

Table 1: Northern Road Link Draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan (IEPP) – Proponent Questions, Comments and Clarification Requests

Item #	Draft IEPP Section	Requirement	Question/Comment/Clarification Request
1	Section 1: Introduction	To complement this IEPP, interested Indigenous communities may develop community-specific consultation plans, in collaboration with the Agency, to describe the community’s specific objectives for consultation, or any unique features of the impact assessment and consultation process pertaining to that community for the Project”	Please provide clarification on the role of the proponent, if any, and how the proponent will be informed of any such community-specific consultation plans.
2	Section 2: Description of the Proposed Project	The Project would become part of a future all-season road network connecting mineral development activities in the Ring of Fire area to the provincial highway system at Nakina, Ontario.	This description of the Project is not consistent with the description in the Detailed Project Description (2023-05-01). Please clarify what is meant by ‘future all-season network’. Please also ensure that the description of the Project is consistent.
3	Section 3: Objectives of Indigenous Engagement and Partnership	Ensure engagement is consistent with the Government of Canada’s commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration) as a comprehensive international human rights instrument and Canada’s roadmap for reconciliation. The Declaration also emphasizes the need to work together in partnership and respect, as articulated through the principle of free, prior and informed consent. This principle reflects working together in good faith on decisions that impact Indigenous Peoples with the intention to achieve consensus.	This is a new requirement and not included in the Marten Falls Community Access Road (MFCAR) and Webequie Supply Road (WSR) TISGs, which are both proposed all-season roads also undergoing federal impact assessments (IAs) in the region. Please provide clarification and expectations on the concept of ‘consensus’. How does the Agency define ‘consensus’? Given that there are many communities with which the proponent will engage, how will one know when consensus is achieved? What happens if consensus is not achieved? What if community leadership and community members are not in agreement? In addition, please confirm which Indigenous communities the proponent must aim to achieve consensus with. The proponent has received: (i) a list of Indigenous communities and organizations whose Aboriginal and/or treaty rights may be affected by the Project or who may have an interest in the Project from the Agency; and (ii) a list of communities who should be consulted on the basis that they have or may have constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights that may be adversely impacted by the Project from Ontario.
4	Section 5: Engagement and Consultation Tools and Methods	The following is a list of tools and methods identified by the Agency and Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful consultation throughout the impact assessment process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing funding under the Participant Funding Program to support Indigenous communities with participation in the impact assessment process 	Please provide clarification/ expectations on what this Participant Funding includes and whether it includes funding for collaboration with the Agency and/or the proponent.
5	Section 5: Engagement and Consultation Tools and Methods	The following is a list of tools and methods identified by the Agency and Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful consultation throughout the impact assessment process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holding technical meetings with Indigenous communities and the proponent and/or expert authorities to support Indigenous communities’ technical review of key documents and participation throughout the impact assessment process, while considering timelines and capacity of Indigenous communities. 	Please provide clarification/expectations on what this means for the proponent.
6	Section 5: Engagement and Consultation Tools and Methods	The following is a list of tools and methods identified by the Agency and Indigenous communities to ensure meaningful consultation throughout the impact assessment process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offering to collaborate on the assessment of impacts on the exercise of Aboriginal or Treaty rights. 	This is a new requirement and not included in the MFCAR and WSR IEPP. Please provide clarification/expectations on what this means for the proponent.
7	Table 1: Phase 1 – Planning - Expected Indigenous Communities’ Participation/Activities	Indigenous communities will express to the proponent any interest in supporting studies conducted by potentially affected Indigenous communities.	This is a new requirement and not included in the MFCAR and WSR IEPP. Please provide clarification/expectations with respect to when these discussions should take place, reasonable time frame to undertake studies, and sources of funding to support these Indigenous-led activities.