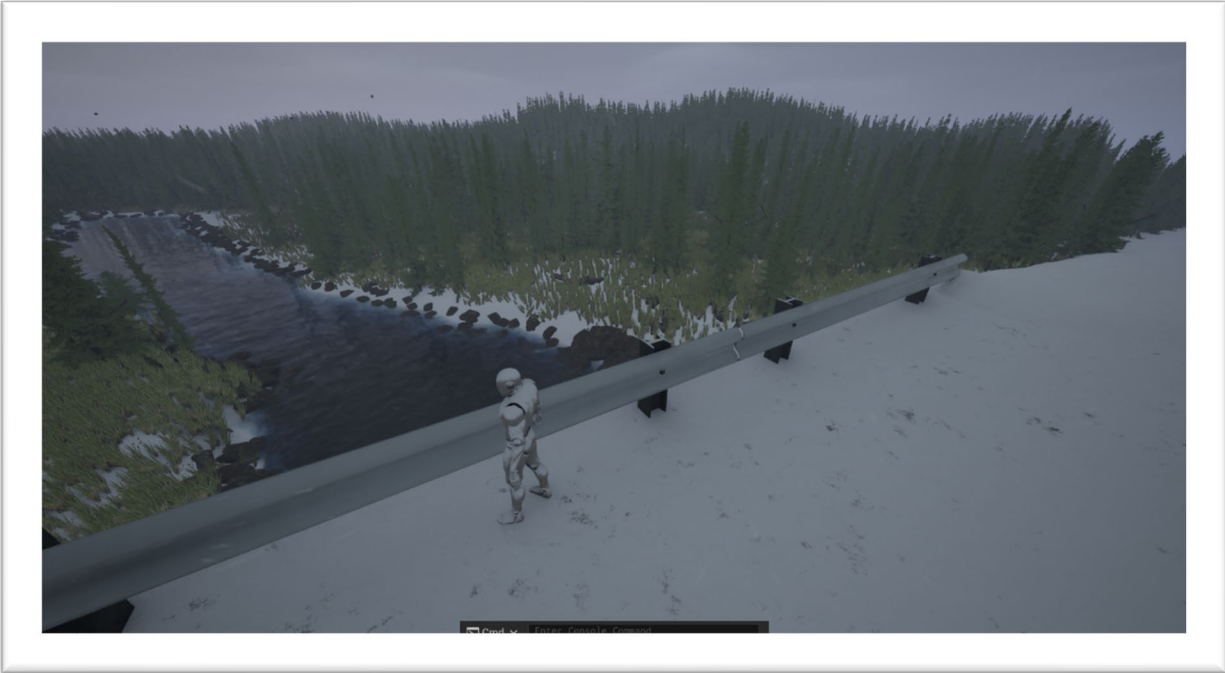
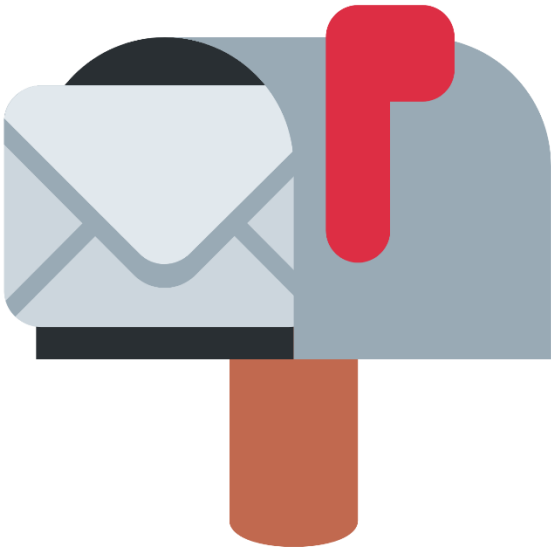


Photo: Screenshot of the water crossing simulation from Theymedia.

Helping community members to make informed decision about their future has always been an important issue for this project. Tony McGuire, Anders Wahl, and his crew were happy to create materials that conveyed what a crossing could look like under multiple weather conditions. A couple different versions of crossings are now being prepared for use by the community and for the public.

