

Environmental Annual Compliance Report

April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project

Rev. 1

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Acronyms and Definitions

BMP	Best Management Practice
CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CLVA	Critical Landform/Vegetation Association
CMP	Compliance Monitoring Plan
Construction	Physical construction activities, including site preparation works, but does not include the tendering of contracts
Construction and Environmental Constraint Schedules	Schedules dictating what constraints will be adhered to during the following three-month construction period. This term refers to the requirements laid out in Condition 9 of the MECP Phase 1 EA notice of approval (June 21, 2019).
Contractor	Valard Construction LP, the EPC Contractor chosen to undertake the Project.
CWQG	Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life
Date of Approval	Date on which the Order in Council pertaining to the approval of the Project was signed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council – June 21, 2019
DBM	Design Build Memorandum
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Director	The Director of the Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch of the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
EA	Environmental Assessment; as it relates to this document specifically refers to the Amended Environmental Assessment Report for the Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project, August 2018 and Supplementary Assessment re: MNO R1CC, May 2019.
EASR	Environmental Activity and Sector Registry
EMP	Environmental Management Plan
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPC	Engineering, Procurement and Construction
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ESA	<i>Ontario's Endangered Species Act, 2007</i>
ESCP	Erosion And Sediment Control Plan
ESDC	Employment and Social Development Canada
ESMP	Environment and Social Management Plan
GPS	Global Positioning System

Acronyms and Definitions

Indigenous Communities and Metis	As defined by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks and refers to: 1) Eagle Lake First Nation, Lac Seul First Nation, Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Ojibway Nation of Saugeen, Slate Falls Nation, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Consultation Committee, as the communities identified for consultation on the Undertaking pursuant to the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown and the Proponent; and 2) Eabametoong First Nation, as a community that has requested to be involved in the Indigenous Engagement Plan. Wataynikaneyap Power also includes Cat Lake First Nation and Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation in this list.
IPA	Independent Power Authorities
Key Environmental Staff	Environmental Monitors and the Environmental Managers employed by either the Contractor or Wataynikaneyap Power.
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MECP or Ministry	Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
MNO R1CC	Métis Nation of Ontario Region 1 Consultation Committee
NDMNRF	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
NRC	Natural Resources Canada
OEB	Ontario Energy Board
Operation and Maintenance	Distribution of power through power lines and upkeep of infrastructure and right of way
Opiikapawiin (OSLP)	Opiikapawiin Services LP (OSLP) was established by a partnership of 24 First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. OSLP is primarily responsible for administering projects and programs for Wataynikaneyap Power PM through a service agreement, relating to community engagement, community readiness, education & training, business readiness, stakeholder engagement, communications, and capacity building. OSLP will also support the First Nation Partnership in the management of its investment in Wataynikaneyap Power.
Plan	Environmental Compliance Monitoring Plan
Project	Wataynikaneyap Power Transmission Project (Phase 1) consists of the construction, operation, maintenance and decommission of an approximately 300-kilometre (km) 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from the Dinorwic area to Pickle Lake in northwestern Ontario.
PTTW	Permit to Take Water
PWQO	Provincial Water Quality Objectives
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure

Acronyms and Definitions

Wataynikaneyap (WPLP)	<p>Wataynikaneyap Power Limited Partnership. Wataynikaneyap means “line that brings light” in Anishiniimiimowin, named by the Elders who provide guidance to the partners. Wataynikaneyap Power LP is a licensed transmission company equally owned by 24 Participating First Nations communities (51%), in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors. Participating First Nations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bearskin Lake First Nation · Cat Lake First Nation · Deer Lake First Nation · Kasabonika Lake First Nation · Keewaywin First Nation · Kingfisher Lake First Nation · Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug · Lac des Mille Lacs First Nation · Lac Seul First Nation · McDowell Lake First Nation · Mishkeegogamang First Nation · Muskrat Dam First Nation · North Caribou Lake First Nation · North Spirit Lake First Nation · Ojibway Nation of Saugeen · Pikangikum First Nation · Poplar Hill First Nation · Sachigo Lake First Nation · Sandy Lake First Nation · Slate Falls Nation · Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation · Wapekeka First Nation · Wawakapewin First Nation · Wunnumin Lake First Nation
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

1. Introduction

1.1 Overview of the partnership

Wataynikaneyap Power is a licensed transmission company, regulated by the Ontario Energy Board, and majority-owned by 24 First Nation communities in partnership with Fortis Inc. and other private investors. The 24 First Nation communities established Opiikapawiin Services (OSLP) to provide services on communication, community engagement, community, and business readiness participation, including back-up power and the transfer of the Independent Power Authorities (IPA's). FortisOntario Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Fortis Inc., acts as the project manager through its wholly owned subsidiary.

