



Phase 2 Connecting 17 Remote First Nation Communities NOTICE OF COMPLETION AND OPPORTUNITY TO INSPECT THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY REPORT

The Project: Wataynikaneyap Power L.P. is a licensed transmission company majority owned by First Nations. The First Nations ownership interest is equally owned by 22 First Nation communities, and a minority interest in the partnership is owned by Fortis Inc. The Wataynikaneyap Transmission Project Phase 2 (the Project) includes approximately 1,500 km of 115 kV, 44 kV and 25 kV transmission lines and associated facilities for subsystems north of Pickle Lake and Red Lake that will connect 17 remote First Nation communities, currently powered by diesel generation, to the provincial electrical grid. Figure 1 (see reverse) identifies the Project location and transmission and alternative corridors. The Project has been identified as one of the priority projects in Ontario's Long-Term Energy Plan, and Wataynikaneyap has been selected as the designated transmitter to connect communities. Wataynikaneyap's principal purpose is to provide safe, accessible and clean electrical power to remote First Nation communities and to decrease the reliance on diesel-powered energy generation which, consequently, will provide environmental, economic, social, quality-of-life and health benefits.

Environmental Assessment (EA) Process: The Project is subject to the Ontario *Environmental Assessment Act* and to Section 67 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* for the portions of the transmission line on First Nation reserve lands. The Final Environmental Study Report (ESR) has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the following Class EA processes:

- Class Environmental Assessment for Minor Transmission Facilities (Ontario Hydro, 1992) (for applicable 115 kV sections and associated infrastructure). The total distance of the proposed 115 kV line is approximately 1190 km: <http://www.wataypower.ca/project/phase-2>
- A Class Environmental Assessment for Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Resource Stewardship and Facility Development (MNRF, 2003) (Category C) (disposition of resources as applicable on less than 115 kV sections and associated infrastructure, including, but not limited to licenses and permits issued under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994, Public Lands Act, 1990, and the Aggregates Resources Act, 1990*). The total distance of the proposed 44 kV line is approximately 140 km and proposed 25 kV line is 30 km: http://www.downloads.ene.gov.on.ca/files/eaab/mnr_class_rsfdp_document.pdf;
- A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves (MNRF, 2005) (Category C) (disposition of resources for applicable sections within Provincial Parks Otokwin-Attawapiskat, Pipestone River, Beekahncheekahmeeng Deebahncheekaywheehn Eanahohnahnuhn (BDE) DPA). The total distance of the proposed 115 kV line is 5.7 km, 44 kV line is 0.7 km and 25 kV line is 1.4 km, in Provincial Parks : <http://www.ontla.on.ca/library/repository/mon/11000/251283.pdf>.

A Final Environmental Study Report (ESR) for the project has now been completed, to meet the requirements of the above Class Environmental Assessments. The Final ESR describes the process for the selection of a preferred location, the development of a site plan and an evaluation of environmental effects and includes commitments to implement the mitigation and monitoring identified within the report. Wataynikaneyap is seeking comments on the Final ESR over a **30-day** comment period ending **Monday, December 17, 2018**. The Final ESR is available on the Wataynikaneyap website at <http://www.wataypower.ca/project/phase-2> and has been provided to the following locations for viewing:

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry - Red Lake and Sioux Lookout District Offices
- Red Lake Municipal Office
- Pickle Lake Municipal Office
- Windigo First Nations Council Office
- Shibogama First Nations Council Office
- Keewaytinook Okimakanak Northern Chiefs Council – Dryden office
- Independent First Nations Alliance office – Thunder Bay
- Cat Lake First Nation
- Deer Lake First Nation
- Eabametoong First Nation
- Kasabonika Lake First Nation
- Keewaywin First Nation
- Kingfisher Lake First Nation
- Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
- Lac Seul First Nation
- McDowell Lake First Nation
- Marten Falls First Nation
- Mishkeegogamang First Nation
- Muskrat Dam First Nation
- Neskantaga First Nation
- Nibinamik First Nation
- North Caribou Lake First Nation
- North Spirit Lake First Nation
- Pikangikum First Nation
- Poplar Hill First Nation
- Sachigo Lake First Nation
- Sandy Lake First Nation
- Slate Falls Nation
- Wabauskang First Nation
- Wapekeka First Nation
- Wawakapewin First Nation
- Webeque First Nation
- Wunnumin Lake First Nation

Band offices of the following communities:

- Bearskin Lake First Nation

You can also obtain a copy from the contacts below. We kindly ask that your comments on the Final ESR be provided to the contacts below or submitted on the Wataynikaneyap website (www.wataypower.ca) no later than Monday, December 17, 2018. Subject to comments received as a result of this notice, Wataynikaneyap plans to proceed with the Project with a planned start of construction for Phase 2 in late 2019.

