

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION – MARTEN FALLS COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD PROJECT

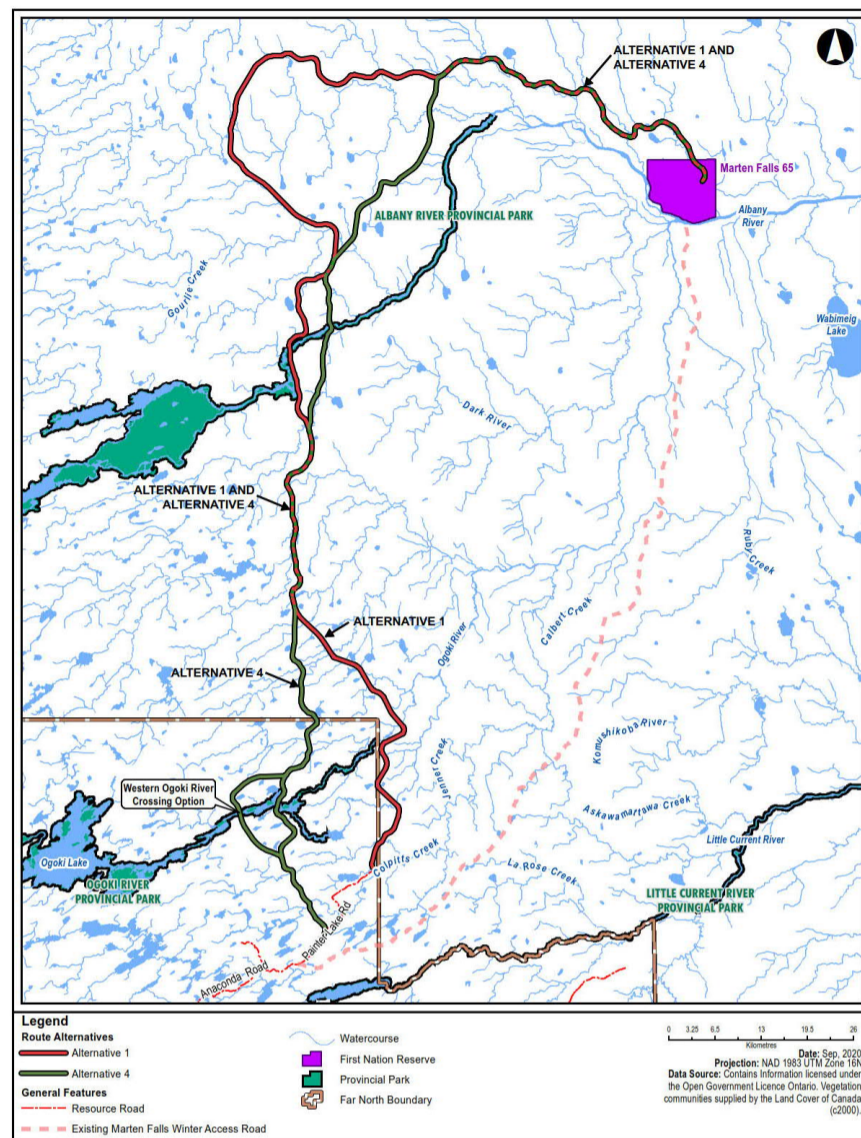
Project Description and Location:

Marten Falls First Nation (MFFN) is commencing an environmental assessment (EA) under the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* for the proposed Marten Falls Community Access Road (the Project). Marten Falls First Nation is a remote First Nation community in the Far North of Ontario, located at the junction of the Albany and Ogoki Rivers, approximately 170 km northeast of Nakina, Ontario. The proposed Project will be a multi-purpose all-season community access road approximately 190 km to 230 km in length that will connect the MFFN community to the Ontario provincial highway network. Two alternatives (see map) are being considered in determining the location of the all-season road. The road is intended to provide increased travel safety, reduced price of food, fuel and supplies, improved community social, health, education and wellness services, in addition to providing the MFFN community with future economic development opportunities. The road will be multi-purpose; it will be used by both community and others which may include industry.

The Process

On October 8, 2021, the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks approved the Terms of Reference with amendments for the Marten Falls Community Access Road. A copy of the approved Terms of Reference, as well as the Notice of Approval, is available at: <http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca/documents/>

The Project is subject to the Ontario EA process and a federal Impact Assessment (IA). As part of the provincial EA process, MFFN is required to submit an EA report to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) for review and a decision. This EA will be carried out in accordance with the approved Terms of Reference, amendments detailed in the Notice of Approval, and the requirements of the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act*. As part of the federal IA process, MFFN is required to submit to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Agency) an Impact Statement (IS) for the Agency to determine whether it satisfactorily contains all the information and studies outlined in the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines. The Project is being undertaken as a coordinated provincial and federal assessment resulting in one body of documentation related to the assessment, referred to as the EA / IS. The EA / IS will be submitted to both the MECP and the Agency. A draft of the EA / IS will be made available for review and comment. The EA / IS will then be updated as required and submitted to the MECP and Agency for review, which will include an additional public review component. Notification will be given both for the Draft EA / IS Review and the review associated with submission of the EA / IS to the MECP and the Agency. Notice will be provided indicating when and where the draft and finalized EA / IS can be reviewed.



Consultation and Engagement:

Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the EA / IA process. Consultation and engagement opportunities will be organized throughout the EA / IA process and will be communicated through newspaper advertisements, radio, mail-outs and the Project website (www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca). Upcoming consultation and engagement will be focused on understanding Indigenous communities, government agencies and interested persons' level of interest in the Project and how they would like to be kept informed and consulted / engaged with, as well as the effects assessment methods including obtaining feedback on the proposed consultation and engagement approach, existing conditions and baseline field studies, the EA / IA processes, local and regional study areas, Project phases, criteria and indicators, Project-environment interactions, net effects characteristics, and cumulative effects.

Contact Information:

For further information on the Project, contact:

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All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the Environmental Assessment Act or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990*. Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks' Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-314-4075.