Early Circulation of the Draft EAR/IS

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. Our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the draft EAR/IS. We are looking to understand the topics that communities would like to review with the Project team.



Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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:

Regional Consultation Lead:

michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 44 – April & May 2025

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Assessment (EAR/IS).

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Plain Language Summaries

As you know, the team will be releasing the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Assessment (EAR/IS). To facilitate your review of the Draft EAR/IS, our team will be sharing plain language summaries for each topic in the Draft EAR/IS. The topics that will be covered include the following:

Introduction

Engagement and Consultation Summary

Evaluation of Project Alternatives

Project Description

Environmental Assessment/Impact Assessment Approach and Methods

Assessment of Effects on Geology, Terrain, and Soils

Assessment of Effects on Surface Water Resources

Assessment of Effects on Groundwater Resources

Assessment of Effects on Atmospheric Environment

Assessment of Effects on Fish and Fish Habitat

Assessment of Effects on Vegetation and Wetlands

Assessment of Effects on Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat

Assessment of Effects on Species at Risk

Assessment of Effects on Social Environment

Assessment of Effects on Economic Environment

Assessment of Effects on Non-Traditional Land and Resource Use
Assessment of Effects on Human Health
Assessment of Effects on Visual Environment
Assessment of Effects on Aboriginal and Treaty Rights and Interests
Assessment of Effects on Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resources
Cumulative Effects Assessment
Follow up and Monitoring
Accidents and Malfunctions
Effects of the Environment on the Project
Project Effects on Canada's Ability to Meet Its Environmental Obligations and Its Climate Change Commitments
Project Contributions to Sustainability
Conclusions

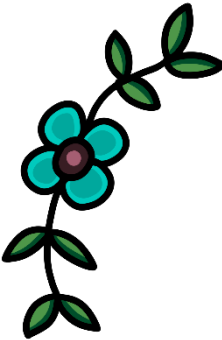
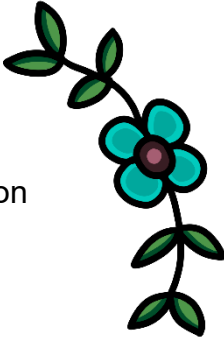
Upon the release of the Draft EAR/IS, the plain language summaries will also be made available on the Project website www.supplyroad.ca.



Early Circulation of the Draft EAR/IS

An early notification letter regarding the early circulation of the draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was sent to communities on September 20, 2024. In the next couple weeks, our team will be reaching out and engaging with communities to seek feedback on the Draft EAR/IS. We are looking to understand the topics that communities would like to review with the Project Team.

Our Team is also available to meet virtually, or in-person should your community want additional engagement sessions with Council, members, advisors, and staff. The Project Team is offering opportunities for engagement on the Draft EAR/IS in the proposed methods below:

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- Focus Group Sessions
 - In-Community Sessions
 - Drop-in Sessions
 - Virtual Focus Groups
 - Virtual Community Presentation
 - One Hour Teleconference
 - Local Radio Call-In Show
 - Online Surveys
- 

Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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:

Regional Consultation Lead:

michael.fox@supplyroad.ca (807-472-6147)

Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis:

Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com (416-540-1142)



WEBEQUIE SUPPLY ROAD PROJECT

Community Newsletter

Issue 45 – June 2025

Greetings!

The Webequie Supply Road (WSR) Project Team wish to provide an update on the WSR Project, focusing on the early circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS).

Since the Terms of Reference (ToR) was approved on October 8, 2021, the Project has entered the Environmental Assessment / Impact Assessment (EA / IA) phase, which will result in a single report addressing the requirements of both the federal IA and provincial EA. Throughout the EA / IA phase, the Project Team conducts studies to gather information on a wide range of topics and consults with Indigenous communities, members of the public, and stakeholders, to evaluate the Project and its potential effects.



Release of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS)

On June 9, 2025, an early circulation of the Draft Environmental Assessment Report / Impact Statement (EAR/IS) was released to Indigenous Communities to review.