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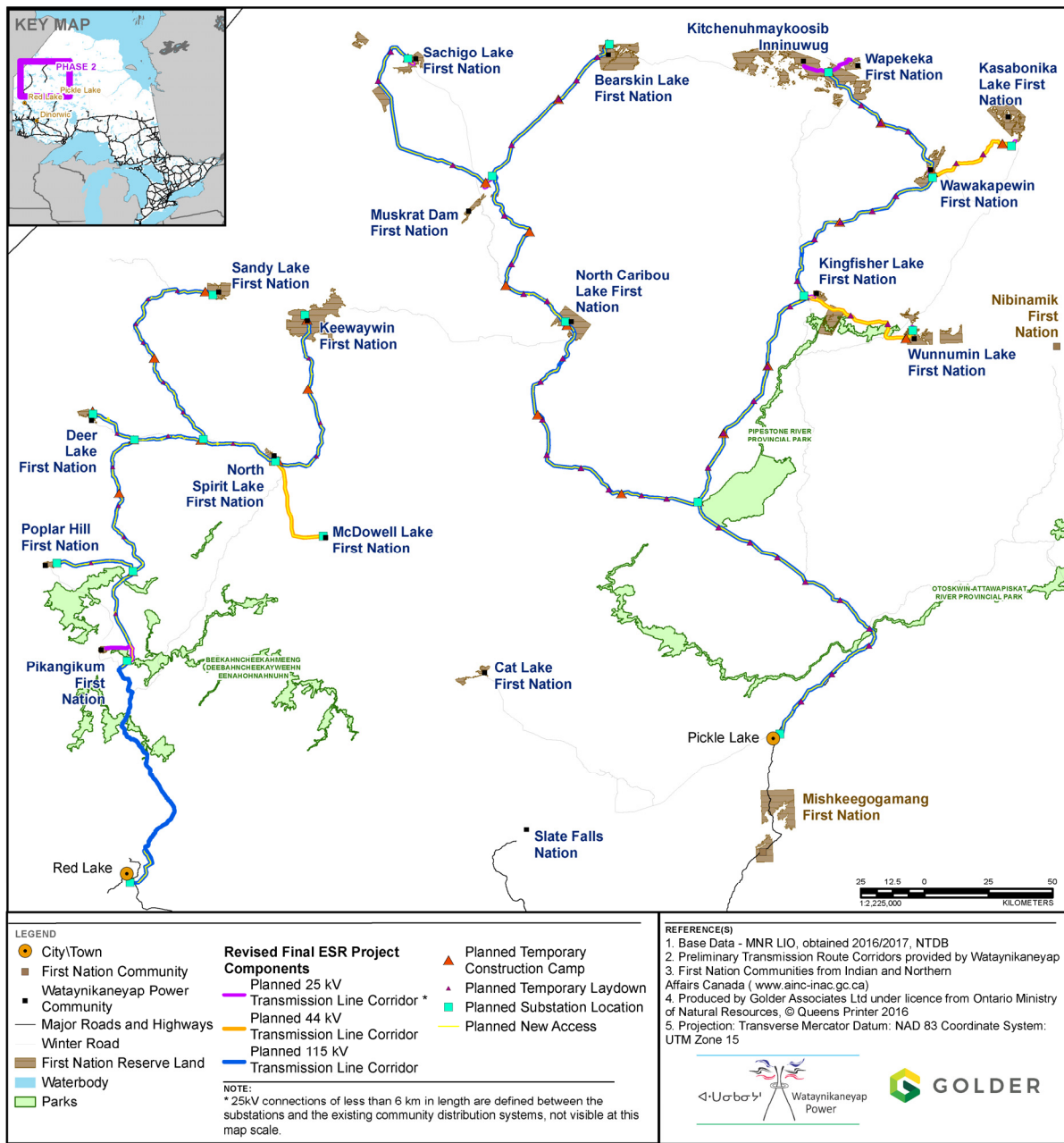
P. 807-737-5037 E. jason.suprovich@ontario.ca

Barbara Slattery, Environmental Resource Planner & EA Coordinator – Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks – Ellen Fairclough Building, 12th Floor 119 King Street West, Hamilton, ON, L8P 4Y7

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For sections of the line under the MNRF's Class EA processes: If at the end of this notice period, MNRF considers that there are no significant outstanding concerns, the MNRF may proceed to approve the disposition requests without further public notice. For section of the line under the Class EA for Minor Transmission: If at the end of this notice period, there has been no expressed opposition or if expressed opposition is subsequently resolved with the proponent, the project will be considered acceptable and will become an undertaking. Approval of the selected project is granted accordance with the approved Class EA.

Where concerns remain about the 115 kV line or the MNRF dispositions that cannot be resolved with Wataynikaneyap, concerned parties may request a Part II Order under the *Environmental Assessment Act* requesting that the proposed 115 kV line or the MNRF dispositions be assessed under an individual environmental assessment prepared in accordance with Part II of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. As this decision rests with the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, please direct any requests to the below address, and send a copy of the form to the Director of Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch: Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ferguson Block, 77 Wellesley St. West 11th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M7A 2T5 by December 17, 2018. Please copy to Wataynikaneyap through Brett Thompson at the address above. A Part II Order Request Form must be used to request a Part II Order. The Form is available online on the Forms Repository website (<http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/>) by searching "Part II Order" or "012-2206E" (the form ID number). Prior to making such a request, however, concerned parties are encouraged to consult Wataynikaneyap to seek a resolution of their concerns.



All input and contact information such as name and address will become part of the public record for this project unless privacy is requested, pursuant to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This information is being collected for planning and implementing a project in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act and the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserve Act or Public Lands Act. For more information on the collection and use of personal information, please contact the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks Freedom of Information and Privacy Coordinator at 416-327-1434.