Wataynikaneyap means "line that brings light" in Anishiniiniimowin, named by the Elders who provide guidance to the partners.

Wataynikaneyap Power will develop, construct, and operate approximately 1,800 kilometres of transmission lines in northwestern Ontario. The project will reinforce the existing transmission grid to Pickle Lake and will expand grid service north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake to ultimately connect 17 First Nation communities. The Project has been mandated to follow Guiding Principles established by community leadership and are supported by the project partners. The expectations of our communities are that all Wataynikaneyap project work will be carried out consistent with the Guiding Principles.

The following Guiding Principles, as approved by the leadership of the Participating First Nations, will be adhered to throughout the Project:

1. Our people expect that the Wataynikaneyap Power Project will be undertaken in a manner that respects our lands, rights and principles; our way of life on the land and as part of the land; and our land sharing protocols.
2. Our sacred responsibilities given to us by the Creator are to protect the land, which protects us in return. Therefore, the Project shall be built, operated and maintained in a way that minimizes adverse environmental impacts, as follows:
 - a) The Project shall not poison the lands.
 - b) No herbicides shall be used throughout the life of the transmission line to control vegetation.
 - c) The Project shall be constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that observes and does not interfere with seasonal hunting, trapping, fishing and harvesting and keeps disturbances to a minimum.
 - d) No new transmission lines shall be located underwater; and
 - e) The Project will develop and implement an environmental and social management plan which will include acceptable and effective mitigation measures for any sacred sites, gathering sites, and harvesting sites.
3. The Project shall respect confidentiality and comply with any conditions of use for any Traditional Land and Resource Use information provided by the communities, including intellectual property.
4. Our communities must maintain decision-making and ownership, and receive benefits in the Project.

Therefore, the Project shall be built, operated and maintained in a way that minimizes adverse environmental impacts.

1.2 Purpose

This Environmental Annual Compliance Report has been created to fulfill the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) Notice of Approval to Proceed with the Undertaking (June 21, 2019), and it will be submitted in two copies, one electronic and one hard copy before the anniversary of the EA Notice of Approval, as required by Condition 5. Once approved, Wataynikaneyap will retain copies within the Wataynikaneyap Power Limited Partnership (Wataynikaneyap) head office and submit the report to public record via the Wataynikaneyap Project website.

This report covers only the Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project (Project) and is being prepared in accordance with Section 5 of the Notice of Approval to Proceed with the Undertaking RE: An Environmental Assessment for the New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake under Section 9 of the Environmental Assessment Act.

Wataynikaneyap has selected March 31 as the annual reporting cut-off date in order to meet the reporting requirements of Section 5.2 of the approval. Future reports will run from April 1 until March 31 to allow for data to be compiled and reviewed to meet the reporting deadline. The report provides a summary of all compliance monitoring events outlined through Sections 4-8 of the Environmental Compliance Monitoring Plan. This report includes a status update on all Environmental Assessment Commitments for Phase 1 of the Project (Table C1). The commitments will be continuously monitored and updated on an ongoing basis throughout the project.

1.3 Scope

The full Wataynikaneyap transmission line project is the construction, operation, maintenance and decommission of approximately 1,800 km of a 230kV, 115kV, 44kV, 25kV alternating current transmission system and 22 substations. The full Project will connect 17 remote Indigenous communities to the Ontario electricity grid. The communities are dispersed along an 800-km arc starting from approximately 90 km north of Red Lake to about 160 km east to Pickle Lake.

The full project is being developed in two phases:

- Phase 1, the new transmission line to Pickle Lake Project, is an approximately 300-kilometre (km) long, 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Dinorwic to Pickle Lake in northwestern Ontario (figure 1).
- Phase 2 includes the overhead 115kV and 44kV transmission lines for two subsystems, north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake in northwestern Ontario, and associated components that will be located within a 2 km wide corridor.



Figure 1 – Location of Phase 1 of the Project

The Project has been designed to incorporate impact management/mitigation measures to avoid and minimize the potential for environmental effects. A monitoring program has been implemented to identify unforeseen risks to allow Wataynikaneyap Power to address issues in a timely manner in accordance with the MECP Notice of Approval to Proceed with the Undertaking, Condition 4 related to environmental compliance, (dated June 21, 2019).