What is documented in the Draft EAR/IS?

The Draft EAR/IS documents the evaluation of alternative routes considered for the WSR and presents the Preferred Route and location for supportive project infrastructure (e.g., construction camps, pits/quarries). It also documents the potential environmental, social, cultural, and health impacts including cumulative effects, proposed mitigation measures, and engagement and consultation undertaken so far.

Schedule of the Review Period

The Draft EAR/IS is being circulated in **two** stages. The two-stage approach to circulation of the Draft EAR/IS provides your community an extended review period to provide comments on the document for a total of 120 days.



What is not included in the Draft EAR/IS?

Currently, the Draft EAR/IS does not include the draft Record of Consultation and Engagement with Indigenous communities, the public and stakeholders. This document will be provided to your community when the Draft EAR/IS is released for public and stakeholder review (August 8, 2025). In the interim, consultation and engagement activities and feedback we received from your community are documented in the Consultation Progress Reports for Rounds 1, 2, and 3, previously sent to your community at key milestones in the EA/IA process. These reports can also be found on the Project website www.supplyroad.ca under “Documents”.

Access the Draft EAR/IS

The Draft EAR/IS and information on the review process are available on the WSR Project Website: <https://www.supplyroad.ca/draftea>

Members of your community are encouraged to actively participate in the review of the Draft EAR/IS. Comments and feedback can be provided via the Project Website (www.supplyroad.ca); Project email (wsrcomments@supplyroad.ca) or by letter mail until October 7, 2025 to the following contacts:

Michael Fox Regional Consultation Lead Webequie First Nation 699 Mountain Road Fort William First Nation, ON P7J 1C1	Don Parkinson Consultation Lead AtkinsRéalis Inc. 191 The West Mall Toronto, ON M9C 5K8
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Engagement Options

Our team is available for meetings with your community to review sections of the Draft EAR/IS and technical reports of interest in the proposed methods below.

Method	Description
Focus Group Sessions	Open discussion with 4-6 participants (Council, staff, community members, or technicians) to discuss the Draft EAR/IS. The session will be facilitated by the Project Team to gain feedback from the perspective of diverse population groups (women, elders, youth, land users, etc.)
In-Community Sessions	Community information sessions can be conducted, whereby the Project Team will discuss the Draft EAR/IS with a question-and-answer period at the end of the presentation.
Drop-In Sessions	Community members can drop-in at a safe location to discuss the Draft EAR/IS with the Project Team.

Method	Description
Virtual Focus Groups	Open discussion with 4-6 participants (Council, staff, community members, or technicians) to discuss the Draft EAR/IS facilitated by the WSR Project Team using either Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meet, GoToMeetings, Skype, Webex, or any other videoconferencing platforms that Indigenous leaders and staff are currently using to meet with government officials, health agencies, lawyers, advisors, board meetings, tribal council meetings, Chiefs assemblies, online conferences, etc.
Virtual Community Presentation	Using the above range of videoconferencing platforms, the Project Team will discuss the Draft EAR/IS to community members with a question-and-answer period at the end of the presentation.
One Hour Teleconference	Using a phone and fax, the Project Team will fax you the Draft EAR/IS presentation and set up a conference call to go through the presentation based on the area of interest your team wants to focus on and answer any questions
Local Radio Call In Show	Using the local community radio, the Project Team can present the Draft EAR/IS process with a local translator that the Project team will pay for to explain the Draft EAR/IS. We can also provide a translator on our end.
Online Surveys	Using online survey methods, community members can provide feedback on the Draft EAR/IS.

Stay Tuned!

We continue to offer opportunities to comment and give input through email and the comment box on the website. Wawatay radio call-in shows and our live streaming events have been paused. Communities will receive notification when they start up again – 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:

Regional Consultation Lead Michael.fox@supplyroad.ca 807-472-6147	Consultation Lead for AtkinsRéalis Don.Parkinson@atkinsrealis.com 416-540-1142
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