



MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION  
COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD

# Field Notice

## Fall 2025 Update

*Issued: September 2025*

### Groundwater Well Decommissioning

Field crews will be decommissioning selected monitoring wells as part of the Groundwater and Geochemistry program. This program has been essential for checking the health of groundwater along the route alternatives evaluated for the Community Access Road.

### When?

Work is scheduled to start on September 23 and is expected to be completed by October 15, 2025.



*Pictured here is a typical groundwater well to be decommissioned.*

### Why Remove the Monitoring Wells?

In 2022, wells were placed in strategic locations to collect existing information about the broader 'Project Area' and how water flows throughout it. Since then, the route and aggregate sites have been refined to a smaller area and the existing wells are not necessarily located in the best locations to observe local effects from the proposed Community Access Road.

Future monitoring wells will be located next to major features (e.g. aggregate pits, quarries, camps, bridges). The exact locations will be determined in the Detailed Design phase and installed prior to the start of construction.





## The Process

The decommissioning process involves:

- Removing the well covers using hand digging if required.
- Removing the PVC well casing up to 2 meters of the well depth.
- The well screen and casing will be filled with bentonite pellets up to 2 m depth.
- The remaining 2 m of open borehole will be filled with bentonite and / or natural collapse material up to the ground surface.
- Once the wells have been decommissioned the sites will be cleaned up and left to revegetate naturally over time.



## What to expect

Field crews will be accessing sites across the study area by helicopter—you may see helicopters in the area. An update will be provided if the schedule changes due to weather or other conditions.

**Where?** See map on last page.

## Minimizing disturbances

Mitigations measures to minimize disturbance to wildlife include:

- Crews will maintain a suitable altitude of over 400 metres above the ground when travelling between sites
- Efforts will be made not to circle sites more than is necessary for a safe landing.
- Helicopters will be shut down once landed at the site.
- Should any species at risk be observed from the air near a monitoring site, field crews will not land on the site and instead proceed to a different site(s) for the day.
- Activities will cease immediately if a species at risk is encountered on the ground

### What are bentonite pellets?

Bentonite is a naturally occurring clay that absorbs water and expands. Pellets are used for their ability to form a seal and help protect groundwater layers from unwanted substances or infiltration.





## More field work is coming...

The original Summer / Fall 2025 Field Notice includes additional information on this program and can be found [here](#). Also expected to take place this fall season is geotechnical investigation work and the SkyTEM geophysical survey. Additional information will be provided once the dates for these activities are confirmed.



**To learn more about our studies, view our past:**

- [Webinars](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Groundwater and Geochemistry Discussion Guide](#)
- [Draft Environmental Assessment / Impact Statement](#)