This Environmental Annual Compliance Report is specific to Phase 1 and is supported by the following stand-alone documents:

- Amended Environmental Assessment (EA) Report – Wataynikaneyap Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project (Golder, 2018).
- Amended EA Report for Phase 1 - Supplemental Assessment re: MNO R1CC (Golder, May 2019)
- Indigenous Engagement Plan (OC-P-FO-2008)
- Complaint Protocol (OC-P-FO-2008, Section 8)
- Environmental Compliance Monitoring Plan - Phase 1 New Transmission Line to Pickle Lake Project, Rev. 1 (November 2019)
- EPC Contractor's Construction Environmental Management Plan (EMP)
- EPC Contractor's stand-alone Environmental Management System (EMS) for Construction

2. Reporting

2.1 Contractor Reporting Requirements and Supporting Documentation

2.1.1 Environmental Management Plan (EMP) and Environmental Protection Plans (EPP)

Environmental Management Plans have been prepared by both Wataynikaneyap Power and their EPC Contractor to maintain compliance with known requirements for the Project, according to the anticipated environmental risks and requirements currently identified in Section 9.0 Environmental and Social Management Plan of the Phase 1 Environmental Assessment Report (Golder, 2018) and, as well as Contractor requirements listed in Section 12 Monitoring and Commitments of the Amended Environmental Assessment Report (EA) (Golder, 2018).

The EMPs accompany the EPC Contractor's stand-alone EMS for construction, which describes internal environmental risk assessment, issues tracking, field monitoring and reporting systems for maintaining and documenting environmental compliance and due diligence on major projects.

Component environmental protection plans were developed by the EPC Contractor and are based on industry-standard Best Management Practices (BMP), and Section 9.0 of Phase 1 Environmental Assessment (Golder, 2018). The Environmental Management Plans are living documents that will be updated, as required, to support construction and comply with permits, authorizations and approvals to be obtained for the work.

The following EPPs were used as a baseline to update the EA Commitments for Phase 1 of the Project (Table C1) along with EPC Contractor's environmental monitoring report requirements during construction:

- Aquatic Habitat Management Plan
- Blasting Management Plan
- Clean-up and Reclamation Plan

- Concrete Management Plan
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Dust Control/Air Quality Management Plan
- Erosion and Sediment Control Plan
- Fire Prevention Plan
- Greenhouse Gas Management Plan
- Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- Invasive Species Management Plan
- Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Material Storage and Handling Plan
- Noise Management Plan
- Non-Hazardous Solid Waste Management Plan
- Rare Plant Management Plan
- Sanitary and Liquid Waste Management Plan
- Soil Handling Management Plan
- Spill Prevention and Emergency Response Plan
- Timber Salvage Plan
- Traffic/Road Management Plan
- Undocumented Waterbody Management Plan
- Water Management Plan
- Wildlife Management Plan
- Workforce Accommodation Management Plan (Onsite)

2.1.2 Weekly and Monthly Reports

Findings from daily environmental monitoring activities and weekly formal inspections are recorded in the EPC Contractor's weekly monitoring reports. The EPC Contractor issues completed reports to Wataynikaneyap Environmental Manager for review and comments. The EPC Contractor also provides monthly reports to Wataynikaneyap for review and approval. The monthly reports include the following:

- Summary table providing brief description of environmental incidents.
- Trending report on environmental inspection findings and status of corrective actions.
- Brief review of environmental issues raised by employees at meetings or reported to the EPC Contractor's site team and the respective corrective actions.
- Brief overview of past month's environmental activities including environmental monitoring data.
- Brief overview of the upcoming month's environmental activities.
- List environmental concerns, environmental milestones and environmental initiatives implemented.
- Brief review of issues raised by Indigenous communities and other stakeholders and respective corrective actions.
- Changes implemented for continual improvement and a brief review of the effectiveness of these changes.

2.1.3 Permit Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Wataynikaneyap along with the EPC Contractor are responsible for preparing and issuing environmental monitoring reporting and Indigenous engagement requirements accompanying the permits, licenses, and approvals obtained for the construction and execution of the Project.

Wataynikaneyap Environmental Manager along with the EPC Contractor have weekly meetings related to access permits and to discuss all outstanding permits and information required for permits. Weekly meetings are also held with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry (NDMNRF) to discuss outstanding permitting items and review project timelines. All permits are managed through a Permit Tracker Spreadsheet updated monthly.

2.2 Wataynikaneyap Power Reporting Requirements

2.2.1 Monthly/ Annual Summary Reports

At this stage, due to travel restrictions on account of the COVID-19 situation, Wataynikaneyap produces a monthly and annual summary of the environmental quality and performance of the construction activities based on findings from daily environmental monitoring activities and weekly and monthly formal inspections conducted by the EPC Contractor's environmental monitors and Hatch environmental and health and safety inspectors. Findings from daily inspections and environmental inspection reports are also incorporated into the monthly and annual summary reports. The monthly and annual reports include the following:

- List environmental concerns, environmental milestones and environmental initiatives implemented.
- EPC Contractor produced environmental reports including the environmental monitoring and environmental incident reports.
- Internal and external meetings.
- Key communications between Wataynikaneyap, Indigenous communities, EPC Contractor, government agencies, and/or other stakeholders.
- Formal and informal inspections and their results/recommendations.
- Registry with description and status of environmental incidents and/or non-compliances and corrective actions required.
- Sampling and monitoring data and documentation (e.g., photos).
- Description of key mitigation measures being implemented, and actions taken to improve performance of mitigation measures, if any.

All commitments outlined in various environmental related approval documents are recorded, monitored, managed and maintained in a web-based information management system.

2.2.2 Records of Engagement

Wataynikaneyap is committed to following an engagement process designed to incorporate community-specific feedback. Wataynikaneyap continues to implement a variety of engagement methods to facilitate understanding of the Project, the environmental compliance process and identification of issues and concerns.

Opiikapawiin Services LP (Opiikapawiin) was established by the 24 Participating First Nations, provides a variety of services to the Project in support of maximizing Indigenous participation and engagement. These services include employment and training, community readiness, business readiness, community engagement, communications including Independent Power Authorities and back up power. Opiikapawiin also maintains records of engagement from the Participating Indigenous Communities (including but not limited to environmental).

Significant Indigenous engagement activities have been carried out directly by Wataynikaneyap Power and Opiikapawiin and are expected to continue throughout the Project. Due to the COVID-19 situation, as of March 2021, most engagements have been carried out by virtual means. The applicable records of engagement are incorporated into this Annual Compliance Report (See Appendix A).

2.2.3 Audit Reports and Field Inspections

During this reporting period, Wataynikaneyap completed a compliance field audits and inspections for Project activities. The inspections were conducted to ensure that the EPC Contractor is adhering to the environmental commitments set out in the approved Environmental Assessment (EA) document and other regulatory requirements. Some of the EA environmental commitments included, but were not limited to, site-specific mitigation for sensitive habitats and features, setbacks and timing constraints, material storage and handling, erosion, and sediment controls at the sites.

These environmental compliance field inspections were conducted by visual observations of the work front and various Project sites. Given the vast project area, sites were chosen based on the environmental constraints identified within the Alignment Sheets. Sites such as those with crews actively working or with features such as water crossings, identified caribou or bat habitat, archaeological or traditional land and resource values were the focus for the environmental inspections conducted as part of the audit.

Camps, laydown areas, and refueling areas were also investigated. Information that could not be obtained by visual observations were obtained in consultation with Valard Environmental Monitors, Right of Way Coordinators, and Project Managers. The inspection reports are incorporated into this Annual Compliance Report (See Appendix E).

In addition to field audits, Government Agencies, Wataynikaneyap inspectors and the EPC Contractor environmental monitors conduct regular visits and inspections in the field to monitor quality, progress, health, safety, and environmental components as well as field verification of the Project progress.

Wataynikaneyap has six environmental inspectors from Hatch working on rotation (two weeks on and one week off for a 14/7 work schedule) in the field. The Wataynikaneyap inspectors provide daily reports of their field observations and are responsible for conducting and submitting monthly environmental inspections using the Hatch High Level Environmental Field Inspection form. During this reporting period 55 environmental inspections and 1702 daily reports have been conducted and Wataynikaneyap has met 100% of the targeted inspections.

Non-conformances encountered noted in the daily reports and field inspections are summarized and tracked using the E-14A Environmental and Permitting Field Observation and Contractor's Response form and are sent to the EPC Contractor for review and implementation of corrective action. E-14A responses

are managed and maintained in a web-based information management system and are reviewed and signed off by Wataynikaneyap Environmental Manager. In addition, E-14A responses are used to assess effectiveness of the corrective actions taken, ensure continuous improvement of the Project and to measure the effectiveness of environmental monitoring performance.

Wataynikaneyap's EPC Contractor has eighteen environmental inspectors in the field monitoring the Project. During this reporting period, the EPC Contractor has conducted 3226 daily environmental field inspections. (See Appendix D for Weekly Environmental Reports provided by the EPC Contractor).

2.2.4 Detailed Construction and Environmental Constraint Schedules

Condition 9 of the MECP Phase 1 EA notice of approval (June 21, 2019) requires Wataynikaneyap Power to provide schedules dictating what constraints will be adhered to during the following three-month construction period.

Continual engagement was conducted during this reporting period with the Participating Indigenous communities with the support of the Tribal Councils to determine direction on Project schedule. Information pertaining to all permits for the Project and the construction schedule (Alignment Sheets) are available at the Wataynikaneyap Power Permitting Website. All relevant parties within the contact list have access to the permitting website and the information is password protected. The table below provides the dates the Alignment Sheets for Phase 1 were made available online.

Alignment Sheets Issue Number	Schedule	English Version	Ojibway Version
10	May – July 2022	May 1, 2022	May 16, 2022
11	Aug - Oct 2022	July 27, 2022	Aug 5, 2022
12	Nov 2022 – Jan 2023	Oct 27, 2022	Dec 1, 2021
13	Feb – April 2023	Jan 18, 2022	Feb 14, 2022