## Contact Information

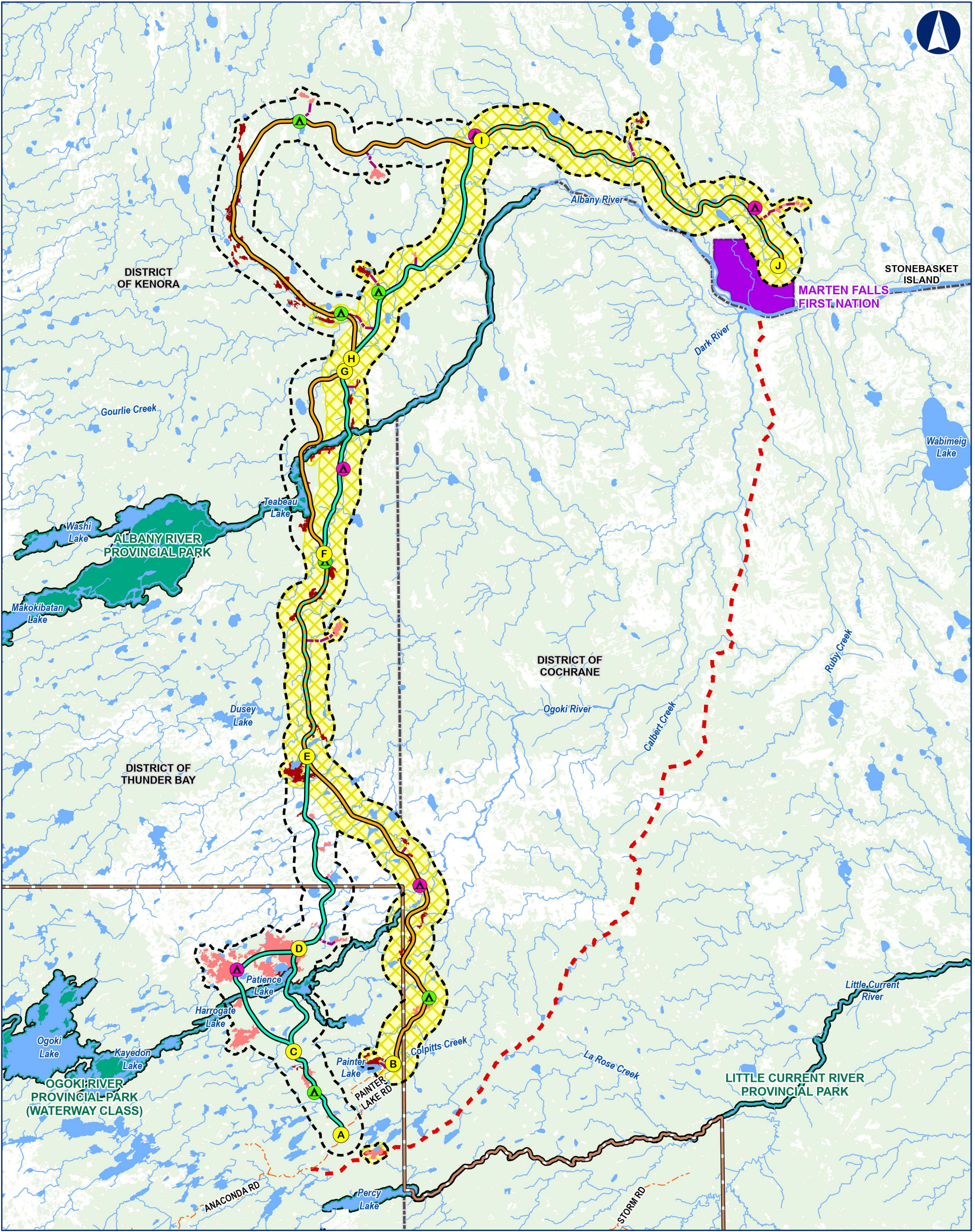
You are welcome to contact the MFFN Community Access Road Project Team at any time with questions or comments.

1-800-764-9114 | [info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca](mailto:info@martenfallsaccessroad.ca)

[www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca](http://www.martenfallsaccessroad.ca)







**Legend**

- Segment Node**
- Project Study Area**
- Preferred Route**
- Construction Disturbance Area**
- Route Alternatives (100 m Right-of-Way)**
- Potential Camp Site**
- Approximate Access Road to Potential Construction Camp (10 m Width)**

- Potential Aggregate Source**
- Approximate Access Road to Potential Aggregate Site (10 m Width)**
- General Features**
- Watercourse**

- Waterbody**
- First Nation Reserve**
- District Municipal Boundary**
- Far North Boundary**
- Provincial Park**

**MARTEN FALLS FIRST NATION  
COMMUNITY ACCESS ROAD**

**Summer / Fall 2025  
Field Programs**



Datum: NAD 1983 CSRS UTM Zone 16N

November 2024

1:450,000

\*when printed 11"x17"

Rev 00

**Figure 1**



Contains information provided by Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks or by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Copyright Queen's Printer of Ontario 2020), through a Sensitive Data License Agreement. This drawing has been prepared for use of AECOM client and may not be reproduced or relied upon by third parties, except as agreed by AECOM and its client, as required by law or for use by governmental reviewing agencies. AECOM accepts no responsibility, and denies any liability whatsoever, to any party that modifies this drawing without AECOM's express written consent. The use of Sensitive Data in this drawing does not constitute an endorsement by the Ministry for this drawing or by AECOM of the Sensitive Data.